

Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local authority: Teignbridge District Council

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URL: See our 'financial help' webpage: www.teignbridge.gov.uk/housing

See our previous version archive

1 Introduction

Teignbridge District Council supports the continuation of Flexible Eligibility Scheme (ECOFlex 3) and will support those fuel poor households in the District who do not qualify through existing schemes to install key energy measures.

National data* indicates that there are 5,951 dwellings (10.5% of the total stock) in fuel poverty in Teignbridge. This compares to 10.9% in Devon, 10.2% in the South West and 11.1% nationally (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-fuelpoverty-statistics-report-2018>). Local data shows 6% of households are likely to have an excess cold hazard with a further 11% having a risk of a cold hazard.

The council offers financial assistance through loans and grant to tackle fuel poverty and improve housing conditions for those who are particularly vulnerable. Teignbridge Council is taking advantage of this new Flexible Eligibility scheme so that as many residents can benefit as possible, in particular households who don't qualify through existing schemes but are in fuel poverty. Subject to funding available the council will continue to support top up grants for more vulnerable residents where there is a shortfall in ECO flex funding.

It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements rests with obligated energy suppliers or their contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration of Eligibility issued by the Council to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures. The final decision will depend on:

1. the survey carried out by the energy company and the identification of measures eligible under Help to Heat,

2. the supplier's assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing measures in relation to achieving its obligation, and
3. whether the supplier has achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

In identifying households as eligible under flexible eligibility Teignbridge District Council is seeking to enable residents to benefit from funding and will seek the consent of households to include them in a Declaration.

Teignbridge District Council expects any obligated energy supplier, or contractor working on their behalf, to:

- comply with the Data Protection Act,
- to fully follow Ofgem requirements for the Energy Company Obligation Help to Heat, and
- to act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards of any works that may take place.

These are covered in a separate memorandum of understanding between the Council and the obligated party.

2 How Teignbridge District Council intends to identify eligible households The Department of Business, Energy and Industry Strategy (BEIS) provides guidance on the targeting of Flexible Eligibility which seeks to identify private households that may benefit from energy saving measures. These are:

- a. the premises are occupied by a household living on a low income in a home that cannot be kept warm at a reasonable cost (LIHC); or
- b. a property occupied by a household living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home (LIVC), or
- c. non-fuel poor homes may be declared eligible to facilitate solid wall insulation projects, as long as a proportion of the households in the project are in fuel poverty or LIVC.

a. Identifying fuel poverty

Private homeowners qualify to apply through ECO flexible eligibility subject to meeting category 1 **and** category 2 eligibility criteria in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Category		Category
1. Low income household eligibility	AND	2. High cost household eligibility

Category		Category
<p>a. A household with 2 or more people must have an overall annual household net income* below £30,000.</p> <p>OR</p>		<p>a. Energy performance rating D, E,F,G</p> <p>Privately rented properties which have a D or E EPC rating qualifies for all qualifying ECO measures and properties which have an F or G EPC rating will qualify only for higher cost measures.</p> <p>Park homes which have an EPC of C rating or below qualify.</p> <p>OR</p>
<p>b. A single person household must have an overall annual net income* below £25,000</p> <p>OR</p>		<p>b. If no EPC and score 80 or over after answering high cost questions in Table 2</p>
<p>c. A household in receipt of the following means tested benefit: housing benefit, council tax support, and pension credit</p>		

*net income is gross income minus tax and NI

Eligibility does not guarantee funding.

Table 2 High cost household eligibility, if no EPC

Question	Response	Score
How many bedrooms are there in the home?	1	0
	2	10
	3	30
	4	50
	5 or more	70
What type of house is it?	Semi detached	15
	Detached	15
	Terrace	10

Question	Response	Score
	Bungalow	50
	Park Home	70
	Flats	10
Was the home built before 1964?	Yes	30
	No	0
What is the main heating fuel?	Gas	10
	Electricity	30
	Oil	30
	LPG	30
	Other	15
	Boiler has broken down or been condemned.	30
Does at least one member of the household spend most of the day in the home?	Yes	30
	No	0

b. Identifying low income and vulnerability to cold

Teignbridge District Council will target households containing people with the following characteristics, which reflects the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes and who meet low income household eligibility (Category 1 in Table 1).

- i. Aged over 60, and particularly those over 75
- ii. Householders with children under 5
- iii. Pregnant women
- iv. Respiratory disease (COPD, asthma)
- v. Cardiovascular disease (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
- vi. Moderate to severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
- vii. Substance misusers
- viii. Dementia
- ix. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
- x. Cancer
- xi. Limited mobility
- xii. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
- xiii. Other health condition made worse by living in a cold home
- xiv. Severe learning disabilities
- xv. Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)

c. Solid wall insulation “in-fill” projects

Where potential works have been identified households will be supported to take advantage of “in-fill” projects where the minimum number of vulnerable households is met. Reference will be made to the following government guidance:

[ENERGY COMPANY OBLIGATION: ECO3, 2018 TO 2022](#)

3 Governance

Responsible officer

The officer below will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of the local authority (in her absence the Private Sector Housing Team Manager).

Zoe Farmer

Job title: Home Energy Officer

Telephone: 01626 215764

Email: psh@teignbridge.gov.uk

Or

Alison Dolley

Job title: Private Sector Housing Team Leader

Telephone: 01626 215418

Email: psh@teignbridge.gov.uk

Or

Sue Jessop

Job title: Financial and Technical Support Officer

Telephone: 01626 215202

Email: psh@teignbridge.gov.uk

Referrals

Teignbridge District Council will ensure that referral processes used comply with data protection. Referrals will be made as follows

- d. Through the Local Energy Advice Programme (LEAP) who provides energy advice across Devon in partnership with the CosyDevon districts.
- e. Referrals generated as a result of staff interactions with householders through grants/loans other energy schemes and housing enforcement
- f. Referrals from other agencies including the voluntary sector, health sector and from contractors and installs directly.
- g. Through local data (Home Analytic data and BRE housing stock modelling data) **4**

Evidence, monitoring and reporting

- a. Anonymised data on the characteristics of households reached through Flexible

Eligibility will be reviewed

- b. The data above will include details of households assessed, how many were deemed eligible and ineligible, and how many received heating and insulation improvements

1) Signature

Amanda Pujol

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Business Lead (Interim Head of Service Delivery and Improvement)