



Local Authority Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Spelthorne Borough Council

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1) Introduction

This Statement of Intent (SOI) sets out how households in the Borough of Spelthorne will be declared to be eligible for ECO: Help to Heat funding, in accordance with guidelines from Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). This scheme is part of the government's Affordable Warmth programme.

The ECO: Help to Heat funding scheme aims to direct an increased proportion of funding to low income households (not just those in receipt of specific benefits) and/or people with specific health conditions. Either of these situations can make people more vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.

"Cold homes and poor housing conditions have been linked with a range of health problems in children and young people, including respiratory health, growth and long-term health. In older people, cold temperatures increase the risk of heart attack, stroke and circulatory problems, respiratory disease, flu and hospital admission. They also lower strength and dexterity, leading to an increase in the likelihood of falls and accidental injuries. Home temperatures also have implications for mental health because cold is linked with increased risk of depression and anxiety." (Adapted from Local action on health inequalities evidence review 7: fuel poverty and cold home- related health problems (2014) Public Health England)

The **referring agency** in place for domestic energy efficiency grant funding in Spelthorne Borough Council is Heat Surrey, a service delivered by Happy Energy Ltd, who will be utilised for ECO Flexibility: Help to Heat funding:

The referring agency, Heat Surrey, will assess eligibility in line with this statement and will refer households deemed eligible to the council who will then approve and notify Heat Surrey to carry out a survey.

In all areas, the final decision on whether any individual household can benefit from energy saving improvements under the government's Affordable Warmth programme will be made by the obligated suppliers or their agents/contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration authorised by Spelthorne Borough Council to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures or fully funded works, as the final decision will depend on i) survey carried out by Heat Surrey agents/contractors and installation costs calculated, ii) the energy savings that can be achieved for a property, and iii) whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their ECO targets.



2) How Spelthorne Borough Council intends to identify eligible households

ECO Flexibility Help to Heat funding is only available to private tenure households. In order to be eligible for this funding, a household must fit one, or more of the following criteria:

- a) *Living in fuel poverty, but not in receipt of ECO qualifying benefits ('fuel poverty')*
- b) *Low income and vulnerability to cold ('LIVC')*
- c) *Solid Wall Insulation (SWI) "in-fill"*

Spelthorne Borough Council will keep these criteria under review, in relation to levels of referrals made, delivery of installed measures and the practices of other authorities.

2(a) Criteria for identifying 'Living in fuel poverty, but not in receipt of benefits'

Fuel poverty is defined as living with low income but high heating costs. Spelthorne Borough Council will assess two elements to determine eligibility:

- i) For the 'low income' portion of this indicator, the referring agency will look to find evidence that a member of the household is in receipt of an ECO qualifying income-related benefit in the first instance. Should the resident not receive any ECO qualifying income-related benefits, then the referring agency will consider a household in receipt of Council Tax Benefit, Housing Benefit, or with a household income of less than £35,000 after paying for rent or mortgage, council tax and energy costs to be 'low income' for the purposes of this criteria.
- ii) For the 'high cost' portion of the indicator, the referring agency, Heat Surrey, will look to identify eligible households as those that have an **Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of 'D' or lower**. These properties will be identified using the Landmark online EPC register. In the event that a property does not meet this criteria or does not have an EPC, Heat Surrey will identify if the property falls into one of these additional categories which have been selected due to their high energy bills, hard to treat and hard to reach nature:
 - ✓ *Park homes and other permanent caravan residences (regardless of income)*
 - ✓ *Privately rented properties including Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)*
 - ✓ *Properties heated by a fuel other than mains gas*
 - ✓ *Flats above commercial premises*
 - ✓ *System built properties*
 - ✓ *Sheltered housing for the elderly*
 - ✓ *Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) Stanwell*
 - ✓ *Homes which require cavity wall insulation*
 - ✓ *Homes which require a loft insulation top up*
 - ✓ *Homes which require solid wall insulation*
 - ✓ *Homes with a boiler which meets the ECO qualifying boiler criteria*
 - ✓ *Private rented sector properties regardless of income*



2(b) Criteria for identifying ‘low income and vulnerability to cold’ (LIVC)

Spelthorne Borough Council will assess two combined elements to determine eligibility:

1. The ‘low income’ portion of this identifier as set out in the previous section for ‘fuel poverty’
2. Vulnerability to cold which will be assessed in conjunction with Adult Social Care or by Heat Surrey asking residents to inform them of any health conditions they may suffer from, or whether the household composition may lead to a higher than average vulnerability to cold. This information will highlight risks for people associated with cold homes. The following people will therefore meet this second criteria:
 1. people with cardiovascular conditions
 2. people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
 3. people with mental health conditions
 4. people with disabilities
 5. older people (60 and older)
 6. young children (aged 16 or under)
 7. pregnant women
 8. people with addictions
 9. people who have attended hospital due to a fall
 10. Terminal illness
 11. suppressed immune system e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV (inclusion as recommended by Health Booster Fund projects)

Any referral or enquiry received that does not meet the above requirements will be considered by Spelthorne Borough Council on a case by case basis

2(c) Criteria for Solid Wall Insulation (SWI) “in-fill” projects

To increase the economies of scale of SWI projects, solid wall homes (i.e. no cavity wall) which are not ‘fuel poor’, will be eligible for Flexible ECO funding, where they are co-located with a minimum percentage of households assessed to be Fuel Poor (FP) or LIVC. The criteria for this will be:

Table 4 Summary of the requirements for different property types under in-fill

Property Type	LA declaration requirements	In-fill available
Semi-detached houses or bungalows, or a building containing no more than two domestic premises	At least one of the two-properties must be classified by the LA as FP or LIVC (50% eligibility).	The other property to which it is directly adjoined is eligible for solid wall insulation.
Any other properties that are contained together on a list provided by the LA that are in the same or immediately adjacent buildings or in the same terrace (eg flats and terraced houses)	At least 66% of properties listed in the declaration must be classified by the LA as FP or LIVC.	The other 34% of properties on the list are eligible for solid wall insulation, provided they are either in the same building, an immediately adjacent building or in the same terrace.



4) Governance

The SOI will be signed on behalf of Spelthorne Borough Council by the Group Head Neighbourhood Services. Declarations will be signed on behalf of Spelthorne Borough Council by Mark Rachwal or Francesca Lunn, Sustainability Officers for Spelthorne Borough Council.

An organisation chart for the parties involved in the process of identifying eligible households under "flexible eligibility" is as below:



5) Marketing & Referrals

Spelthorne Borough council will ensure appropriate referral processes are in place and will work with relevant partners to identify potentially eligible people in the most effective way, while maintaining the protection of personal data. This will include initial identification of eligible households using the Landmark EPC data for Spelthorne Borough Council for those living in 'fuel poverty' and with 'high costs'. We will also work with Adult Social Care, to determine those that may be vulnerable to living in a cold home, suffering from a qualifying medical condition. All potential eligible households will be contacted and referred to Heat Surrey.

6) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

The referring agency will capture and store all relevant information during the initial enquiry to determine the correct course of action for each household.

The referring agency will inform residents that they may be required to provide evidence of income and medical/health conditions and other information such as any relevant health condition, at a later date in order to deter fraudulent claims.

Spelthorne Borough Council will use its discretion to decide whether any auditing is required to confirm eligibility under this Statement of Intent. If auditing is undertaken, eligibility of claimants will be assessed by a random sample of households on a post-installation basis.

Heat Surrey will provide key information, including the number of referrals made and the number of funded installations delivered.

7) Signature

Name: Jackie Taylor

Position: Group Head Neighbourhood Services

Signed:

Date: 23/1/18