

Statement of Intent (Sol)– Flexible Eligibility VERSION 2

The purpose of flexible eligibility is to identify private households that may benefit from energy saving measures and are:

- i) Fuel poor households, especially those that are not in receipt of Affordable Warmth eligible benefits, and the estimated 20% of fuel poor households that are not in receipt of any benefits; and
- ii) Low income households that are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home (LIVC)

LAs can make “declarations” in relation to such households in fuel poverty which in turn enables registered installers to access funding from Energy Companies to grant aid the installation of insulation and heating measures. They can also declare some non-fuel poor homes as eligible, to facilitate solid wall insulation projects, as long as a proportion of the households in the project are in fuel poverty or LIVC.

This new Waveney District Council Sol includes the ability to declare “infill properties”. An infill declaration is allowed where a proportion of the residents are not technically in fuel poverty, but where the scheme allows for inclusion of their properties in the programme rather than leave gaps.

The LA must declare that in the opinion of the LA, the premises listed in the declaration are occupied by a household(s) living in fuel poverty (FP) or by a household(s) living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home (LIVC).

References

¹Draft ECO: Help to Heat Flexible Eligibility: BEIS’ Guidance for Local Authorities on Targeting Households living in fuel poverty, living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home, and “in-fill”.

²English Indices of Deprivation 2015 – (Criteria met where the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) decile for the Lower Super Output Area is 1 or 2 in column F of ‘File 1: index of multiple deprivation’). This broadly correlates with the 10% most deprived areas within Suffolk).

Waveney District Council's Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

- 1) Waveney District Council, Riverside, Canning Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk.
- 2) Date of publication 2 October 2017
- 3) Version WDC 2 : 2/02/2018
- 4) Publication on website: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

A) Introduction

Waveney District Council (WDC) is part of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, comprising all Suffolk Local Authorities, which has a core focus on tackling domestic energy efficiency and fuel poverty in Suffolk. It is a crucial element in its ambition to be the county with the greatest reduction in carbon emissions.

WDC is party to the Suffolk Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent (Sol) but due to its own unique local circumstances is publishing a separate Sol to utilise Flexible Eligibility to its fullest to help achieve local aims of improving the health and wellbeing of residents.

It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household can benefit from energy saving improvements under Affordable Warmth will be made by the obligated suppliers or their agents/contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration issued by the local authority to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures, as the final decision will depend on i) survey carried out by suppliers agents/contractors and installation costs calculated, ii) the energy savings that can be achieved for a property, and iii) whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation (ECO) targets.

B) Identifying eligible households

WDC will use the following eligibility criteria to identify households that may benefit from the installation of measures under 'Flexible Eligibility'.

The resident meets one of the following criteria:

1. Is in receipt of any means tested benefit.
2. Falls within the thresholds in Table 1 below which refers to income after housing costs (essentially a household's disposable income after they have paid for their rent or mortgage).
3. Where the household income consists of only one resident's income, where more than 50% is from state pension and the resident has less than £10,000 in savings and investments.
4. Where the household income consists of a resident and their partners income where more than 75% of their income is made up from state pension and the residents combined have no more than £20,000 in savings and investments.

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²English Indices of Deprivation 2015 – (Criteria met where the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) decile for the Lower Super Output Area is 1 or 2 in column F of 'File 1: index of multiple deprivation'). This broadly correlates with the 10% most deprived areas within Suffolk).

5. Needs to spend more than 10% of the household income on energy bills after housing costs have been removed.

6. Lives in a house which lies within a Lower Super Output Area which has been defined as falling within the 20% most deprived areas in England (2).

and in all cases above

is living in a property with an EPC rating of D, E, F or G or in a property with a housing archetype likely to be D, E, F or G rated.

7. Criteria for identifying low income and vulnerability to cold (LIVC)

The resident

is in receipt of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Attendance Allowance **or**

is on the Energy Companies' Priority Services register (those at most risk from the effects of a power cut)

or

has a health condition that can be exacerbated by living in cold including²:

i. people with cardiovascular conditions

ii. people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)

iii. people with mental health conditions

iv. people with disabilities

v. people who are terminally ill

vi. people with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV)

or

is aged 65 and over, or has children under the age of 5, or is pregnant.

and

has less than £10,000 in savings and investments (£20,000 in savings and investments where the resident has a partner).

is living in a property with an EPC rating of D, E, F, or G or in a property with a housing archetype likely to be D, E, F or G rated.

