



Knowsley Council

ENERGY COMPANIES OBLIGATION FLEXIBLE ELIGIBILITY MECHANISM LIVERPOOL CITY REGION JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT.

This joint Statement of Intent covers the following Liverpool City Region Authorities whose full addresses can be found in Annex A:

- Halton Borough Council (E06000006)**
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000011)**
- Liverpool City Council (E08000012)**
- Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000014)**
- St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000013)**
- Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council (E08000015)**

Knowsley Version Liverpool City Region Statement of Intent September 2019.

- 1) Date of publication: 26th September 2019
- 2) Published at: Knowsley Councils Website

This document is the Knowsley version of the Liverpool City Region Statement of Intent (SOI) and whilst information on other Liverpool City Region local authorities is provided, the information should only be seen as a general guide. Reference should be sought from each authority's most recent SOI on their websites. Also please note, each will apply a separate numbering process and version update.

1. Liverpool City Region Joint Statement of Intent.

The Liverpool City Region Local Authorities named above welcome the extension of Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility into ECO3. With this joint Statement of Intent the Liverpool City Region Local Authorities wish to express their commitment to improving the energy efficiency of residential properties within the Liverpool City Region, and thereby reduce fuel poverty. Energy efficiency improvements will be delivered in the most cost effective way possible. We will maximise efficiency savings through a combined approach utilising the procured Liverpool City Region approved process; details of the approved procurement will be maintained on the same webpage where this statement resides. Although this is a joint Statement of Intent No council listed above, may make a Local Authority Declaration on behalf of another.

An individual household which falls under a Local Authority Declaration (LAD) is not guaranteed to receive installed measures as a final decision will depend on:

- The resident meeting the criteria stipulated in this statement
- The level of funding that can be offered dependant on the lifetime scores that can be achieved and the cost of the install which relate to their property, heating systems and state of repair
- Suppliers obligation levels
- The technical capacity of the property and presence or absence of barriers which may impede physical delivery
- The ability of the Liverpool City Region to secure a delivery partner/s

2. How the Local Authority intends to identify eligible households.

We do not intend to target those on benefits for flexible eligibility as these households are captured under the Help to Heat portion of the Energy Company Obligation.

The Liverpool City Region local authorities intend to identify households in the following ways:

- Identifying households that are living in fuel poverty or living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home and
- Those that would be Solid Wall Insulation 'infill' as identified under the Government guidance and those identified to us from our existing energy delivery partner(s) or local Registered Providers of social housing.

The local authorities have defined that low income for the purposes of identifying households in point 1 above should be determined by the **Minimum Income Standard (MIS)** developed by the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation**. The reasons for this decision and for not adopting table 1 in Annex 6 of the government guidance are as follows:

- After analysis of the possible incomes of households in receipt of Help to Heat welfare benefits, excluding DLA, these households could all earn significantly more than those in table 1, Annex 6. Qualification would therefore be through Help to Heat, potentially leaving LA Flex redundant;
- The use of the Minimum Income Standard is becoming more widespread amongst government bodies and organisations for determining low income; and
- It is regularly updated to reflect changing living costs.
- Unlike the Help to Heat criteria residents need an additional qualifying criterion (vulnerable to the cold or high heating costs) other than income. Therefore the higher income levels are justified to reflect- the further needs.

2.1 Criteria for identifying fuel poverty

To reduce the administrative burden on Local Authority officers and to enable every contact to count, as per the NICE guidelines NG6 'Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes' we intend to identify those who are in fuel poverty to be:

- Living in a property which has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band D or below, in accordance with the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy target; and
- Living on an income below the Minimum Income Standard.

The Energy Performance Certificate estimates the cost of heating the property over three years which can be used in the verification of point 2 above.

