

Liverpool City Region ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme Flexible Eligibility Joint Statement of Intent

This joint Statement of Intent covers the following Liverpool City Region Local Authorities whose full addresses can be found in Annex A:

Halton Borough Council (E06000006)
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000011)
Liverpool City Council (E08000012)
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000014)
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000013)
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000015)

Version LCR Sol 4.0.2023

This document is the Sefton version of the Liverpool City Region Statement of Intent (Sol) and whilst eligibility criteria is the same across all six local authority areas, reference should also be made to each local authority's most recent Sol on their website. Also please note, each will apply a separate numbering process and version update.

- 1) Date of publication: 14 September 2023
- 2) This and previous versions published at:

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/environment/energy-and-environment/energy-efficiency-and-support/energy-company-obligation-flexible-eligibility/>

1. Liverpool City Region Joint Statement of Intent

This statement sets out the flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation Scheme schemes from April 2022 – March 2026 for the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Local Authorities named above. Although this is a joint Statement of Intent, no Local Authority listed above may make a Local Authority Declaration (LAD) on behalf of another.

The ECO4 scheme will focus on supporting low income and vulnerable households. The scheme will improve the least energy efficient homes helping to meet the Government's fuel poverty and net zero commitments. The Great

British Insulation Scheme will support the ECO4 scheme in the delivery of predominantly single measures targeted at a wider range of households.

The flexible approach for Local Authorities (LAs) to identifying fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures is referred to as “ECO4 Flex” and “Great British Insulation Scheme Flex”. The LCR local authorities welcome the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps them achieve their plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

Sefton Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol), on 14 September 2023 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below (the crossed boxes indicate which routes the Council is using):

Route 1: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households with a gross annual income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

Route 2: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

Proxy 1) Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) ¹ , or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 ² , or homes in Scotland in “data zone” 1-3 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 ³
Proxy 2) A person living at the premises is entitled to a Council Tax reduction on the grounds of low-income.
Proxy 3) A person living at the premises is considered to be vulnerable to the cold under the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance NG6: Recommendation 2, for a reason other than their low-income ^{4*}
Proxy 4) A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals, due to low-income ⁵
Proxy 5) A person living at the premises is supported by a scheme established by the LA/DA that is named and described within their Statement of Intent and established to support people living on a low-income and considered vulnerable to the cold under NICE Guideline NG6. This proxy is not currently in use in this local authority area.
Proxy 6) A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice or Citizen’s Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and/or gas bills.

¹ [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

² [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

³ [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

⁴ <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations#recommendation-2-ensure-there-is-a-singlepointofcontact-health-and-housing-referral-service-for>

⁵ Under section 512ZB(4) of the Education Act 1996 or section 53 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980

Proxy 7) [Please note, proxy 7 is for supplier owned debt data and is listed here for information only]. Households identified through energy supplier debt data. This route enables obligated suppliers to use their own debt data to identify either non pre-payment meter households (non-PPM), or pre-payment meter households (PPM)*.

- a. **Non-PPM customers:** These are customers who have been in debt for more than 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made, and are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier or repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.
- b. **PPM customers:** Suppliers may also identify PPM households who:
 - Have either self-disconnected or received supplier Discretionary/Friendly credit within the last 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made; or
 - are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier; or
 - repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.*

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

* Proxy 7 cannot be used in combination with proxy 5 or proxy 6.

Route 3: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that have been identified by either a person registered in the General Practitioner Register, a Scottish Health Board, a Welsh Health Board, an NHS Foundation Trust, or an NHS Trust as vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be adversely affected by living in a cold home. These health conditions must be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related.

Route 4 [applicable to ECO4 Flex only]: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero where they have identified new methods to identify low-income and vulnerable households. Applications need to demonstrate a number of factors, including that the proposed methodology is more effective at identify households in fuel poverty than the criterion offered under Routes 1 and 2.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

Each LCR local authority has their preferred route for application from approved ECO / Great British Insulation Scheme installers or their agents, direct from households or as referrals. These are outlined below.

I. Halton Borough Council:

Halton Direct Link and the Contact Centre will act as the central point of contact for referrals. The Council will accept referrals from individuals or organisations, such as Energy Projects Plus, acting on behalf of individuals.

Halton Direct Link Offices are based in Widnes Town Centre and Halton Lea. The Contact Centre can be contacted on

Phone: 0303 333 4300

II. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council:

All referrals will be directed through Knowsley's Energy Officer

Phone: 0151 443 5817

Email: simon.rugen@knowsley.gov.uk

III. Liverpool Referrals:

Liverpool's Healthy Homes Home Improvement Agency will act as a central hub for a referrals route from fuel poverty/vulnerability/social care or health organisations, or any partnership with a selected obligated supplier across the City.

Freephone: 0800 012 1754

Email: www.healthyhomesprogramme@liverpool.gov.uk

IV. Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council:

All applications for LADs will be coordinated through the affordable warmth service at Sefton Council. The council will accept referrals from procured contractors only.

Phone: 0151 934 2222

Email: energy@sefton.gov.uk

V. St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council:

All applications for LADs will be coordinated through the affordable warmth service at St.Helens Council.

Phone: 01744 676555

Email: homeimprovementagency@sthelens.gov.uk

VI. Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council:

Wirral Council will only accept applications from installers or lead generation companies. To submit applications, companies must first sign a Data Sharing Agreement, which can be requested through the contact details below.

Phone: 0151 691 8292

Email: housingstrategy@wirral.gov.uk

The officer(s) below (not a 3rd party working on behalf of an LA) will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of Sefton Council:

Name: Christina Chislett and Julia Thorpe

Job Title: Communities Officer

Telephone: 0151 934 2222

Email: energy@Sefton.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Sefton Council will administer the ECO4 Flex scheme according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2022 (ECO4 Order).

The Council will administer Great British Insulation Scheme Flex according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2023 (ECO4A Order).

The CEO/ dedicated responsible person of the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO Flex and Great British Insulation Scheme Flex. The Council will notify Ofgem of households that declarations have been issued for via the declaration notification template.

All personal data collected or processed by Sefton Council for the purposes of ECO4 Flex or Great British Insulation Scheme Flex will be processed and stored in accordance with: the Council's obligations under UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, the Council's data protection policy, the Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code and other guidance, and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero guidance.



Signature:

Name: Stephan Van Arendsen

Job Title: Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services

Date of signature: 14/09/2023

ANNEX A – Local Authority Contact Addresses

Halton

Public Health Division
2nd Floor Runcorn Town Hall
Heath Road
WA7 5TN

Knowsley Council

Strategic Housing
2nd Floor, The Nutgrove Building
Westmorland Road
Huyton
Knowsley
L36 9FB

Liverpool City Council

Healthy Homes HIA Team
Cunard Building
Water Street
Liverpool
L3 1DS

Sefton Council

Affordable Warmth Service
Ground floor, Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle, Merseyside
L20 3NJ

St.Helens Council

Place Services - Private Housing Initiatives
St Helens Borough Council
PO Box 512
ST HELENS
WA10 9JX

Wirral Council

Housing and Investment Team
PO Box 290
Wallasey
CH27 9FQ