



## Statement of Intent for ECO4

### Watford Borough Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

**Local Authority name: Watford Borough Council**

**Publication Date: 09 May 2023**

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

This statement sets out Watford Borough Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from April 2022 – 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 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".

The Council welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 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 **09 May 2023** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

**Route 1:** SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G with an income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

**Route 2:** SAP bands E-G households that meet a combination of TWO of the following proxies (NB Proxy 1 and 3 can not be used together to qualify):

<p><b>Proxy 1)</b> Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA)<sup>1</sup>, or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019<sup>2</sup>, or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government<sup>3</sup></p>
<p><b>Proxy 2)</b> Householders receiving a Council Tax reduction (rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates).</p>
<p><b>Proxy 3)</b> Householders vulnerable to living in a cold home as identified in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance. Only one from the list can be used, excludes the proxy 'low income'.</p>
<p><b>Proxy 4)</b> A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.</p>
<p><b>Proxy 5)</b> A householder supported by a LA run scheme, that has been named and described by the LA as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guideline. In Watford Borough Council, residents may be eligible under this Proxy if they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Completed a Warm and Well Assessment (and deemed eligible) which is carried out by the National Energy Foundation's <a href="#">Better Housing Better Health Service</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Proxy 6)</b> 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 gas bills.</p>

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

**Route 3:** SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households that have been identified by their doctor or GP as low-income and vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be impacted further by living in a cold home. These health conditions may be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related.

This is because the Council has identified a positive correlation between households who suffer from long-term health conditions and living off a low-income, with living in poorly insulated homes.

**Route 4:** SAP band D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to BEIS where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the exiting routes.

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

<sup>2</sup> [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

## Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through Better Housing Better Health on 0800 107 0044 to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

Watford Borough Council may also agree specific LA approved schemes and accept applications for declarations directly, sent by an agreed supplier on behalf of a resident.

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

- Job title: Senior Project Manager, Energy & Housing Renewal  
Telephone: 01923 278149  
Email: [Neil.Walker@Watford.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.Walker@Watford.gov.uk)
- Job title: Private Sector Housing Surveyor  
Telephone: 01923 278437  
Email: [Tim.Button@Watford.gov.uk](mailto:Tim.Button@Watford.gov.uk)
- Job title: Environmental Health Manager (Community)  
Telephone: 01923 278443  
Email: [Joanna.Harding@watford.gov.uk](mailto:Joanna.Harding@watford.gov.uk)
- Job title: Domestic Sustainability Officer  
Telephone: 01923 727241  
Email: [Ellie.Nathan@threerivers.gov.uk](mailto:Ellie.Nathan@threerivers.gov.uk)

Any other supplier or installer who seeks a council declaration on behalf of an eligible resident will first need to be registered with the 'NEF Supplier Network'. The Network ensures that councils have information about the standards, practices and accreditations of installers working in their area reducing the risk of fraud, poor quality installations and the exploitation of vulnerable residents that the council is looking to assist via ECO Flexible Eligibility. For further information about the Network and guidance on how to register, suppliers should contact [suppliernetwork@nef.org.uk](mailto:suppliernetwork@nef.org.uk)

Watford Borough Council may also agree specific LA approved schemes and accept applications for declarations directly, sent by an agreed supplier with pre-agreement.

## CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Watford Borough Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The CEO of the Council 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 BEIS guidance.

## Signature:



**Name:** Alan Gough, **Date of signature:** 09 May 2023

**Job Title:** Alan Gough, Executive Head of Strategy & Initiatives (Sustainability & Culture)

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