

South Ribble Borough Council's Statement of Intent for ECO Flexible Eligibility

Overview

South Ribble is committed to improving the energy efficiency of Homes, addressing health inequalities exacerbated by living in cold damp homes, reduce fuel poverty, tackle seasonal excess deaths and reduce carbon emissions from the domestic sector.

This Statement of Intent has been developed with the intention of supporting South Ribble Borough Council to participate in ECO2 transition and specifically flexible eligibility. It responds to the statutory requirements for [ECO 3](#) in line with the [guidance](#) to local authorities issued by the Department for Energy & Industrial strategy (BEIS) on Flexible Eligibility. It sets out the criteria South Ribble Borough Council will use in making declarations under ECO Flexible Eligibility and the delivery arrangements in place.

Date of Publication **16/7/2019** **Version Number** **V4/SRBC**

Published Link <https://www.southribble.gov.uk/content/private-sector>

Introduction

In 2017 (latest figures available) South Ribble had 4672 households in fuel poverty (9.9%). This is lower than the national average (11.0%).

An interactive map of fuel poverty in Lancashire is available here:

<http://dashboards.instantatlas.com/viewer/report?appid=76dd5dc8c5b041458608752ffd11b67a&authid=EeUdmTVM2tQfwwHh>

The council maximises the number of energy efficiency measures that its residents can access particularly those that are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home and/or are in fuel poverty or on a low income, by utilising local data to target initiatives successfully. This has been carried out with great success in the past as in 2010 the Council was named by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in the top 5 authorities in the country to lag its housing stock.

The link below identify the priorities for council as identified in the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report.

HECA Link for South Ribble Borough Council

<http://southribble.gov.uk/sites/default/files/HECA%20Report%202017.pdf>

Flexible Eligibility is a means for the local authority to make an application for a range of energy efficiency measures for qualifying residents through a declaration to an energy company on behalf of the resident. **All ECO Flexible Eligibility declarations in the Borough will be managed by South Ribble Borough Council.**

The Council anticipates that flexible Eligibility will bring energy efficiency measures to residents that have traditionally not qualified for help in the past because they were not on an appropriate benefit. **When the local Authority makes a declaration on behalf of a resident this is not a guarantee that a measure will be installed.** The final decision will rest with the supplier who will take into account a number of factors including the savings that can be achieved by the resident as well as whether they have already reached their target.

1. How the council intends to identify eligible households

To be eligible households must meet either the fuel poverty (Low Income High Cost) criteria or the Low Income and Vulnerable criteria.

Criteria for identifying households living in fuel poverty

The fuel poverty criteria will identify households that have a low income and high energy costs. To be eligible households must:

- Have a total household income not exceeding composition in table 1 and
- Have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of band D, E, F or G

Table 1

Household composition	Maximum household annual disposable income (after deducting tax, mortgage / rent and Council Tax)
1 Adult	£ 9,300
and 1 child	£ 12,200
and 2 child	£ 15,000
and 3 child	£ 18,000
and 4+ child	£ 21,000
2 Adults	£ 15,200
and 1 child	£ 18,200
and 2 child	£ 21,100
and 3 child	£ 24,100
and 4+ child	£ 26,800

Criteria for identifying households living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home

The low income and vulnerability criteria will identify households that are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home. To be eligible households must have a total household income not exceeding household composition in table 1 and have at least one of the following vulnerabilities:

Vulnerabilities

- people with a diagnosed cardiovascular conditions
- people with a diagnosed respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
- people with diagnosed mental health conditions
- people with diagnosed disabilities
- older people (65 and older)
- households with young children (up to the age of 5)
- pregnant women
- people who are terminally ill
- people with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV)
- people who have mobility issues and have attended hospital due to a fall

The following vulnerable groups will be considered on referral from a professional organisation:

- people who move in and out of homelessness
- people with addictions
- Recent immigrants and refugees.

***Anyone with savings over £16,000 will not qualify for help under either the fuel poverty or low income and vulnerability criteria**

A) Criteria for identifying “In-fill” properties for solid wall insulation

The local authority intends to facilitate solid wall insulation schemes including households that are not in fuel poverty or vulnerable (‘in-fill’).

