

Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat ECO 3 (Valid until 31st March 2022)

Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local authority: Bracknell Forest Council

Date of publication: 13/11/2020

Version: 5

1. Introduction

Bracknell Forest Council welcomes the introduction of Flexible Eligibility (FE) and intends to utilise it to work closely with energy companies, installers and customers to maximise the benefits on fuel poor households.

Energy companies can allocate up to 25% of their obligation of funding under the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) to local authorities for energy efficiency measures in fuel poor households. The average SAP rating currently in the Borough is 65 band D. We aim to improve those below this threshold, by encouraging further energy improvements, thus ensuring no resident's health is at risk owing to living in a cold damp home, as part of the NICE (National Institute for Health Care and Excellence) guidance on preventing excess winter deaths.

The final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements rests with obligated energy suppliers or their contractors. A Declaration of Eligibility issued by the Council will not guarantee installation of measures, factors are:-

- i) identification of measures eligible,
- ii) the supplier's assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing measures in relation to achieving its obligation,
- iii) whether the supplier has achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

This authority will help qualifying households to obtain funding. Bracknell Forest Council expects any obligated energy supplier, or contractor working on their behalf, to comply with the Data Protection Act, to fully follow Ofgem requirements for the Energy Company Obligation, and to act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards of any works that may take place. These will be covered in a separate memorandum of understanding between the Council and the obligated party.

2. How Bracknell Forest intends to identify eligible households

We will identify households that may benefit from flexible eligibility in a number of ways:

- i) Identifying fuel poverty
 - a) householders are considered at risk of living in fuel poverty if they have high heating cost due to an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D with and a household income below £35,000.
 - b) Similarly in properties with an EPC rating of D with a resident being under 16 or over 60 year of age

ii) Vulnerable Persons

Residents vulnerable to effects of living in cold home as outlined by the NICE Guidance NG6 on “Excess Winter Deaths and illness, and the health risks associated with cold homes”. This could include long term health conditions as cancer, stroke and heart problems, respiratory diseases, and those who have limited mobility.

iii) Others including those living in Park Homes, Blue Badge Holders, and those in receipt of Disabled Facilities adaptations (regardless of income), also including those homes who rely on electric storage heaters as their main heating source.

Subject to availability of resources within the Council and the legal use of data the Council will target those most in need having regard to Department of Business Enterprise and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) guidance on targeting.

Including those living in private sector and in receipt of the relevant means-tested benefits and/or on a low income

We will cross-reference data on income with data that we hold or can access on Energy Performance Certificates, housing type/age/condition, heating type.

3. Governance

Responsible officer

The officer below will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of the local authority.

Job title: Sustainable Energy Officer

Telephone: 01344 352536

Email: hazel.hill@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

4. Referrals

Referrals can be made from members of public direct via front line staff or the web. Alternatively from trusted partner organisations, as Age Concern, social care staff, housing officers or health agencies. The Warm & Well Scheme will determine eligibility criteria for ECO measures.



Signature

Chief Executive

Bracknell Forest Council

Date: 13 November 2020