

**Energy Company Obligation
Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

Names of Local Authorities: Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Bolton Council, Bury Council, Manchester City Council, Oldham Council, Rochdale Council, Salford City Council, Stockport Council, Tameside Council, Trafford Council, Wigan Council

Date of publication: 01/06/19

Version number: 3

Publication on website: <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/domestic-and-non-domestic-energy-efficiency/>

Contact details: To discuss Local Authority Flexible Eligibility, please contact one of the officers named in Section 5 below.

1. Introduction

Greater Manchester (GM) consists of 10 Local Authorities (LAs): Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. Together these LAs are part of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

Based on government statistics, we estimate that 12.7% of residents in GM are fuel poor (2016) and over 30% of carbon emissions in GM come from energy inefficient buildings. We will seek to use flexible eligibility to alleviate fuel poverty and to reduce the carbon emissions of low income households.

The GMCA and 10 GM LAs co-ordinate a variety of GM-wide energy efficiency schemes, including those using the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding. We work with a wide variety of public, private and third sector partners to deliver holistic support to our most vulnerable households to keep them warm and well. Heating and insulation measures delivered through flexible eligibility will help to achieve this along with energy advice, tariff switching, income maximisation, the installation of other grant funded energy efficiency measures and the use of enforcement powers as required to ensure minimum standards in privately rented homes are met.

The final decision on whether a household receives ECO measures is made by energy suppliers or their agents / contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration made by the GMCA or a GM LA to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures, as the final decision will depend on:

- i) the 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 ECO targets or require further measures to meet them.

2. How we intend to identify eligible households

There are four categories of relevant household that we will deem to be eligible for the installation of measures under flexible eligibility. They are:

- households living in fuel poverty (FP) i.e. they have a low income and high energy costs (LIHC);
- households living on a low income that are vulnerable to the effects of a cold home (LIVC);
- households triaged through an existing LA scheme;
- solid wall in-fill properties.

The first two categories will be the route for the majority of households declared as eligible. The specific evidence required is detailed in sections (a) and (b) below. Both require that a household has a low income, and then they should either have high energy costs OR be vulnerable to the cold.

The third category for households triaged through an existing LA scheme is covered in (c) below. This route will only apply to households that may be involved in GM LA-backed heating or insulation schemes.

The very specific category of solid wall in-fill properties is set out in (d) below. This route will only apply to households that may be involved in GM LA-backed insulation schemes.

a) Criteria for identifying households in fuel poverty (LIHC)

To be eligible through this route, a household must be low income, high cost (LIHC). Low income (LI) means having a disposable income that is lower than the relevant threshold in Table 1 below after they have paid for their mortgage or rent. This comprises income from all sources, such as net earnings (after tax), income from savings and investments, pensions, all benefits (including housing benefit), and net council tax payments.

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 children	£15,000
and 3 children	£18,000
and 4 or more children	£21,000
2 or more Adults	£15,200
and 1 child	£18,200
and 2 children	£21,100
and 3 children	£24,100
and 4 or more children	£26,800

Table 1 – Low income thresholds

The household must also have high energy costs (HC). This can be evidenced in one of two ways:

- i) Having an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of band E, F or G; or
- ii) If the household has no EPC, or it is inaccurate, then an LA or its affordable warmth service may score the responses to the set of questions provided in [Table 2 of Annex 6 of the BEIS ECO3 Flexible Eligibility Guidance](#). A score of 40 or above would confirm the household as High Cost (HC).

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

To be eligible through this route, a household must have an income lower than the relevant threshold set out in Table 1 above AND contain one of the following:

- A person with a mental or physical health condition caused or exacerbated by living in a cold home;
- A person with a disability;
- A person who is over 70 years of age;
- A person who is under five years of age;
- A person who is pregnant;
- A person who is terminally ill;
- A person with a suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV);
- A person who moves in and out of homelessness;
- A person with addictions;
- A person who has attended hospital due to a fall;
- A recent immigrant, asylum seeker or refugee (if living in private tenure).

c) Local Authority Schemes

To be eligible through this route, a household must have been triaged by one of the GM affordable warmth services listed in Section 6 below and/or have already been deemed eligible for an existing GM LA-backed heating or insulation scheme, such as the Warm Homes Fund scheme for first time central heating.

d) Solid Wall Insulation In-fill

In order to encourage multi-property solid wall insulation in private tenure, GM LAs will provide declarations for households that are not living in fuel poverty (LIHC) or living on a low income and are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home (LIVC), known as in-fill properties.

