

Neath Port Talbot Council: Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

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This statement of intent is only used on specific energy efficiency projects where 'the council' is a participating partner. Please note that the Council will only sign declarations for qualifying households that are part of these projects and will not currently work with any third parties outside of these projects.

This statement sets out Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Help to Heat programme. It aims to help households living in fuel poverty, living on low incomes and vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.

1. Introduction:

Neath Port Talbot Council welcomes the availability of Flexible Eligibility (FE) and intends to utilise the funding for the purpose of reducing fuel poverty in the Borough.

Neath Port Talbot Council has delivered area based housing renovation and energy efficiency schemes for a number of years, targeting areas of low income and high deprivation within the Borough. The authorities' objectives are to:

- Help to lift households out of fuel poverty
- Improve the Energy Efficiency of homes
- Improve Health and Wellbeing of vulnerable households

Final Decision: The decision on whether a household receives a measure under flexible eligibility or other ECO funding streams will be made by the energy suppliers or their agents / contractors. Qualification in the statement of intent or the declaration by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council will not guarantee installation of any measures, as the final decision will lie with the supplier.

2. Identifying eligible households

In identifying households as eligible under flexible eligibility Neath Port Talbot Council is seeking to enable residents to benefit from funding and will seek the consent of households to include them in a declaration. NPTCBC 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 best practice in relation to customer care and quality standards of any works that may take place.

NPTCBC will identify and prioritise areas of:

- Low income and high deprivation as defined within the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Areas / properties with poor energy performance (Information obtained using EPC data)

And households most in need:-

- Those that are living in fuel poverty
- Those that are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home

- Those living in the private sector and in receipt of the relevant means tested benefits and / or on a low income.
- Properties with solid fuel heating, electric heating or gas heaters (not central heating).

Information will be made available to the public via marketing and website updates to enable self-referral.

NPTCBC will adopt a two stage process to identify households as being in fuel poverty or on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home

Stage 1: Households who meet the low income threshold (see table 1)

Stage 2: Households that face high energy costs and are vulnerable to the effects of a cold home (see table 2).

STAGE 1

Using the responses to the following questions the householders' income threshold level will be determined.

Question 1:

How many people over the age of 18 normally live in your property, including yourself?
This establishes how many adults are part of the household.

Question 2:

How many people under the age of 18 normally live in your property?
This establishes how many children are part of the household.

Question 3:

After paying the rent, mortgage (if you have one), or Council Tax how much income does your household usually have left each month?

a) More than [e.g. *the threshold amount from Table 1 given the number of adults and children stated under questions 1 and 2*]; or

b) Less than [e.g. *the threshold amount from Table 1 given the number of adults and children stated under questions 1 and 2*].

The Authority will determine if the households is on a low income based on the household composition thresholds on the specified table less the households rent / mortgage / Council Tax costs

Table 1

Type of claim	Number of children or qualifying young persons for whom the claimant is responsible				
	0	1	2	3	4+
Single claim	£13,200	£17,400	£21,600	£25,800	£30,000
Joint claim	£19,800	£24,000	£28,200	£32,400	£36,600

Income here is defined as a household's disposable income after they have paid for their rent, mortgage (where applicable) or Council Tax

To qualify, the household must also fully satisfy criteria 1) and / or 2)

- 1) Households living in properties with an EPC rating of E, F or G will determine that the household is likely to have high energy costs
- 2) Score 24 or more in the table below

We will target Owner Occupiers and the Private rented Sector only.

Table 2

Property Details	Type	Points	Tick Box	Score
Number of bedrooms	1	1		
	2	3		
	3+	5		
Number of people living in the property	1	1		
	2	3		
	3+	5		
Is anyone in your home:	Over 60 Years old	3		
	Over 75 Years old	5		
	Under 18 years old	5		
Does at least one member of the household spend most of the day at home	Yes	5		
	No	0		
How much loft insulation is present	None	5		
	Up to 150mm	3		
	250mm and above	1		
What is the wall type	System Built	5		
	Solid Stone / Brick	5		
	Cavity Construction	1		
How much wall insulation is present	External	1		
	Internal	1		
	Cavity	2		
	None	5		
	Mains Gas	0		

What heating fuel is used within the property	Oil	0		
	LPG	3		
	Electric	5		
	Solid Fuel	5		
			Total	

A non-response will result in a 0 (zero) score

NPTCBC will target households containing people with characteristics reflected within the national institute for health and care excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes as follows:

- Aged over 60 and particularly those aged over 75
- Children under 5 and pregnant mothers
- People with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma)
- People with cardiovascular conditions
- People with mental health conditions including dementia
- People with disabilities / limited mobility
- People with a limiting long term illness
- People with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment / organ transplantation / or HIV)

3) Acting on behalf of another Local Authority

We are not acting on behalf of another Local Authority

4) Joint statement of intent

We are not working in association with another Local Authority

5) The officers below will be responsible for signing declarations on behalf of the Local Authority

Name: Robert Davies

Job Title: Principal Officer Housing Renewal

Name: Christopher Davies

Job Title: Senior Housing Officer

Telephone:

01639 686440

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renewalarea@npt.gov.uk

6) Referrals

From time to time referrals may come from various sources that are not currently defined however information of such sources will be detailed within our Flexible Eligibility review, which will be provided directly to all interested parties and published on our web

7) Evidence monitoring

The number of households that are contacted and eligible for ECO Flexible Eligibility together with the number of ECO Flexible Eligibility funded measures installed and the number of homes improved will be recorded by Neath Port Talbot Council

The Council will audit the process by ensuring compliance with the guidance adopted and by reviewing feedback received from householders.

SIGNED:

DATE:

POSITION: