Statement of Intent

for ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme

Local Authority Name: Birmingham City Council

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This Statement sets out Birmingham City Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation schemes from the publication of this Statement 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 (GBIS) will support the ECO4 scheme in delivery of predominantly single measures targeted at a wider range of households.

The flexible approach for Local Authorities (LAs) to identify 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".

Birmingham City Council welcomes the introduction of the Flex eligibility routes as it helps the Council achieve its plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

ECO4 and GBIS will also support the Council's key priorities in both its Housing Strategy and Council Plan:

- Better homes for all
- Ensure safe and healthy homes for all
- Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the publication date above to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below.

Route 1: Owner-occupied and 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-occupied and 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]
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.
Proxy 4	A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals[3], due to low income.
Proxy 6	A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and/or gas bills.

*Note Proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

Route 3: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that have been identified by either a person registered in the General Practitioner Register, an NHS Foundation Trust, or an NHS Trust as vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be adversely affected by living in a cold home. These health conditions may be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related.

This reflects the Council 's identification of a positive correlation between households who suffer long-term health conditions living in poorly insulated homes.

Route 4 [applicable to ECO4 Flex only]: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) where they have identified new methods to identify low-income and vulnerable households. Applications need to demonstrate a number of factors, including that the proposed methodology is more effective at identifying households in fuel poverty than the criterion offered under Routs 1 and 2.

[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".
[2] https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations#recommendation-2-ensure-there-is-asinglepointofcontact-health-and-housing-referral-service-for
[3]Under section 512ZB(4) of the Education Act 1996

Scheme Eligibility

All potentially eligible households should apply through a Trustmark-registered/approved ECO / GBIS installer to see if they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

Installer	Contact
City Energy Network Ltd	BCC-ECO@cityenergy.co.uk
Next Energy Solutions Ltd	bcc@nextenergyuk.co.uk

An LA officer (not a 3rd party working on behalf of an LA) will be responsible for checking and verifying evidence and issuing declarations. For any general enquiries relating to this SoI, please contact:

Name: Helen Shervington

Job Title: Community Regeneration & Partnerships Lead

Email: ecoflex@birmingham.gov.uk

Dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

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

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

The Director of Strategy, Estate Regeneration & Regulatory Compliance – City Housing will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 Flex and Great British Insulation Scheme. The Council will notify Ofgem of households that declarations have been issued for via the declaration notification template.

All personal data collected and processed by Birmingham City Council for the purposes of ECO4 Flex and Great British Insulation Scheme Flex will be process and stored in accordance with the Council's obligations under UK GDPR and the Data Protections Act 2018, the Council's data protection policy, the Information Commissioners Office Data Sharing Code and other guidance, and Department of Energy Security and Net Zero guidance.

Signature:

Name: Paul Langford

Job Title: Executive Director, City Housing

Date of signature: 05.08.2025

[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".
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