

# **Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

**Local authority:** East Riding of Yorkshire Council

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**Version:** 1

**URL:** <http://www2.eastriding.gov.uk/housing/private-housing-residents/energyefficiency>

## **1) Introduction**

East Riding of Yorkshire Council welcomes the introduction of Flexible Eligibility (FE) relating to the Energy Company Obligation. The scheme will be utilised for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty and targeted at those suffering from long term health conditions exacerbated by living in a cold and/or damp home or on a low income living in a poorly rated energy inefficient dwelling within the private sector.

By partaking in the FE scheme the Council hopes this will aid in the delivery of a number of the local authority objectives; reducing inequalities in health, supporting vulnerable households, improving the environment and working in partnership to achieve best value.

It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements rests with obligated energy suppliers or their contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration of Eligibility (Declaration) issued by the Council to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures. The final decision will depend on i) identification of measures eligible under Help to Heat ii) the supplier's assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing measures in relation to achieving its obligation, and iii) whether the supplier has achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

In identifying households as being eligible under this scheme, East Riding of Yorkshire Council is seeking to enable residents to benefit from funding and will seek the consent of households to include them in a Declaration. The Council expects any obligated energy supplier, or contractor working on their behalf to comply with the Data Protection Act, to fully follow Ofgem requirements for the Energy Company Obligation Help to Heat, and to act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards of any works that may take place.

## **2) How East Riding of Yorkshire Council intends to identify eligible households**

East Riding of Yorkshire Council will identify households that may benefit from flexible eligibility in a number of ways:

### *a. Identifying fuel poverty*

Subject to availability of resources within the Council and the legal use of data, the Council will target those most in need within the private sector having regard to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) guidance on targeting. Households may also be identified through supporting activities under the Housing Act 2004 and promotional work with the private rented sector.

Eligibility will be determined if you fulfil the following criteria:-

- i. living in a private sector property;
- ii. In receipt of the relevant means-tested benefits and/or on a low income as detailed in the table below; and
- iii. a dwelling with high energy costs as determined by an Energy Performance Certificate rating of E/F or G or fulfilling a high cost qualification.

Total income threshold includes net earnings, pensions, benefits, income from savings and investments.

Household composition	Total Annual net household income	Monthly household net income Equivalent
<b>1 adult (18 years and over)</b>	£14,000	£1,167
and 1 child	£16,500	£1,375
and 2 children	£18,500	£1,541
and three children	£21,000	£1,750
and four or more children	£23,500	£1,958
<b>2 adults</b>	£20,000	£1,667
and 1 child	£23,000	£1,917
and 2 children	£26,500	£2,208
and three children	£30,000	£2,500
and four or more children	£32,000	£2,667

*b. Identifying low income and vulnerability to cold*

Households will be identified via a Health Through Warmth referral from a variety of organisations including the NHS, central and local government departments, charities and voluntary organisations. A household member referred must suffer from one of the following long term conditions and be in receipt of a low income:-

- i. Respiratory conditions (COPD, asthma etc);
- ii. Cardiovascular conditions (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease etc);
- iii. Mental health conditions (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, Alzheimer's etc);
- iv. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME etc);
- v. Cancer or terminal illness;
- vi. People with disabilities or referred from the NHS Falls Service;
- vii. Severe learning disabilities; or
- viii. Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV).

### 3) Governance

*Responsible officer*

The officer below will be responsible for signing Declarations of Eligibility on behalf of the local authority.

Job title: Senior Environmental Health Officer (SEHO)

Telephone: 01482 396278  
Email: jane.mears@eastriding.gov.uk

#### **4) Referrals**

In respect of fuel poor households, clients may be referred by a third party or self-refer but they must provide evidence of their total household income and complete a high cost calculation form if there is no evidence of an Energy Performance Certificate for the property.

All households in respect of vulnerability to the cold must be referred by a trained partner and a signed referral form received to verify health and income. Trained partners include health professionals, statutory organisations such as The Pension Service and Humberside Fire and Rescue Service, charities including Age UK East Riding, SSAFA, Humber & Wolds Rural Community Council and local authority departments i.e. social services, carers support etc

#### **5) Evidence, monitoring and reporting**

- a. Each household will provide the relevant signed form verifying their eligibility criteria to FE and this form, in addition to relevant supporting documentation, will be retained for 3 years.
- b. Data will be correlated to provide details of households assessed, how many were deemed eligible and ineligible, and how many received heating and insulation improvements and funding received.
- c. All households for whom Declarations were made will be contacted within 10 working to assess measures required.
- d. Each application will be audited prior to being included on a Local Authority Declaration by the SEHO and, if found to ineligible, the client will be contacted and advised.

#### **6) Signature**



Caroline Lacey  
Chief Executive, East Riding of Yorkshire Council