

**This statement sets out Denbighshire County Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the ECO – August 2020 to March 2022. It aims to support households living in Denbighshire who are most likely to experience fuel poverty and those vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.**

**1. What is flexible eligibility** - Local Authorities working with Energy suppliers obligated under Energy Company Obligation (ECO) have the opportunity to extend eligibility criteria for energy efficiency measures to households beyond the existing benefits criteria and not covered by existing schemes of support such as Nest or Arbed. This is referred to below as LA Flex.

ECO funding is provided directly from the energy supplier to the household who is eligible under the criteria. Denbighshire County Council do not fund any measures but have developed the eligibility criteria to assist the greatest number of fuel poor homes in Denbighshire.

**2. Identifying eligible households** – This funding is only available for private owner occupiers and private rented tenants. Qualification of flexible eligibility in Denbighshire will be determined by the criteria listed below and will require a signed declaration by the property owner.

**Delivering improvement measures** - inclusion in a Declaration made by the local authority to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures, as the final decision will depend on:

- i) Survey carried out by supplier's agents / contractors and installation costs calculated
- ii) The energy savings that can be achieved for a property
- iii) Whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their ECO targets

The funding provided is dependent on the energy savings achieved and may not cover the full cost of the proposed measures, in which case households may have to make a contribution. Installers must make clear before commencing work how much the householder will need to make, if anything.

**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 Denbighshire County Council will not guarantee installation of any measures, as the final decision will lie with the supplier.

**Qualifying Criteria** – Households may qualify for support under LA Flex in Denbighshire **either** because of low income with high heating cost, a measure called Fuel Poverty, **or** through vulnerability to living in cold / damp situations combined with low income.

## Qualification through Fuel Poverty

In Wales Fuel Poverty is defined as requiring to spend 10% of income on heating, hot water and electricity. This will depend on the type and construction of the property and the heating, particularly the fuel type. The tables for different housing types and heating fuel below show the incomes below which the householders would be in Fuel Poverty.

If the household income, after mortgage or rental costs have been subtracted, is equal to or less than that shown for a given housing type, the household qualifies.

<b>Gas fired central heating</b>	solid wall house	cavity wall house		solid wall bungalow	cavity wall bungalow
Detached 4 Bed	£25,960				
Detached 3 Bed	£22,270	£17,190	Detached	£16,190	£13,820
Semi-detached 4 Bed	£19,390	£15,350			
Semi-detached 3 Bed	£17,390	£13,500	Semi-detached	£13,920	£12,600
Mid Terraced	£14,480	£12,140	Mid Terraced	£12,639	£11,520
End Terraced	£15,610	£12,930	End Terraced	£13,007	£11,830

<b>Oil fired central heating</b>	solid wall house	cavity wall house		solid wall bungalow	cavity wall bungalow
Detached 4 Bed	£28,980	£19,450			
Detached 3 Bed	£24,730	£16,200	Detached	£18,490	£15,120
Semi-detached 4 Bed	£21,040				
Semi-detached 3 Bed	£18,720	£14,450	Semi-detached	£15,570	£13,720
Mid Terraced	£15,250	£12,950	Mid Terraced	£13,647	£12,150
End Terraced	£18,880	£13,960	End Terraced	£14,149	£12,560

<b>Electric Storage Heaters</b>	solid wall house	cavity wall house		solid wall bungalow	cavity wall bungalow
Detached 4 Bed	£33,030	£20,710			
Detached 3 Bed	£27,800	£17,960	Detached	£22,900	£16,200
Semi-detached 4 Bed	£23,600				
Semi-detached 3 Bed	£20,700	£15,520	Semi-detached	£18,920	£14,470
Mid Terraced	£16,530	£13,640	Mid Terraced	£16,676	£12,970
End Terraced	£20,660	£14,650	End Terraced	£17,304	£13,390

<b>No Central heating, All Electric, Solid Fuel, LPG fired central heating</b>	solid wall house	cavity wall house		solid wall bungalow	cavity wall bungalow
Detached 4 Bed	£48,580	£31,100			
Detached 3 Bed	£40,510	£26,650	Detached	£33,080	£23,350
Semi-detached 4 Bed	£34,100				
Semi-detached 3 Bed	£29,660	£22,440	Semi-detached	£26,950	£20,550
Mid Terraced	£23,560	£19,300	Mid Terraced	£23,373	£18,040
End Terraced	£29,770	£21,130	End Terraced	£24,499	£18,830

## Qualification through low income and vulnerability to cold / damp

The Welsh Government NEST scheme recognises that the demands on households where there is a vulnerable occupant are greater than for others and sets a maximum household income to qualify as £21,352. Denbighshire County Council will recognize this as the maximum income to qualify for flexible eligibility along with a condition on the list below.

The NICE guideline 'Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes' states that a wide range of people are at greater risk to the cold. This is either because of a medical condition, such as heart disease; a disability that, for instance, stops people moving around to keep warm, or makes them more likely to develop chest infections, or personal circumstances, such as being unable to afford to keep warm enough.

Denbighshire County Council will target households containing people with the following, which reflects the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes.

A member of the household is/has:

- i. Aged over 60 (proof of age necessary)
- ii. Children under 5, in education or a pregnant mother
- iii. Respiratory disease (COPD, asthma)
- iv. Cardiovascular disease (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
- v. Moderate to severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
- vi. Substance misusers
- vii. Dementia
- viii. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
- ix. Cancer
- x. Limited mobility
- xi. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
- xii. Severe learning disabilities
- xiii. Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)

Evidence to confirm any health condition is required in the form of a declaration from a health practitioner, clinic letter or specific medication.

### 3. Governance

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

- i) Andrea Fisher, Principal Built Project Surveyor **and / or**
- ii) Any officer authorised by the Principal Built Project Surveyor

### 4. Referrals

Denbighshire County Council will not manage referrals directly. All referrals are to be made through Conwy & Denbighshire Care & Repair: 0300 111 2120; [post@gofalathrwsio.com](mailto:post@gofalathrwsio.com)

Conwy & Denbighshire Care & Repair will check the referral meets the eligibility on behalf of the council. It will then be forwarded to Denbighshire County Council for the declaration to be issued.

### 5. 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 Denbighshire County Council.

### Signature

Signed by



Graham. H. Boase  
Corporate Director, Economy and Public Realm,  
Denbighshire County Council

Date: 30/07/20