8. Criteria for Self-Declaration

Resident is living in a property with an EPC rating of D, E, F or G or in a property with a housing archetype likely to be D, E, F or G rated

and

falls within the thresholds in Table 1 below which refers to income after housing costs (essentially a household's disposable income after they have paid for their rent or mortgage).

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²English Indices of Deprivation 2015 – (Criteria met where the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) decile for the Lower Super Output Area is 1 or 2 in column F of 'File 1: index of multiple deprivation'). This broadly correlates with the 10% most deprived areas within Suffolk).

Table 1 – Income thresholds broadly consistent with those used under the Low Income High Costs indicator (2014)²³ inflated to represent 2017/18 prices

Household composition	Annual household income	Monthly household income Equivalent
1 adult (18 years and over)	£8,900	£740
and 1 child	£11,700	£980
and 2 children	£14,400	£1,200
and three children	£17,300	£1,440
and four or more children	£20,100	£1,680
2 adults (18 years and over)	£14,600	£1,220
and 1 child	£17,400	£1,450
and 2 children	£20,200	£1,680
and three children	£23,100	£1,930
and four or more children	£25,700	£2,140

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C) Criteria for “infill properties”

The property must be privately owned.

Solid Wall Insulation (SWI) is the only eligible measure.

The occupants of an infill property do not need to be in FP or LIVC but the following criteria must be met in that the property must be:

a) in the same terrace as; or

b) in an immediately adjacent building to; or

c) in the same building as a household that does meet those criteria

d) there must be the minimum % of properties in the block/ terrace for which WDC are signing a declaration see table below.

Property Type	LA declaration requirements	In-fill available
Project consisting of a pair of semi-detached houses or bungalows , or a building containing no more than two domestic premises .	At least one of the two-properties must be declared by the LA as FP or LIVC (i.e. 50% of the properties are FP or LIVC).	The other private property to which it is directly adjoined is eligible for solid
Project consisting of any premises that are contained in the same building (eg flats), immediately adjacent buildings (eg neighbouring properties) or in the same terrace .	At least two in three properties on the list must be declared by the LA as FP or LIVC (i.e. at least 66% of the properties are FP or LIVC).	The other (i.e. up to one third) of private properties in the project are eligible for solid wall insulation, provided they are either in the same building, an immediately adjacent building or in the same terrace as the ones identified as FP or LIVC.

The percentage requirement only relates to the portion of the properties covered by an LA declaration. So for example, if the LA declaration only covers 80% of a block of flats, then the 66% requirement applies to that 80% only, rather than to the whole block of flats

Irrespective of whether the FP or LIVC properties receive any measures, the private in-fill properties listed on the declaration will be eligible to receive an SWI measure.

If any of the FP or LIVC properties named on the declaration are removed from a project for any reason, this will not invalidate the eligibility of any of the private properties identified as in-fill on the same declaration.

D) Governance

The officer responsible for signing the declarations will ensure that any property declared will be eligible in line with the criteria listed above. Any queries regarding the eligibility of a property will be considered by Waveney District Council .

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Officer responsible for signing “Local authority declarations”:

Mrs Teresa Howarth, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Waveney District Council, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ.

In her absence such officers as are delegated to sign on her behalf in her absence including Victoria Cotterill and Samm Beacham.

E) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

SCDC/WDC will provide the central administration and management of ECO flexible eligibility. SCDC/WDC will hold all required householder information including the SOI qualifying criteria evidence, e.g. benefits/EPC/health data and the signed declarations.

Evidence, monitoring and reporting will include:

- a) Monitoring which households have subsequently received a measure;
- b) The auditing of data collection and the monitoring mechanism; and
- e) The use of controls to deter, prevent and detect fraud.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Jarvis', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Andrew Jarvis, Strategic Director
Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council

20 February 2018

References

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