

## **Statement of Intent for ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme**

### **Mid-Devon Council ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

**Local Authority name: Mid Devon District Council**

**Publication Date: 14th December 2023**

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**Publication on web site: [www.middevon.gov.uk](http://www.middevon.gov.uk)**

This statement sets out Mid Devon District Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) 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".

Across Mid Devon it is estimated that up to 67% of properties have an EPC rating of D or below. Increasing SAP ratings to band C, through the installation of energy efficiency measures, fits with the council's aims of addressing fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions.

The Council welcomes the introduction of the Flex eligibility routes as it helps the Council 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), on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

**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)<sup>1</sup>
- **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<sup>2\*</sup>
- **Proxy 4)** A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals, due to low-income<sup>3</sup>
- **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. **\*\*Please note Proxy 5 is not in use currently\*\***
- **Proxy 6)** A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizens Advice or Citizens Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and/or gas bills.

\* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

**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. This is because the Council has identified a positive correlation between households who suffer from

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<sup>1</sup> Published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>. The deciles are published in "File 7: all ranks, deciles and scores for the indices of deprivation, and population denominators".

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

<sup>3</sup> Under section 512ZB(4) of the Education Act 1996 or section 53 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980

long-term health conditions and living off a low-income, with living in poorly insulated homes.

□ **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.

### **Scheme eligibility**

If you are an installer or managing agent and you wish to process ECO Flex declarations then you will need to contact the Centre for Sustainable Energy and sign their Code of Conduct - contact [installers@cse.org.uk](mailto:installers@cse.org.uk) for more information. They will then process the applications in line with the guidance including contacting the household to check their eligibility and then preparing the declarations for sign-off. There is a charge for this process. The information will be passed to their ECO supplier according to the ECO application process.

Householders who believe they may be eligible for ECO Flex should contact the Home Energy Team directly on 0800 082 2234 or via the website <https://www.cse.org.uk/my-home/how-we-help-you/>. The Home Energy Team provides impartial energy advice to residents of Mid-Devon and will check ECO Flex eligibility in their initial conversation with the resident. They will also check that the resident is happy for their data to be stored and shared with a third party for the purposes of the scheme. The eligibility information will be recorded on a secure Customer Relationship Manager system. A referral will then be made to an obligated supplier or installer who has signed the Code of Conduct.

### **Data Protection**

Mid Devon District Council will hold data securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and only use this data for the purposes it was collected. Please refer to the council's privacy notice that provide more detail on the handling of personal data:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/privacy-notice/>

**Authorised Signatory**

The local authority officer below will be responsible for checking and verifying evidence, and issuing declarations:

**Name:** Mrs Jo Pope

**Job Title:** Team Leader - Community

**Telephone:** 01884 255255

**Email:** [health@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:health@middevon.gov.uk)

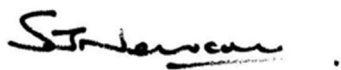
**CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature.**

Mid Devon District 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 Corporate Manager for Public Health Regulation and Housing of the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 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.

**Signature:**



**Name:** Mr Simon Newcombe

**Job Title:** Corporate Manager for Public Health Regulation and Housing

**Date of signature:** 14 December 2023

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact [health@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:health@middevon.gov.uk).