

Local Authority Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility – Statement of Intent (first time central heating: Warm Homes Hub)

Broxtowe Borough Council

3rd June 2020

1) Introduction

This Statement of Intent (SOI), sets out how households in Broxtowe Borough Council will be declared to be eligible for assistance under Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility funding.

The focus of this SOI is to support the installation of first time central heating in lower income households.

This SOI aims to directly target dwellings in deprived and/or rural areas of the district that do not currently have a central heating system fitted. Beneficiaries will be those deemed to be living on a low income with high heating costs; making them vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home.

In all areas, the final decision on whether any individual household can benefit from energy saving improvements will be made by the obligated suppliers (Energy Companies) or their agents/contractors. The signing off of a Declaration by Broxtowe Borough Council for a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures or fully funded works, as the final decision will depend on the following:

- i) Confirmation the gas connection can be undertaken free of charge under the Warm Homes Hub scheme;
- ii) A survey carried out by the ECO agent/contractor and installation costs calculated;
- iii) The energy savings that can be achieved for a property;
- iv) Whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their obligated ECO targets.

2) How Broxtowe Borough Council intends to identify eligible households

The Council will work collaboratively with the Warm Homes Hub (a 2-year partnership project including Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, the Charities Age UK Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Energy Partnership, and E-on Energy Solutions) to identify lower income households that could benefit from a mains gas connection and first time gas central heating under this Warm Homes Fund scheme. Residents will also be able to self-refer via the Warm Homes Hub web portal (see section 4, below).

Once referred to the Warm Homes Hub, a qualified energy advisor will contact the resident to ensure the household qualifies (either via HHCRO or

under this ECO LA Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent). If so, the case will be progressed via a home survey. Subject to the resident's/landlord's consent, arrangements will then be made (via Affordable Warmth Solutions/Cadent) for a mains gas connection, and finally a full gas central heating system will be installed by a Gas Safe Registered installer.

Homes not connected to the gas grid and/or without central heating and likely to be using more expensive alternatives such as electricity or solid fuel for heating/hot water, making them 'high cost' and this should be reflected in the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating. An EPC rating of D or below will be used as a proxy for 'high cost' under this scheme.

Installing a gas connection and first time gas central heating are costly home energy improvement measures which often prove unaffordable for lower income families. For this reason, the Council is focusing resources in this area and increased the qualifying gross household income levels as outlined in the table below:

Household Composition	Gross household income*
1 Adult (18 years or over)	< £18,769
And 1 child	< £24,623
And 2 children	< £30,613
And 2 children	< £36,602
And 4 or more children	< £42,592
2 Adults (18 years or over)	< £28,344
And 1 child	< £33,940
And 2 children	< £39,930
And 3 children	< £45,919
And 4 or more children	< £51,909

**Gross household income includes all income, including all state benefits*

The Council retains the right to use its discretion in cases where the stated eligibility criteria are not fully met but where withholding support would leave a household particularly vulnerable.

These criteria will be kept under review in relation to level of referrals made, delivery of installed measures and the practices of other authorities.

3) Governance

The Declaration of households meeting the Council's flexible eligibility criteria under this SOI will be signed off on behalf of Broxtowe Borough Council by the Head of Public Protection.

Before any declaration can be signed off, the contractor must self-certify that they are accredited to the standards required by OFGEM to undertake ECO-funded energy efficiency improvement works.

4) Marketing & Referrals

Broxtowe Borough Council will work with the Warm Homes Hub to identify eligible households which may be owner occupiers, private tenants or those living in social housing although the latter will not be proactively targeted.

If a tenant is privately renting, written permission will be required from the landlord prior to the commencement of any survey or works, and the landlord will be required to provide a current EPC and to make a contribution of £500 towards the cost of the central heating installation.

Tenants living in social housing where central heating has not previously been installed will require prior written approval from the landlord. The landlord will need to provide a current EPC and make a financial contribution towards the cost of the works. The level of contribution will be pre-defined by E-on and is related to the EPC rating of the property.

Referrals made direct to the Warm Homes Hub (administered by the Nottinghamshire Energy Partnership) should apply via: www.warmholmeshub.com/apply or telephone 0115 9853000.

5) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

Broxtowe Borough Council will use its discretion to decide whether any auditing is required to confirm eligibility under this Statement of Intent. If auditing is undertaken, eligibility of claimants will be assessed by a random sample of households on a post-installation basis.

6) Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Gell', written over a horizontal line.

Mr D Gell

Head of Public Protection.

Date: 17th July 2020