

## Statement of Intent for ECO4

**Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council ECO4 Flexible**

**Eligibility Statement of Intent Local Authority name:**

**Walsall Metropolitan Borough**

**Publication Date: 01/06/2023 Version number: V.3**

**To view online please visit:**

[Energy efficiency funding and advice | Walsall Council](#)

This statement sets out **Walsall Metropolitan Borough** Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from 8 February 2023 – 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.

### **ECO Flex 4 and HUGS 2**

Walsall Council has secured an allocation of Home Upgrade Grant Round 2 (HUGS 2) to help fuel poor households in the borough with a range of retrofit work (insulation, micro-energy generation, heating upgrades) where the household do not currently have gas central heating in their home. The council is committed as part of its Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA Action Plan) to maximising the amount of this time limited funding that can be attracted and spent within the borough to tackle fuel poverty. As a result of the above the council asks, until further notice, that

1. ECO Flex contractors and ECO funders bring any of these households to the attention of the Housing Energy Team via email to: [energyefficiency@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:energyefficiency@walsall.gov.uk) using the reference HUGS 2 property referral.
2. The council will then liaise with the household to determine whether they would be eligible for HUGS 2.
3. Where the household is not eligible for HUGS 2 the council will advise both the household and the ECO contractor. In these situations, the ECO contractor can pursue ECO Flex 4 assistance for the household if they meet the relevant published criteria.

Please note the council will not ordinarily approve any ECO Flex 4 'request' / application where HUGS 2 would in the council's opinion offer a better option for the household / borough. The decision to approve or not any ECO Flex 'request' / application rests solely with the council.

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 (SoI), on the **08/02/2023** 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 households with an income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

**Route 2:** SAP bands E-G for owner-occupied households and private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

V0.2

<b>Proxy 1)</b> Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Proxy 2)</b> Householders receiving a Council Tax reduction (based on low income only).
<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'.
<b>Proxy 4)</b> A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.
<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.
<b>Proxy 6)</b> A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice, 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 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

**Guidance** – ECO4 Flex Statement of Intent template 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)

## Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through **Walsall Council** or one of their approved ECO installers to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

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

**Name:** Mark England

**Job Title:** Project officer, Housing Standards

**Telephone:** 07826-859-014

**Email:** [Mark.England@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.England@walsall.gov.uk)

## CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

The **Walsall Metropolitan 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:** XXXXXX

**Name:** Sally Rowe

**Job Title:** Executive Director, Childrens Services

**Date of signature:** xx/02/2023

For any general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact [Mark.England@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.England@walsall.gov.uk). Please put in your email that the enquiry relates to ECO4 statement of intent

**Publication Date:** 08/02/2023 **Version number:** V.2