

# *Liverpool City Region ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Joint Statement of Intent*

This joint Statement of Intent covers the following Liverpool City Region Local 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)**

## **Version LCR Sol 3.0.2022**

*This document is the Knowsley version of the Liverpool City Region Statement of Intent (Sol) and whilst eligibility criteria is the same across all six local authority areas, reference should also be made to each local authority's most recent Sol on their website. Also please note, each will apply a separate numbering process and version update.*

- 1) Date of publication: 7 September 2022
- 2) This and previous versions published at:  
<https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/knowsleycouncil/media/Documents/Knowsley-ECO-FLEX-Signed-Statement-of-Intent.pdf>

## **1. Liverpool City Region Joint Statement of Intent**

This statement sets out the flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from April 2022 – March 2026 for the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Local Authorities named above. Although this is a joint Statement of Intent, no Local Authority listed above may make a Local Authority Declaration (LAD) on behalf of another.

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 in identifying fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures is referred to as "ECO4 Flex".

The LCR local authorities welcome the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps them achieve their plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

Knowsley Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol), on 7 September 2022 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

**Route 1:** SAP bands D-G households with a gross income less than £31,000 per annum. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

**Route 2:** SAP bands E-G households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

<b>Proxy 1)</b> Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) <sup>1</sup> , or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 <sup>2</sup> , or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government <sup>3</sup>
<b>Proxy 2)</b> Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates).
<b>Proxy 3)</b> Householders vulnerable to living in a cold home as identified in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance. Only one from the list can be used, excludes the proxy 'low income'.
<b>Proxy 4)</b> A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.
<b>Proxy 5)</b> A householder supported by a LA run scheme, that has been named and described by the LA as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guideline.
<b>Proxy 6)</b> A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice or Citizen's Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and gas bills.

\* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

**Route 3:** SAP bands D-G households that have been identified by an NHS Trust, an NHS Foundation Trust, a general medical practitioner provider, a Health Board, or a Local Health Board, with an occupant having a severe and / or long-term health condition that falls under one of the four umbrella conditions; Cardiovascular, Respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility and could be severely impacted by living in a cold home.

This is because the local authorities identify a positive correlation between households who suffer from long-term health conditions and living off a low-income, with living in poorly insulated homes.

**Route 4:** SAP band D-G households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to BEIS where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already

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

<sup>2</sup> [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

<sup>3</sup> [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

eligible under the existing routes. The LCR local authorities do not currently use route 4.

## **Declaration and evidence check confirmation**

Each LCR local authority has their preferred route for application from approved ECO installers or their agents, direct from households or as referrals. These are outlined below.

### **I. Halton Borough 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. The Contact Centre can be contacted on

**Phone:** 0303 333 4300

### **II. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council:**

All referrals will be directed through Knowsley's Energy Efficiency Officer or the Housing Development Officer.

**Phone:** 0151 443 5817

**Email:** [housing@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:housing@knowsley.gov.uk)

### **III. Liverpool Referrals:**

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](mailto:www.healthyhomesprogramme@liverpool.gov.uk)

### **IV. Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council:**

All applications for LADs will be coordinated through the affordable warmth service at Sefton Council. The council will accept referrals from individuals or advocates, such as Energy Projects Plus, on behalf of individuals.

**Phone:** 0151 934 2222

**Email:** [energy@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:energy@sefton.gov.uk)

### **V. St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council:**

All applications for LADs will be coordinated through the affordable warmth service at St.Helens Council.

**Phone:** 01744 676555

**Email:** [homeimprovementagency@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:homeimprovementagency@sthelens.gov.uk)

## **VI. Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council:**

Wirral Council will only accept applications from installers or lead generation companies. To submit applications, companies must first sign a Data Sharing Agreement, which can be requested through the contact details below.

**Phone:** 0151 691 8292

**Email:** [housingstrategy@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:housingstrategy@wirral.gov.uk)

The officer(s) below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of Knowsley Council:

**Name:** Simon Rugen

**Job Title:** Energy Efficiency Officer

**Telephone:** 0151 443 5817

**Email:** [housing@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:housing@knowsley.gov.uk)

**Name:** Stuart Ratcliffe

**Job Title:** Housing Development Officer

**Telephone:** 0151 443 2046

**Email:** [housing@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:housing@knowsley.gov.uk)

### **CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

Knowsley Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The Energy Efficiency Officer and Housing Development Officer of the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 Flex.

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

The Statement of Intent should be signed by the Chief Executive Officer for the local authority or other senior officer nominated on their behalf who is at least at Director Level.

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



Knowsley Council

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Milburn'.

**Name:** Dale Milburn

**Job Title:** Executive Director Regeneration and Economic Development

**Date of signature:** 7 September 2022

For any general enquires relating to this Statement of Intent, please contact [housing@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:housing@knowsley.gov.uk).

## ANNEX A – Local Authority Contact Addresses

### **Halton**

Public Health Division  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Runcorn Town Hall  
Heath Road  
WA7 5TN

### **Knowsley Council**

Strategic Housing  
2nd Floor the Nutgrove Building  
Westmorland Road  
Huyton  
Knowsley  
L36 6GA

### **Liverpool City Council**

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

### **Sefton Council**

Affordable Warmth Service  
Ground floor, Magdalen House  
30 Trinity Road  
Bootle, Merseyside  
L20 3NJ

### **St.Helens Council**

Place Services - Private Housing Initiatives  
St Helens Borough Council  
PO Box 512  
ST HELENS  
WA10 9JX

### **Wirral Council**

Housing and Investment Team  
PO Box 290  
Wallasey  
CH27 9FQ