

Liverpool City Region ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Joint Statement of Intent

This joint Statement of Intent covers the following Liverpool City Region Local Authorities whose full addresses can be found in Annex A:

Halton Borough Council (E06000006)
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000011)
Liverpool City Council (E08000012)
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000014)
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000013)
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000015)

Version LCR Sol 3.0.2022

This document is the Wirral version of the Liverpool City Region Statement of Intent (Sol) and whilst eligibility criteria is the same across all six local authority areas, reference should also be made to each local authority's most recent Sol on their website. Also please note, each will apply a separate numbering process and version update.

- 1) Date of publication: 9th August 2022
- 2) This and previous versions published at:
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/housing/help-your-home/energy-efficiency>

Liverpool City Region Joint Statement of Intent

This statement sets out the flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from April 2022 – March 2026 for the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Local Authorities named above. Although this is a joint Statement of Intent, no Local Authority listed above may make a Local Authority Declaration (LAD) on behalf of another.

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 in identifying fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures is referred to as "ECO4 Flex".

The LCR local authorities welcome the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps them achieve their plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

Wirral Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on 1st July 2022 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 households with a gross income less than £31,000 per annum. 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:

Proxy 1) Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) ¹ , or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 ² , or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government ³
Proxy 2) Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates).
Proxy 3) 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'.
Proxy 4) A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.
Proxy 5) 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.
Proxy 6) 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.

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

Route 3: SAP bands D-G households that have been identified by an NHS Trust, an NHS Foundation Trust, a general medical practitioner provider, a Health Board, or a Local Health Board, with an occupant having a severe and / or long-term health condition that falls under one of the four umbrella conditions; Cardiovascular, Respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility and could be severely impacted by living in a cold home.

This is because the local authorities identify 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 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

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

² [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

³ [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

eligible under the existing routes. The LCR local authorities do not currently use route 4.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

Each LCR local authority has their preferred route for application from approved ECO installers or their agents, direct from households or as referrals. These are outlined below.

I. Halton Borough Council:

Halton Direct Link and the Contact Centre will act as the central point of contact for referrals. The Council will accept referrals from individuals or organisations, such as Energy Projects Plus, acting on behalf of individuals.

Halton Direct Link Offices are based in Widnes Town Centre and Halton Lea. The Contact Centre can be contacted on

Phone: 0303 333 4300

II. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council:

All referrals will be directed through Knowsley's Energy Officer

Phone: 0151 443 5817

Email: simon.rugen@knowsley.gov.uk

III. Liverpool Referrals:

Liverpool's Healthy Homes Home Improvement Agency will act as a central hub for a referrals route from fuel poverty/vulnerability/social care or health organisations, or any partnership with a selected obligated supplier across the City.

Freephone: 0800 012 1754

Email: www.healthyhomesprogramme@liverpool.gov.uk

IV. Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council:

All applications for LADs will be coordinated through the affordable warmth service at Sefton Council. The council will accept referrals from individuals or advocates, such as Energy Projects Plus, on behalf of individuals.

Phone: 0151 934 2222

Email: energy@sefton.gov.uk

V. St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council:

All applications for LADs will be coordinated through the affordable warmth service at St.Helens Council.

Phone: 01744 676555

Email: homeimprovementagency@sthelens.gov.uk

VI. Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council:

Wirral Council will only accept applications from installers or lead generation companies. To submit applications, companies must first sign a Data Sharing Agreement, which can be requested through the contact details below.

Phone: 0151 691 8292

Email: housingstrategy@wirral.gov.uk

The officers below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of Wirral Council:

Name: Ed Kingsley

Job Title: Principal Strategic Housing & Investment Officer

Telephone: 0151 691 8243

Email: edwardkingsley@wirral.gov.uk

Name: Kevin Powe

Job Title: Principal Housing & Investment Officer

Telephone: 0151 691 8246

Email: kevinpowe@wirral.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Wirral 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 / OFGEM guidance.

Signature: 

Name: Alan Evans

Job Title: Director of Regeneration & Place



Date of signature: 1st July 2022

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact edwardkingsley@wirral.gov.uk.

ANNEX A – Local Authority Contact Addresses

Halton

Public Health Division
2nd Floor Runcorn Town Hall
Heath Road
WA7 5TN

Knowsley Council

Strategic Housing
1st Floor the Yorkon Building
Archway Road
Huyton
Knowsley
L36 9FB

Liverpool City Council

Healthy Homes HIA Team
Cunard Building
Water Street
Liverpool
L3 1DS

Sefton Council

Affordable Warmth Service
Ground floor, Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle, Merseyside
L20 3NJ

St. Helens Council

Place Services - Private Housing Initiatives
St Helens Borough Council
PO Box 512
ST HELENS
WA10 9JX

Wirral Council

Housing and Investment Team
PO Box 290
Wallasey
CH27 9FQ