In-fill will only be allowed for solid wall insulation where a minimum percentage of households for which the LA is providing declarations are LIHC or LIVC, as summarised in [Table 1 of Chapter 7 of the BEIS ECO3 Flexible Eligibility Guidance](#).

3. Acting on behalf of another Local Authority

The GMCA or any GM LA may make Declarations on behalf of another GM LA, as listed in Section 5 below.

4. Joint Statement of Intent (Sol)

This is a joint Sol issued by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the 10 GM LAs (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan).

5. Governance

The following officers have responsibility for signing Declarations (two per LA).

LA	Name	Role	Address
Bolton	Emma Sewell Michelle Horrocks	Housing Strategy Growth and Regen	Directorate of Place, 3rd Floor, The Town Hall, Bolton, BL1 1SA
Bury	Michelle Stott Christine Fallon	Housing Energy Housing Growth	Bury Town Hall, Knowsley Street, Bury, BL9 0SW
Manchester	Keith Hayes Mubin Uddin	PFI Team Strategic Development	Floor 8, Town Hall Extension, Albert Sq, Manchester, M60 2LA
Oldham	Angela Broadhurst Anees Mank	Housing Energy Housing Strategy	Room 310, Level 3, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UH
Rochdale	Richard Rigg Peter Maynard	Housing Technical Strategic Housing	Floor 2, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU
Salford	Les Laws Caren Green	Affordable Warmth Regulatory Services	Place Directorate, Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton, M27 5AW
Stockport	Olwen Gillings Andy Kippax	Affordable Warmth Strategic Housing	4th Floor, Fred Perry House, Edward Street, Stockport, SK1 3XE
Tameside	Christina Morton Alison Lloyd-Walsh	Environmental Development	Ashton Market Hall, Market Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7JU
Trafford	Samantha Smeaton Richard Pollitt	Housing Enforcement Regulatory Services	Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, M32 0TH
Wigan	Sharon Hanbury Emma McNamara	Housing Policy Public Health	Wigan Life Centre (South Site), College Avenue, Wigan, WN1 1NJ

Before signing Declarations, the officers above will seek to ensure that the household is not eligible for HHCRO Affordable Warmth funding. They will also work as part of the GM Housing Retrofit Group to oversee the use of this Sol, agree which services can seek Declarations and what processes must be followed by those services to provide sufficient evidence that the Sol criteria have been met.

6. Referrals

Referrals for Declarations will be received from the following GM affordable warmth services:

LA	Service	Phone	Website
Bolton	Bolton Care and Repair	01204 328178	www.boltonathome.org.uk/care-and-repair
Oldham	Warm Homes Oldham	0800 019 1084	www.warmhomesoldham.org
Wigan	Wigan AWARD Plus	01942 239360	www.careandrepair-manchester.org.uk/wigan-services

Bury, Manchester, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford	Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP)	0800 060 7567	www.applyforleap.org.uk
--	--	---------------	--

7. Evidence, monitoring and reporting

The data that confirms the eligibility for households receiving a Declaration will be collected by the affordable warmth services listed in Section 6 above and held securely in accordance with Data Protection legislation. These services will have responsibility for ensuring that the Declarations issued are correctly provided to installers and ECO funders as required.

The affordable warmth services will be asked to provide feedback as required to the GM Housing Retrofit Group on the number and type of ECO measures delivered using flexible eligibility.

The GM Housing Retrofit Group will oversee the implementation of flexible eligibility in GM and will amend, improve and update this Sol from time to time, as required.

8. Signature

LA	Signature	Role	Date
GMCA	Eamonn Boylan	Chief Executive	31/05/19
Bolton	Tony Oakman	Chief Executive	31/05/19
Bury	Geoff Little	Chief Executive	31/05/19
Manchester	Joanne Roney	Chief Executive	31/05/19
Oldham	Carolyn Wilkins	Chief Executive	31/05/19
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow	Chief Executive	31/05/19
Salford	Jim Taylor	Chief Executive	31/05/19
Stockport	Pam Smith	Chief Executive	31/05/19
Tameside	Steven Pleasant	Chief Executive	31/05/19
Trafford	Sara Todd	Chief Executive	31/05/19
Wigan	Alison Mckenzie-Folan	Chief Executive	31/05/19

9. Contact details

Residents who wish to apply for ECO funded measures or have general queries should contact the affordable warmth service operating in their area listed in Section 6 above.