**ECO4 - Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

**North Lanarkshire Council ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

**Local Authority name: North Lanarkshire Council**

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This statement sets out North Lanarkshire Council’s flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation schemes which run until 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 Great British Insulation Scheme will support the ECO4 scheme in the delivery of predominantly single measures targeted at a wider range of households.

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” and “Great British Insulation Scheme Flex”.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the **27/11/2023** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below. The tick boxes can be used to indicate to households which routes the council is using:

**Route 1:** Owner-occupiedand private rented sector households with a gross annual income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

**Route 2:** Owner-occupiedand private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

|  |
| --- |
| **Proxy 1)** Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA)[[1]](#footnote-2), or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019[[2]](#footnote-3), or homes in Scotland in “data zone” 1-3 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020[[3]](#footnote-4)\* |
| **Proxy 2)** A person living at the premises is entitled to 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 NG6: Recommendation 2, for a reason other than their low-income[[4]](#footnote-5)\* |
| **Proxy 4)** A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals, due to low-income[[5]](#footnote-6) |
| **Proxy 5)** *NLC do NOT currently support this route.*  North Lanarkshire Council reserve the right to implement this route and update its SoI accordingly if this changes. |
| **Proxy 6)** A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizens Advice or Citizens Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and/or gas bills. |
| **Proxy 7)** *NLC do NOT currently support this route.*  North Lanarkshire Council reserve the right to implement this route and update its SoI accordingly if this changes. |

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

\* Proxy 7 cannot be used in combination with proxy 5 or proxy 6.

**Route 3:** *NLC do NOT currently support this route.*

North Lanarkshire Council reserve the right to implement this route and update its SoI accordingly if this changes.

**Route 4 [applicable to ECO4 Flex only]:** *NLC do NOT currently support this route.*

North Lanarkshire Council reserve the right to implement this route and update its SoI accordingly if this changes.

**Important Route Guidance Notes**

\* Route 2 - Proxies 1 & 3 & Proxies 6 & 7, cannot be used in combination with each other.

\* Route 2 - Proxy 3 – North Lanarkshire Council are currently suspending the signed referral letter from Doctor/GP but will accept at least one of the non-exhaustive suggestions in written form, which may apply for other conditions/diseases etc in the NICE Guidelines (we recommend providing more for greater certainty)

* People with cardiovascular conditions.
* People with disabilities.
* Older people (65 and older).
* Households with young children (5 or under).
* Pregnant women

North Lanarkshire Council reserve the right to reintroduce the signed referral letter from a Doctor/GP and update its SoI accordingly if this changes.

## Declaration and Evidence Check Confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through Home Energy Scotland or an ECO/GBIS installer assessed to work within North Lanarkshire to ensure they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

The final decision on whether any individual household can benefit from funding for energy saving improvements under ECO4 or GBIS- Flex will be made by the appropriate ECO supplier and their contractors/agents. Eligibility does not guarantee funding and the final decision of whether measures will be undertaken will depend on

* + surveys carried out by an ECO contractor/agent of properties and household circumstances and the installation costs calculated.
  + The energy savings that can be achieved the property.
  + Whether suppliers have achieved their relevant Affordable Warmth targets or require further measures to meet such targets.
  + Where the assessment process identifies that a household is required to pay a proportion of the cost of potential measures themselves, this would be the subject of agreement between the parties.

When evidence is collected from an installer for a declaration it is North Lanarkshire Councils role to ensure we are satisfied that the evidence we are presented with is correct where reasonably possible. As long as we carry out a review of the evidence and deem it to be reasonable it is not our role to authenticate what has been provide.

Any agreement to install measures under the ECO4/GBIS Flex scheme would be between the installer/contractor and the property owner and would not involve North Lanarkshire Council. An ECO4/GBIS Flex declaration is only for the purposes of establishing eligibility for ECO4/GBIS support.

Where the assessment process identifies that a household/landlord would be required to pay a proportion of the cost of potential measures themselves to the installer, this which would be subject to agreement between the parties.

**Compliance**

ECO installers will be responsible for the collection of any necessary evidence from applicants to enable an application to be verified as meeting the necessary criteria as set out in this Statement of Intent.

All route applications, supporting documentation, methods, details, formatting, evidence, must be on the appropriate OFGEM application, templates and procedure forms, including any amended, updated or new documents or requirements. Any applications on incorrect forms will be rejected.

All route evidence set by OFGEM will be accepted on face value as being accurate and all risks and liabilities reside with the contractor to ensure those submitted are true and accurate, due to inability to verify GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) access restrictions on sensitive information as a third party on behalf of other third parties.

Any party providing such information and supporting evidence to North Lanarkshire Council will need to ensure that it has received an informed consent form from the household for such information to be shared and that it is compliance with its company data protection policies in line with the Data Protection Act 2018.

ECO and GBIS installers will liaise with North Lanarkshire Council and energy suppliers around the eligibility and measures that are proposed to be installed.

ECO and GBIS installers will cooperate with North Lanarkshire Council fully with any audits or investigations and provide access to all relevant paperwork at any time during ECO4 to ensure regulatory compliance. Failure to do so would result in a temporary ban and review to determine continued eligibility to deliver this scheme in North Lanarkshire.

## Scheme eligibility

The officers below will be responsible for checking, verifying and authorising declarations and associated evidence submitted by applicants/ECO and GBIS installers on behalf of the local authority prior to any declaration being issued.

Lorna Kilpatrick, Property Delivery Manager, [assetsandprogramming@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:assetsandprogramming@northlan.gov.uk)

Douglas McCabe, Project Manager, [assetsandprogramming@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:mccabed@northlan.gov.uk)

Nicola Hanrahan, Project Assistant, [assetsandprogramming@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:hanrahann@northlan.gov.uk)

As outlined in the Declaration and Evidence Check information, NLC will require all necessary evidence and any necessary consent for information sharing from applicant's to be provided by the referring agency ahead of any application being considered.

North Lanarkshire Council will actively review on a quarterly basis ECO installers whose Trustmark accreditations enable them to work within North Lanarkshire. Any installer currently accredited to work within North Lanarkshire not having submitted a declaration(s) for consideration within a three-month period will be informed they are no longer considered to be meet the requirements of NLC’s SoI.

## CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature.

The North Lanarkshire Council will administer the ECO4 Flex scheme according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2022 (ECO4 Order).

The Council will administer Great British Insulation Scheme Flex according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2023 (ECO4A Order).

The CEO/ dedicated responsible person of the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO Flex and Great British Insulation Scheme Flex.The Council will notify Ofgem of households that declarations have been issued for via the declaration notification template.

All personal data collected or processed by North Lanarkshire Council for the purposes of ECO4 Flex or Great British Insulation Scheme Flex will be processed and stored in accordance with: the Council’s obligations under UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, the Council’s data protection policy, the Information Commissioner’s Office Data Sharing Code and other guidance, and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero guidance.

**Name:** Brian Lafferty

**Job Title:** Chief Officer (Property)

**Date of signature:** 26/10/2023

A close up of a signature

Description automatically generated**Signature:**

1. Published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>. The deciles are published in “File 7: all ranks, deciles and scores for the indices of deprivation, and population denominators”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Published at <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. 2020v2. Published at <http://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020v2-ranks> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations#recommendation-2-ensure-there-is-a-singlepointofcontact-health-and-housing-referral-service-for> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Under section 512ZB(4) of the Education Act 1996 or section 53 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)