Where a household does not meet the criteria for fuel poverty (outlined at A) or living on a low income and vulnerable to the cold (outlined at B), the local authority can declare a household as “in-fill” where they are:

- a) In an immediately adjacent building to; or
- b) In the same building as a household that does meet those criteria; or
- c) In the same terrace as; or
- d) back to back entire terraces, but only if the back of the actual properties are touching (not back to back garden/ alleyway separates the terrace).

In-fill is only allowed for solid wall insulation (SWI) where a minimum percentage of households for which the LA is providing declarations are LIHC or LIVC. These requirements are set out in the ECO Order and summarised below.

Table 1 - Summary of the requirements for property types under in-fill

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 wall insulation. This is known as the in-fill property.
Project consisting of any premises that are contained in the same building (e.g. flats), immediately adjacent buildings (eg neighbouring properties) or in the same terrace .	All properties that are receiving a LA Flex measure must be covered by a declaration. This applies to LIVC, FP and in-fill properties. Up to 50% of total FP or LIVC combined properties within the project can receive a measure	The in-fill 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.

2. Acting on Behalf of the nominated officer

In most circumstance the designated South Ribble Borough Council’s officer signing the declaration, however where that officer is unavailable nominated officers from the Council will be granted permission to sign a declaration.

3. Governance

The nominated Officer from South Ribble Borough Council will be responsible for signing declarations. In the event that the nominated officer is unavailable then only any South Ribble Borough Council’s nominated officer/s can sign the declaration on their behalf.

Where the Council does not want to endorse a certain measure in a particular area it will be their responsibility to inform the customer.

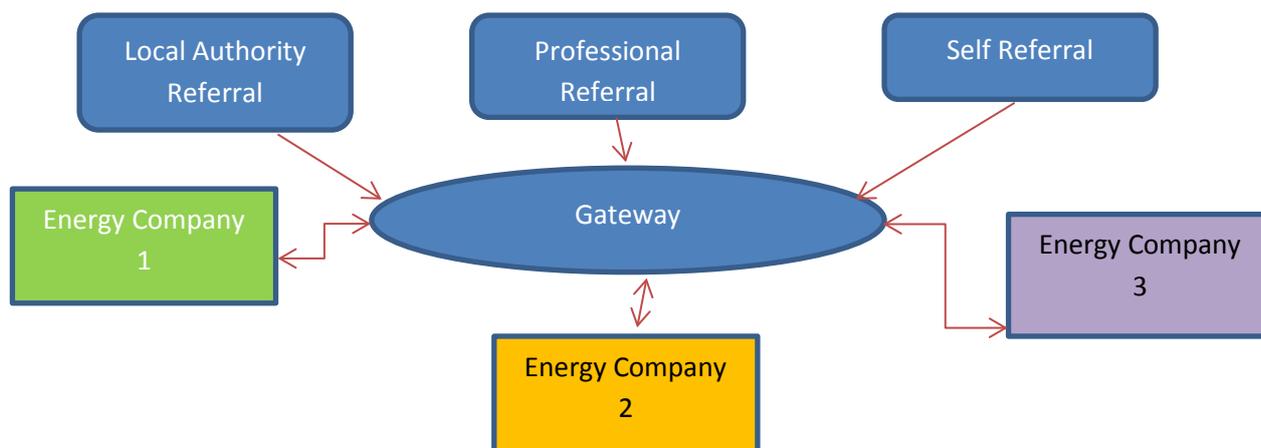
In addition to the above a review board will be established consisting of South Ribble Borough Council officers when required so that they will be able to assess individual cases where the applicant either falls just outside

the qualifying criteria but there is still a clear need or where the applicant disputes the decision of the local authority in respect of them not qualifying under Flexible Eligibility. This board's decision will be final



Referrals

All referrals will be coordinated through the council's Gateway. The council can take referral directly or via an agent / representative.



4. Evidence, Monitoring and Reporting

- All applications will be recorded on a secure CRM system by Gateway
- South Ribble Borough Council will have a Service Level Agreement in place with each Energy Supplier it enters into an arrangement with that will detail acceptable time scales and processes
- Gateway will hold electronic copies of all documents relating to each application including any evidence supplied by the applicant
- Every applicant will be required to sign a declaration stating that the information they have supplied is truthful and accurate.

5. Signatures

The officer below will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of the local authority.

Job title: Senior Strategic Housing Officer

Telephone: 01772 625365

Email: ppatel@southribble.gov.uk

Name: PETER MCHUGH

Title: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY AND HOUSING

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 16/7/19