

# Sunderland City Council ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

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This statement sets out Sunderland City Council’s flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) and Great British Insulation Schemes, which run until March 2026.

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 Council welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme Flex eligibility routes as it helps the Council improve its low carbon commitments and achieve its plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol) to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

Route	Qualification Category	Qualification Detail
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.	Gross annual income is calculated using the single or joint income of persons over age 18 with permanent residence at the dwelling. This income cap applies irrespective of the property size or composition.
Route 2	Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:	<p><b>Proxy 1*)</b> Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) <sup>1</sup>.</p> <p><b>Proxy 2)</b> A person living at the premises is entitled to a Council Tax reduction on the grounds of low-income. (This excludes single person discount).</p> <p><b>Proxy 3*)</b> Person living at the property is 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</p>

		<p><b>Proxy 4)</b> A child living at the property is eligible for free school meals due to low-income<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p><b>Proxy 5)</b> A person living at the premises is supported by a LA run scheme that is named and described in their Statement of Intent and established to support people living on a low income and vulnerable to the cold under NICE Guideline NG6.</p> <p><b>Proxy 6)</b> A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier of Citizen’s Advice, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity or gas bills.</p> <p><b>Proxy 7)</b> Households identified through 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)*</p> <p>a) <b>Non-PPM customers:</b> 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.</p> <p>b) <b>PPM customers:</b> Suppliers may also identify PPM households who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier; or</li> <li>• repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.</li> </ul>
Route 3	<p>'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.</p>	

	<p>This is because the Council has identified a positive correlation between households who suffer from long-term health conditions and are living on a low-income in cold, poorly insulated homes.</p> <p>Route 3 applications must be supported by a formal letter template provided, stamped and dated by their GP, doctor or other medical professional.</p>
Route 4	<p>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 identifying households in fuel poverty than the criterion offered under Routes 1 and 2.</p> <p>Route 4 is applicable to ECO4 Flex only.</p>

<sup>1</sup> [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019](#)

<sup>2</sup> [NICE Guidance](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Under section 512ZB\(4\) of the Education Act 1996](#)

#### **Declaration and evidence check confirmation**

All potentially eligible households should apply through the energy supplier(s) or their approved contractor(s) as appointed by Sunderland City Council to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

Sunderland City Council has appointed E.ON Energy Solutions Ltd. and Utilita Home Ltd as partners to deliver ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme and can only approve applications made through these suppliers.

Eligible applicants do not need to be customers of E.ON Energy Solutions and Utilita Home to benefit from the ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme via these suppliers.

The officers below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

Name: G Stephenson

Job title: Principal Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Officer

Name: M Wilson

Job title: Carbon Neutral Project Officer


Email: [scceco.flex@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:scceco.flex@sunderland.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0191 5205555

#### **Dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

Sunderland City Council will administer the scheme according to the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The dedicated person will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 Flex.

The eligibility information will be stored securely in line with the Council's data protection policy, Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code, and Department of Energy Security and Net Zero guidance.

<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Peter McIntyre</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Executive Director City Development</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>04/03/2024</b>

For any general enquires relating to this Statement of Intent please contact [scceco.flex@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:scceco.flex@sunderland.gov.uk)