If an Energy Performance Certificate is available then a similar adjacent property's Energy Rating may be used or alternatively the Local Authority reserves the right to use appropriate and approved proxy software packages that can offer a suitable indicative energy performance rating. The Local Authority may also in limited circumstances identify households that;

- Are required to spend 10% or more of their disposable income (after rent or mortgage payment is considered and excluding income payments for disability related needs) on fuel to maintain an adequate level of heating. [i.e. meet the 10% model for defining fuel poverty] Or
- Meet the Government's Low Income High Cost model for defining fuel poverty.

2.2 Criteria for identifying low income and vulnerability to cold

To reduce the administrative burden on Local Authority officers and to enable every contact to count, as per the NICE guidelines NG6 we intend to identify those who are deemed as Low Income and Vulnerable to Cold to be:

Low Income:

- Living on an income below the Minimum Income Standard, and;

Vulnerable to Cold:

Having one or more of the following vulnerabilities:

Those identified in the Nice Guidelines NG6 as "Groups at greater risk of harm from cold weather":

- a) People with cardiovascular conditions
- b) People with respiratory conditions

- c) People with disabilities
- d) People with mental health conditions or learning difficulties that reduces
- e) individual's ability to self-care (including dementia)
- f) Older people (65 and older)
- g) Households with young children (from new-born to school age)
- h) Pregnant women

People with pre-existing chronic medical conditions such as, but not limited to: diabetes, stroke, suppressed immune system, terminally ill;
 People who are housebound or otherwise low mobility;

- Families with school age children
- People assessed as being at risk of, or having had, recurrent falls

Where oversubscribed we reserve the right to prioritise those we determine to be at greatest risk as; households that are in Council Tax Band A-D, containing one or more of the following:

- Vulnerable to cold in b and c in section 2.2 above;
- Children under 5
- Older people 85 and over
- Pregnant women
- Terminally ill

2.3 Identification of area based schemes and scheme requirements for Solid Wall Insulation “in-fill” projects

The Liverpool City Region Local Authorities intend to support area based schemes through Local Authority Declarations in order for “whole place” schemes to be realised. We believe that this is an effective solution to inclusion, regeneration of whole areas, improved community cohesion and subsequent benefits from an improvement in cohesion. Area based schemes will be determined according to each local authority and or Registered Provider of social housing depending on the housing stock management within each authority and the needs of the residents. The following is a list of the targeting components which may be used to identify area based scheme locations that will be subject to Local Authority Declarations:

- Lower Super Output Area
- RdSAP \leq D
- Tower blocks, whole estates, streets by street projects
- Indices of Multiple Deprivation statistics
- Areas of regeneration and
- Any regeneration approved grant initiative such as those from Homes England or the European Regional Development Fund and the European Structural and Investment Fund.

We would look to offer Local Authority Declarations to the following prescribed areas as these have already been identified as areas of regeneration and the targeting components used to determine these Local Authority Declarations is given with each scheme listed below:

- Any scheme mentioned in the European Structural and Investment Fund bid led by the Viridis Partnership and administered by Sefton Council.

Although this is a combined Statement of Intent the logical administrative actions of evaluating and signing of the Local Authority Declarations would be undertaken by each local authority.

2.4 Issuing of Local Authority Declarations for schemes that prescribe Statement of Intent declarations as eligibility criteria for none Energy Company Obligation Flexibility Schemes

Knowsley Council will permit the responsible Officer to issue Local Authority Declarations to other fuel poverty or energy efficiency schemes, where Knowsley residents eligible under this Statement of Intent can improve their heating, insulation or electrical efficiency, reduce carbon emissions or save on utility bills. These Local Authority declarations will be separately identified in the Council system for storing declarations.

3. Governance

Although this is a combined Statement of Intent the logical administrative actions of evaluating and signing of the Local Authority Declarations would be undertaken by each local authority. No local authority named in this Statement of Intent is permitted to act on behalf of another.

