

Greater Manchester Combined Authority: Flexible Eligibility, Statement of Intent 2017-19

Local authorities we represent:

Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Rochdale, Stockport, Trafford, Oldham, Salford, Tameside, Wigan, and this statement is on behalf of all 10 of these LAs who have agreed to its contents.

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1) Introduction

In Greater Manchester (GM) we consist of 10 local authorities (LAs): Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. Based on government statistics 11% of residents in Greater Manchester are fuel poor (2014). Over 30% of carbon emissions in GM come from energy inefficient buildings. In GM, as well as working to reduce carbon emissions in buildings, we look to alleviate fuel poverty and the risk of residents becoming fuel poor (fuel poverty can be defined as low income residents who struggle to afford to heat their homes adequately).

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) coordinates GM wide energy efficiency schemes, including Energy Company Obligation (ECO) based schemes, which are made available to residents (predominantly owner occupied, private rented, and in some instances social housing tenants) of low income households across all 10 GM local authorities.

Through ECO Flexible Eligibility GMCA will be working with utility companies to assist the most vulnerable residents in Greater Manchester.

The final decision on whether a household receives an ECO measures is made by the energy suppliers or their agents/contractors. Please note that inclusion in a Declaration made by the LA or GMCA 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 ECO targets.

2) How we intend to identify eligible households

Below are the criteria set by GMCA for ECO Flexible eligibility to be made available to Greater Manchester residents. A GM resident to be deemed eligible does not need to meet all four of the criteria listed below but must meet at least ONE of the criteria listed below:

A. Income and Health

- Low income (e.g. in receipt of income-related benefits, see below for a full list of benefits*, or a monthly income of less than £800 after paying mortgage or rent);
 - i. and**
 - ii. High energy costs (e.g. inadequate insulation or inefficient heating or energy bills of more than £1,400 per year if the property was heated adequately);
 - iii. and**
 - iv. A household member of any age with a disability or long-term health condition that results in Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Coronary Heart Disease, Depression, Falls, Hypertension, Stroke or Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA). See full list of eligible illnesses and vulnerabilities below. **
 - v. If the resident meets the above and wishes to have an 'A' rated boiler they will require a letter from their GP to confirm their illness, and the resident would also sign a self-declaration form.

B. Low Income

- Where the Council has reasonable evidence that the total household income fits into the categories below: (E.g. this can be where a local authority approved fuel poverty scheme caseworker has got evidence of this, or where a ECO manager has identified someone and presents the LA with reasonable evidence).

| Household composition | Gross Annual household income | Monthly household income Equivalent |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 adult | £16,500 | £1,375 |
| and 1 child | £21,750 | £1,813 |
| and 2 children | £27,000 | £2,250 |
| and three or more children | £32,250 | £2,688 |
| 2 adults | £24,750 | £2,063 |
| and 1 child | £30,000 | £2,500 |
| and 2 children | £35,250 | £2,938 |
| and three or more children | £39,500 | £3,292 |

(The above table has been formulated following guidance from ALEO Association of local energy officers.)

- C. The resident lives in an extreme area of degradation within a local authority that the local authority has deemed as an area of deprivation/poverty, such that the majority of residents in that area will be in fuel poverty. This information may be provided to the utility company/ECO manager as a list of wards, or areas identified on a map. (This may not apply to all 10 LAs as some LAs may not have identified areas of deprivation/poverty.)
- D. A referral, deeming a resident to be eligible, made by a Local Authority approved fuel poverty/affordable warmth scheme. For example through LA approved schemes in GM such as (but not inclusive to this list) Warm Homes Oldham, AWARM, Care and Repair, LEAP, Warm Salford, Safe Warm and Dry.
- E. The resident is in significant and persistent debt including energy debt.

***Full list of benefits (any ONE of the below).**

HHCRO benefits

- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance*
- *Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- *Income Support*
- *Pension Guarantee Credit*
- *Child Tax Credit (with income not more than that from the relevant row of the household composition matrix)*
- *Working Tax Credit (with income not more than that from the relevant row of the household composition matrix)*
- *Universal credit (with income not more than that from the relevant row of the household composition matrix)*

Non-HHCRO benefits

- *Pensions Saving Credit*
- *Carers Allowance*
- *Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction*
- *A Disability Benefit (incl. Attendance Allowance, DLA, PIP)*

**** Full list of eligible illnesses and vulnerabilities (any ONE of the below)**

Long Term Health Conditions

- Cardiovascular condition (incl. coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, transient ischemic attack)
- Respiratory condition (incl. COPD, asthma)
- Neurological or neurobiological condition (incl. dementia, Parkinson's disease, MS, epilepsy, fibromyalgia, ME)
- Musculoskeletal conditions (incl. arthritis, limited mobility, recently attended hospital due to a fall)
- Blood conditions (incl. Sickle cell disease, thalassemia)
- Cancer
- Moderate to severe mental illness (incl. schizophrenia bipolar disorder and depression where receiving regular treatment)
- Severe learning disabilities
- Autoimmune or immunodeficiency diseases (incl. lupus, diabetes, HIV)
- Terminally ill
- Other illness exacerbated by cold (confirmed by GP)

Vulnerability

- On the Priority Services register of partner supplier
- Core Group WHD recipient
- Victim of domestic violence
- Recent bereavement
- Moving in and out of homelessness
- Recent immigrant or asylum seeker
- Physical or sensory disability
- Solid wall insulation "in-fill" projects

- F. For the ECHO scheme eligible households will not have an annual household income over £32,778 (this is the average household income for Greater Manchester residents).

3) Solid wall insulation "in-fill" projects

Where potential solid wall insulation works have been identified, households will be supported to take advantage of ECO funding for solid wall insulation under the "in-fill" category as set out in the guidance issued by BEIS in April 2017, and subject to the rules and restrictions set out therein, particularly in relation to the minimum number of FP/LIVC households being met.

4) Governance

Checks will be carried out by the relevant local authority/GM affordable warmth scheme e.g. LEAP project to ensure whether the resident is eligible for standard ECO funding. If the resident is not eligible for standard ECO funding they will be checked against Flexible Eligibility based on the criteria set above.

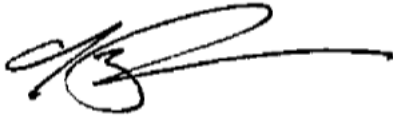
Residents deemed eligible will then be referred to the Council for a Declaration.

All households for whom Declarations were made will be contacted by the scheme provider e.g. LEAP project, to progress to checks.

5) Joint statement of intent (SOL)

This is a joint SOL issued by Greater Manchester Combined Authority on behalf of the 10 GM LAs (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan). All 10 GM LAs are signatories to this SOL via the combined authority.

7) Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Boylan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer
Greater Manchester Combined Authority**

Date: 31.07.2017