

APPENDIX 1

Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent Craven District Council



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1. Introduction

Under the Energy Company Obligation Regulations 2017 -2018 (ECO2t) local authorities can set their own criteria for eligibility for funding for domestic energy efficiency measures. This funding is aimed at those within a local authority most likely to be in fuel poverty. Energy companies can spend up to a maximum of 10% of their full obligation within these criteria.

The Leeds City Region intends to adopt a city region wide approach to implementing the Flexible Eligibility policy initiative within the 2017/18 Energy Company Obligation regulations, through the Better Homes Yorkshire programme. The Craven District Council Statement of Intent fits within this framework.

The focus of the funding is to help those most vulnerable and to increase the uptake of energy efficiency improvements. These objectives are included within the following Council Plans and Strategies:

Craven District Council – Council Plan 2017 - 2020

Priority: Resilient Communities

Contribution: Improve quality of life for vulnerable and low income households through provision of measures to insulate and make their homes energy efficient.

Craven's Housing & Homelessness Integrated Action Plan 2017/18

Priority: Maintain and improve the quality of existing housing

Contribution: Increasing the energy efficiency of housing and improve the health and wellbeing of residents through making their homes warm, safe and energy efficient.

In addition Priority 3 of the Leeds City Region (LCR) Strategic Economic Plan (Clean Energy and Environmental Resilience) 2016-2036¹ sets out a long term ambition to become a resilient zero carbon energy economy underpinned by high quality infrastructure. Priority 3 particularly emphasises the ambition to:

- Deliver improvements that make homes across the LCR warmer and reduce fuel poverty;
- Develop partnership and funding models with the health sector to deliver collaborative interventions that reduce extreme cold and damp and improve health.

The policy approach is based on the following principles:

- Eligibility criteria are to be as streamlined, and simple, as possible
- Focus on attracting ECO funding to support Local Growth Fund schemes
- Early engagement with energy suppliers, local Members and partners
- Eligibility via 2 routes:
 - Geographical areas based on priority communities; and

¹ http://www.investleedsregion.com/system/files/uploaded_files/SEP-2016-FINAL.pdf

- Eligibility for funding due to individual circumstances (based on criteria developed and refined already for the Central Heating Fund programme).

This approach has been taken to maximise the potential for funding however fitting the criteria within the statement of intent does not guarantee that any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements as the final decision on funding rests with energy suppliers and will depend on:

- The survey carried out and installation costs calculated;
- The energy savings that can be achieved for a property, and
- Whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their ECO targets.

2. How Craven District Council intends to identify eligible households

2.1 Fuel Poverty

Households will be considered at risk of fuel poverty if they are determined to be a low income household, living in a high cost home in relation to energy use.

Households need to meet Stage 1 (Low Income) criteria and one of the Stage 2 (High Cost) criteria, based on March 2015 Government Fuel Poverty Strategy.

Stage	Criteria	Definition
Stage 1	Low Income	Gross household income of <£21,000
Stage 2	a) High Cost	Property EPC rating of E, F or G
	b) High Cost	Property EPC rating of D; and Living in a hard to treat home Property is primarily constructed with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid walls; • Non standard cavity walls; • System built walls; • No connection to mains gas; • No loft.

Households within the following areas are also identified as households in fuel poverty.

Households located within the following Wards defined by Craven District Council as priority areas for action:

- Skipton South
- Skipton West
- West Craven
- Ingleton & Clapham
- Barden Fell
- Settle & Ribblesbanks

These areas have been identified in the Council's Private Sector Housing Stock Modelling report produced by the Building Research Establishment in January 2012.

2.2 Low Income and Vulnerability to Cold

Households will be considered a low Income household, and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home, if they meet Stage 1 (Low Income) criteria and someone in the household meets one of the Stage 2

(High Cost) criteria. These are based on NICE guideline NG6 on “Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes”.

Stage	Criteria	Definition
Stage 1	Low Income	Gross household income of <£21,000
Stage 2	a) High Cost and vulnerable to cold	Property EPC rating of D; and Has a health condition made worse by cold: Chronic respiratory, cardio vascular, or musculoskeletal illness, or mental health condition.
	b) High Cost and vulnerable to cold	Property EPC rating of D; and Has a vulnerable resident: Over 70 years of age Child under 16 resident in the household

All Leeds City Region Flexible Eligibility ECOs will be delivered by Better Homes Yorkshire. The Better Homes Yorkshire programme was procured at the end of December 2014, and was launched in March 2015, to respond to the challenge of cold homes and fuel poverty. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and all 10 Leeds City Region Local Authorities contracted with Keepmoat and Fortem to deliver domestic energy efficiency measures, secure ECO and Green Deal funding (and their successors), up to 2022.

3. Governance

Local Authority Declarations will be valid when signed by the Director of Services, Craven District Council.

Approaches by suppliers (or organisations with ECO funding available) for Local Authority Declarations will be screened initially by the Home Energy Project Manager (York, Harrogate, Craven & Selby) before being considered for approval by the Director of Services.

4. Referrals

Referrals may be received from front line staff within the Council; health and social care sectors; and trusted partner agencies including AgeUK and Citizens’ Advice Bureau - Craven. Referrals will also be accepted from Better Homes Yorkshire.

5. Evidence, monitoring and reporting

Data will be reported on a project basis:

Local Growth Fund Energy Efficiency Grant and Loan Scheme

Declarations which form part of Local Growth Fund Energy Efficiency Grant and Loan Scheme (LGF) are subject to monthly and quarterly monitoring to track progress against forecast delivery and progress to achieving outputs. The project level district monitoring reports are completed by the district Project Manager and sent to the WYCA Tackling Fuel Poverty Programme Manager. A monitoring report for the Programme is completed by the Programme Manager and submitted to the WYCA Growth Deal monitoring team. The Growth Deal monitoring team meet regularly with colleagues at BEIS to discuss progress, risks and issues.

The WYCA Programme Manager also reports regularly to the Better Homes Yorkshire Programme Board which is made up of senior representatives from each participating Council, and is chaired by the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

All LGF recipients provide evidence of their income and energy efficiency/property location which is scanned and retained by the Council

Schemes with Local Authority Declarations Proposed by Outside Organisations

Where a scheme has been proposed by an organisation outside of the Better Homes Yorkshire partnership, progress will be monitored through the Better Homes Officers Group with reporting to the Better Homes Yorkshire Programme Board. Qualification evidence for such Declared schemes will be required by the Council for audit and anti-fraud purposes.

6. Signature

Paul Ellis
Director of Services
Craven District Council

Date

NOTE: The Statement of Intent should be signed by the Chief Executive Officer for the local authority or other senior officer nominated on their behalf who is at least at Director level.