The posts of the Responsible Officer (RO) for signing “Local Authority Declarations” on behalf of the local authorities can be found below and each local Authority address can be found in Annex A:

- 1. Liverpool City Council:** Principle housing officers, Head of Housing Strategy, Head of the Healthy Homes Programme Home Improvement Agency
- 2. Sefton Council Metropolitan Borough Council:** Appointed HECA contacts as declared on Sefton’s Reporting webpage
- 3. Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council:** Principal Housing and Investment Officers, Housing and Investment Manager, Housing Services Senior Manager

4. **St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council:** St Helens Council's Affordable Warmth Unit Representative
5. **Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council:** Energy Efficiency Officer, Principal Housing Delivery Officer and Group Manager Strategic Housing
6. **Halton Borough Council:** Public Health Division 1st Floor Runcorn Town Hall

3.1. Governance structures

The structure given below is an outline of the process across the local authorities. Specific referral routes are given in section 4 below by each local authority.

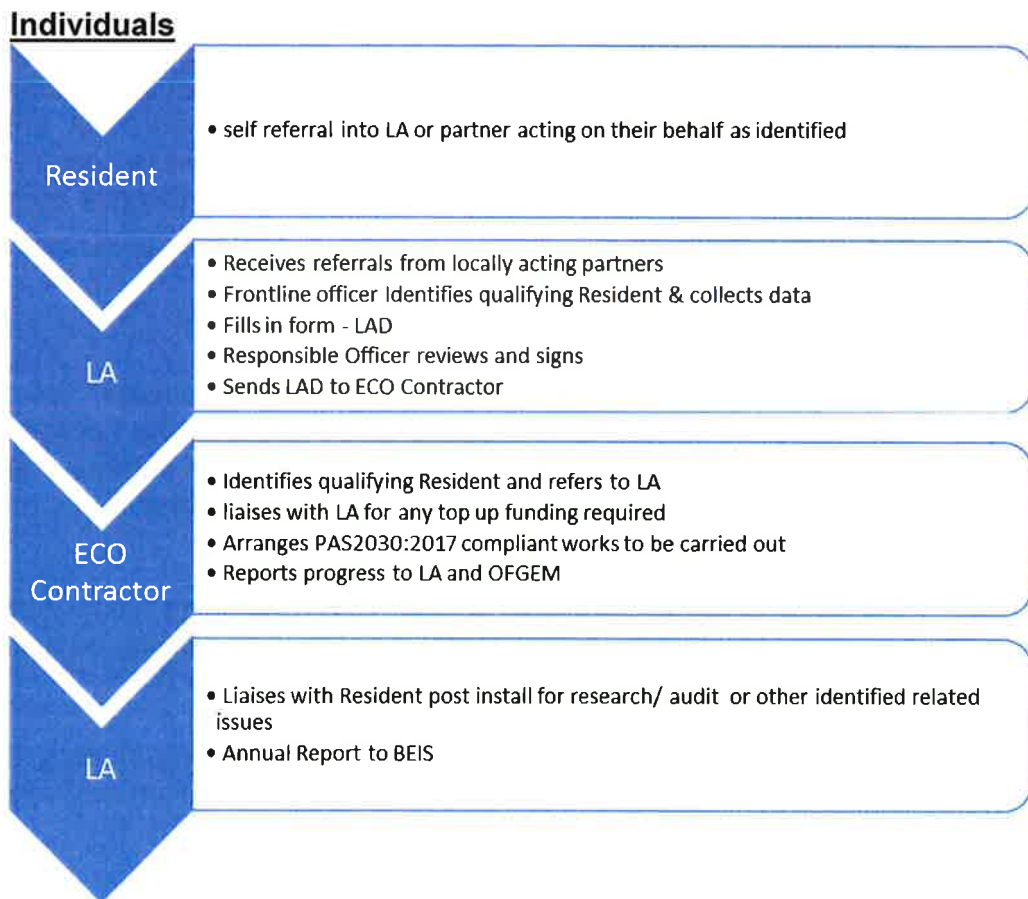


Figure 1

Area based

Local Authority housing officers, in conjunction with Registered Providers where applicable, will determine geographic areas which are in need of Energy Efficiency improvements.

