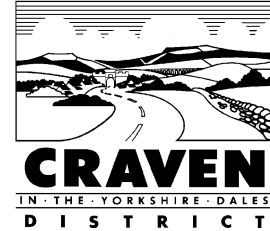


## Policy Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017



# Implementing Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility

Report of the Director of Services

Lead Member: Richard Foster

Ward(s) affected: ALL

### 1. Purpose of Report

To provide background information about the Government's proposal to give the council the ability to set local criteria for Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding. By adopting this criteria the council will be in a position to attract funding to help fuel poor residents

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Note that the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) transition period allows Local Authorities to set criteria for fuel poor households, and households which are vulnerable to cold, to qualify for ECO funding from the "Big 7" energy suppliers<sup>1</sup> towards the cost of certain energy efficiency improvements to their homes;
- 2.2 Approve the publication of the Statement of Intent at Appendix 1 setting out the criteria for Craven District Council
- 2.3 To delegate authority to the Director of Services, in consultation with the Lead Member, to make minor amendments and/or adjustments to the Statement of Intent to meet current or future requirements and in order to facilitate responses to revised priorities and/or funding opportunities.

### 3. ECO Flexible Eligibility

- 3.1 Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a government energy efficiency scheme funded by the six main energy companies to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty. The scheme began in April 2013, and over time it has been amended. The latest changes to the scheme occurred are included within ECO2t.
- 3.2 Under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Regulations 2017 – 2018 (ECO2t) local authorities can set their own criteria for eligibility for funding for domestic energy efficiency measures in order to address local needs and priorities.
- 3.3 In order for these to be legitimate, the local authority is required to publish on its website a Statement of Intent setting out the Council's Flexible Eligibility criteria.
- 3.4 ECO Providers are able to deliver up to 10% of their ECO Obligation<sup>2</sup> to households meeting locally set Flexible Criteria.
- 3.5 The Craven Flexible Criteria has been worked up in conjunction with our Leeds City Region partners to develop a consistent protocol which will meet both varying local needs and provide a mechanism which facilitates inter-authority programmes of work in partnership with Better Homes Yorkshire.

<sup>1</sup> Npower, British Gas, Scottish Southern Energy, Scottish Power, EON, EDF and OVO (providing 95% of Gas and Electricity to British homes)

<sup>2</sup> Carbon emissions Reduction Obligation (CERO) – promotion of primary measures (inc. roof and wall insulation) – some of which targeted to rural areas and Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation (HHCRO) Measure to improve ability of low income and vulnerable households to heat their homes (inc. replacement or repair of boilers..)

#### 4. **Implications**

4.1 **Financial Implications:** - There are no financial implications for the Council from this report .

#### 4.2 **Legal Implications:**

There is no specific requirement for the Council to publish a Statement of Intent and doing so is optional. Doing so does not commit the Council to any particular actions or responsibilities outside our contract with Better Homes Yorkshire requiring that all energy efficiency improvements be referred to Better Homes.

This contract was procured through the Leeds City Region and is relevant throughout the current ECO Transition period.

#### 4.3 **Contribution to Corporate Priorities:**

##### a) **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.

##### b) **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 - use of indirect financial assistance to improve the health and wellbeing of residents through making their homes warm, safe and energy efficient.

#### 4.4 **Risk Management:**

The Statement of Intent is generally consistent with the nine Better Homes partnership Authorities' publications so as to optimise the opportunities offered by ECO Flexible Eligibility.

Not publishing a Statement of Intent would leave the Council open to criticism that is not implementing an initiative which helps vulnerable households.

#### 4.5 **Equality Impact Assessment:**

The Council's Equality Impact Assessment Procedure **has been** followed. An Equality Impact Assessment **has not** been completed on the proposals as completion of **Stage 1- Initial Screening** of the Procedure identified that the proposed policy, strategy, procedure or function **does not have** the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on •age • disability •gender • race/ethnicity • religion or religious belief (faith) •sexual orientation, or • rural isolation.

#### 5. **Consultation with Others:**

a) Home Energy Project Manager (York Harrogate Craven and Selby)

#### 6. **Access to Information : Background Documents:**

Equalities Impact Assessment - Screening Form

#### 7. **Author of the Report:**

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Note: Members are invited to contact Nina Pinder ([npinder@cravencd.gov.uk](mailto:npinder@cravencd.gov.uk) 01756 706392) in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or requests for supporting customer/officer procedural documentation.

#### 8. **Appendices:** Appendix A – Craven District Council Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent