

**Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

**Local Authority Names:** Bolton Council, Bury Council, Manchester City Council, Oldham Council, Rochdale Borough Council, Salford City Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Trafford Council, Wigan Council.

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This statement sets out the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from April 2022 – March 2026.

The ECO4 scheme will focus on supporting low income and vulnerable households. The scheme will improve the least energy efficient homes helping to meet the Government's fuel poverty and net zero commitments.

The flexible approach for Local Authorities (LAs) to identifying fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures is referred to as "ECO4 Flex".

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps the 10 Greater Manchester Councils achieve their plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI) on 01/11/2022 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

**Route 1 (Household Income):** Households living in private tenure Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band D, E, F, or G homes and with a gross annual income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or district and is from all sources of income, including both non means tested and means tested benefits.

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

**Route 2 (Proxy Targeting):** Households living in owner occupied or privately rented EPC band E, F, or G homes that meet **at least two** of the following proxies:

**Proxy 1)** Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA) 1-3 on the English Indices of Deprivation 2019<sup>1</sup>.

**Proxy 2)** A person living at the premises receives a Council Tax reduction on the grounds of low income.

**Proxy 3)** A person living at the premises is considered to be vulnerable to the cold under the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance: Recommendation 2, for a reason other than their low income<sup>2</sup>.

**Proxy 4)** A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals, due to low-income<sup>3</sup>.

**Proxy 5)** A person living at the premises is supported by Bolton Care and Repair, Warm Homes Oldham, or AWARM Plus Wigan, which have been established to support people living on a low income and vulnerable to the cold under NICE Guideline NG6.

**Proxy 6)** A person living at the premises has been referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizens Advice because they have been identified by the referrer as struggling to pay their gas or electricity bills.

**Proxy 7)** Households identified through supplier debt data. This route enables obligated suppliers to use their own debt data to identify either Non Pre-Payment meter households (non-PPM), or Pre-Payment meter households (PPM)\*.

- a) Non-PPM customers: These are customers who have been in debt for more than 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made, and are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier or repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.
- b) PPM customers: Suppliers may also identify PPM households who:
  - have either self-disconnected or received supplier Discretionary / Friendly credit within the last 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made; or
  - are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier; or
  - repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.

\* Proxies 1 & 3 and proxies 6 & 7 cannot be used in combination with each other.

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<sup>1</sup> [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [Recommendations | Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes | Guidance | NICE](#)

<sup>3</sup> Under section 512ZB(4) of the Education Act 1996

**Route 3 (NHS Referrals):** Households in private tenure EPC band D, E, F and G homes and identified as housing a person suffering from a severe and / or long-term health condition that is adversely affected by living in a cold home.

The person's severe or long-term health condition must be due to:

- A cardiovascular condition,
- A respiratory disease,
- Limited mobility, or
- Immunosuppression.

The authority must complete a declaration certifying that it has received a referral from one of the following:

- A General Practitioner (GP),
- An NHS Foundation Trust, or
- An NHS Trust,

**Route 4 (Bespoke Targeting):** Authorities can submit a proposal to BEIS for a new route to identify low-income and vulnerable households where they are not already eligible under the existing routes. Applications need to demonstrate a number of factors, including that, aside from living in private tenure EPC band E, F, and G homes:

- The proposed methodology would identify low-income households where more than 50% are not in the Help to Heat Group **and**,
- At least 75% of the households that meet the criteria are owner-occupied premises occupied by at least one person living in fuel poverty, **or**
- At least 90% of the households that meet the criteria are private rented premises occupied by at least one person living in fuel poverty.

Further guidance on this route will be published by BEIS later in 2022.

## Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through the Greater Manchester Combined Authority or one of its approved ECO4 installers to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

The officers below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of each authority:

### Greater Manchester Combined Authority

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Tina Gandhi	Principal Environmental Strategy Officer	07973 876473	Tina.Gandhi@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
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### Bolton Council

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### Bury Council

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### Manchester City Council

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### Oldham Council

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### **Rochdale Borough Council**

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### **Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council**

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### **Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council**

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### **Trafford Council**

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Nicola Lees	Team Leader – Housing Standards	07890 067855	Nicola.Lees@trafford.gov.uk

### **Wigan Council**

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Joanne Wilmott	Assistant Director		J.Willmott@wigan.gov.uk

## **CEO mandatory signature**

Each authority will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The CEO of each authority will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 Flex.

The eligibility information will be stored securely in line with each authority's data protection policy, Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code, and BEIS guidance.

**Signature:** *Eamonn Boylan*

**Name:** Eamonn Boylan

**Job Title:** Chief Executive - Greater Manchester Combined Authority

**Date of signature:** 01/11/2022

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact:  
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