A schematic and address list will be provided along with which properties can be included as infill and which will require a Local Authority Declaration in order to present an offer of a whole place scheme.

The responsible Officer will sign the Local Authority Declaration LAD and provide a copy to the requesting Officer and send a copy to an approved contractor.

4. Referrals

Data sharing in accordance with the Data Protection Act (and will be updated in line with General Data Protection Regulation) will be by consent and the approved contractor becomes a data controller when a client's details are passed to them. Any obligated supplier working on behalf of the Liverpool City Region local authorities would be expected to report quarterly on:

1. Number of Local Authority Declarations unused and the reasoning for this
2. Costing of works, Energy Company Obligation Level of funding, any top-up funding and source of
3. Average timescales from receiving Local Authority Declarations to work completion
4. Carbon Savings
5. Other mutually agreed criteria

The local authority reserve the right to randomly select properties that Local Authority Declarations have been issued to, to receive follow up; this is in order to audit the data received by the installer is correct and that the information contained within the original Local Authority Declaration was correct at the time of writing by an independent officer to deter, prevent and detect fraud.

In order to administer this scheme the Local Authorities named within this document will collate evidence in accordance with the scheme including the following where appropriate:

- a. Income data;
- b. SAP Band
- c. Estimated annual fuel costs.
- d. Vulnerability
- e. Equalities monitoring data

4.1 Referral Routes

Residents and organisations who believe they know a household who may qualify are directed to contact their own Local Authority provider to self-refer to this scheme. Information about who to contact for each Local Authority is given below.

Halton Council

Halton Direct Link and the Contact Centre will act as the central point of contact for referrals. The Council will accept referrals from individuals or organisations, such as Energy Projects Plus, acting on behalf of individuals.

Halton Direct Link Offices are based in Widnes Town Centre and Halton Lea.

Phone: 0303 333 4300

Knowsley Council

All referrals will be directed through Knowsley's Energy Efficiency Officer.

Phone: 0151 443 5817

Email: simon.rugen@knowsley.gov.uk

Liverpool Council

Liverpool's Healthy Homes Home Improvement Agency will act as a central hub for a referrals route from fuel poverty/vulnerability/social care or health organisations, or any partnership with a selected obligated supplier across the City.

Freephone: 0800 012 1754

Email: www.healthyhomesprogramme@liverpool.gov.uk

Sefton Council

All applications for Local Authority Declarations will be coordinated through the affordable warmth service at Sefton Council. The council will accept referrals from individuals or advocates on behalf of individuals.

Phone: 0151 934 2222

St Helens Council

All applications for Local Authority Declarations will be coordinated through the affordable warmth service at St. Helens Council. The Council will accept referrals from individuals or advocates on behalf of individuals.

Phone: 01744 676555

Wirral Council

Activity and referrals will be prioritised in Wirral's Selective Licensing areas and will come through the Healthy Homes Service. The Council will also accept referrals for eligible households outside of the Selective Licensing areas from individuals and advocates working for Community and Voluntary Sector organisations and from the Council's contractor under the Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency Programme.

Phone: 0151 691 8114

Signature

Signed on behalf of **Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council**


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Position:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Date:

26.9.19.
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ANNEX A

Halton Council

Public Health Division
1st Floor Runcorn Town Hall
Heath Road
WA7 5TN

Knowsley Council

Strategic Housing
1st Floor the Yorkon Building
Archway Road
Huyton
Knowsley
L36 9FB

Liverpool City Council

Healthy Homes HIA Team
Cunard Building
Water Street
Liverpool
L3 1DS

Sefton Council

Affordable Warmth Service
3rd Floor, Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle, Merseyside
L20 3NJ

St. Helens Council

People's Services – Private Housing Initiatives
Town Hall
Victoria Square
St. Helens
WA10 1HP

Wirral Council

Housing and Investment Team
PO Box 290
Brighton Street
Wallasey
CH27 9FQ

