

OFF GAS GRID, Solid Wall Insulation and Internal Wall Insulation Priority Areas - ECO Flexible Eligibility Criteria

Durham County Council Statement of Intent

Date of first publication: 15th March 2020

Version: Install of Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) in Off Gas Homes and Solid Wall Insulation in Priority fuel Poor areas in County Durham

URL: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2876/Housing-energy-efficiency-improvements>

1 Background

Durham County Council welcomes the launch of the Energy Company Flexible Eligibility Criteria (ECO Flex) and Warm Homes Fund and intends to utilise them for the purposes of installing first time Air Source Heat Pump central heating systems and solid Wall Insulation in qualifying households and areas to reduce levels of cold related ill health and fuel poverty in County Durham. The County Durham Affordable Warmth Action Plan is central to the coordination and delivery of a wide range of actions to assist the reduction of countywide levels of fuel poverty and provision of energy efficient homes. The action plan is linked to the County Durham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/media/9935/County-Durham-Joint-Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategy-2016-2019/pdf/JHWS20162019.pdf>

In identifying households as eligible for Air Source Heat Pump and Solid Wall Insulation installation under ECO Flex criteria Durham County Council (DCC) is enabling residents to benefit from Warm Homes Fund grant and other funding offered via contractors with Warm Homes Funding. The contractor must obtain consent in writing from the household before any measures are installed. This consent is to be confirmed using the DCC ECO Flex **Verification Form A** and ECO Flex **Health Verification Form B** (available on request from DCC).

2 Eligibility under ECO Flex

It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from WHF grant and Air Source Heat Pump Solid Wall Insulation installation rests entirely with the funded contractor/s. This decision will be based on the information provided to them by the client household at time of survey. Any Declaration of Eligibility issued by the Council is not to be taken as a guarantee that the eligibility criteria has been met or that funding is available. It is the duty of the appointed contractor to fully ensure that the ECO Flex criteria shown in Section 3 below has

been met.

The final decision on eligibility will depend on the following:

- identification of ASHP, SWI, IWI measures eligible for funding from the contractor
- Contractors assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing ASHP, SWI measures If the contractor will fund the ASHP, SWI, IWI measures

Durham County Council requires all Warm Homes Funded ASHP, SWI contractors to:

- Fully comply with the General Data Protection Regulations
- Fully comply with OFGEM requirements and guidance for the Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility Criteria
- Act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards of any works that may take place

3 ECO Flex eligible households

To receive ASHP, SWI, IWI grant assistance a household must occupy an off gas network home or a home in a “Priority Area” (see qualifying Priority Areas below) be in fuel poverty, or must be low income and vulnerable to the cold in line with ECO Flex grant criteria.

Qualifying ‘Priority Areas’ - households within the following geographical neighbourhoods in County Durham

South Moor, Craghead, Quaking Houses Stanley

New Kyo, Stanley

Stanley Hall, Stanley

Dean Bank, Ferryhill

Coundon Grange, Bishop Auckland

Ramshaw, Bishop Auckland

Thickley, Shildon

Deneside, Seaham

The contractor must ensure that all eligible households fully comply with the following criteria:

Customers in a qualifying off gas or priority area neighbourhood home must match one or more of the FOUR options shown below

Qualification Category

Low Income and / or Health Condition/Disability

Qualification Criteria

Option A Low Income and in receipt of Benefits in an off-gas network home or “Priority Area”

Households in receipt of:

Housing Benefit **AND / OR** Council Tax Reduction Benefit **AND / OR** Pension Savings Credit

Note: All Option A applications MUST be accompanied by DCC's Verification Form A

Option B Low Income and NOT in receipt of Benefits in an off-gas network or 'Priority Area' home

Households who are **not in receipt of Benefits** must have a Total net Household Income not exceeding **£36,000 p.a.** (Employed and/or Pensionable income)

Note: All Option B applications MUST be accompanied by DCC's Verification Form A

Option C Health Condition and NOT in receipt of Disability Benefits and Low Income in an off

gas network or 'Priority Area' home Households **not in receipt of any benefits** but with a member of

the household diagnosed with one of the following Health Conditions /Disabilities:

- Respiratory disease (COPD, asthma)
- Cardiovascular conditions
- Moderate to severe mental health conditions
- Substance misusers
- Dementia
- Neurobiological and related diseases
- Cancer
- Limited mobility
- Haemoglobinopathies
- Severe learning disabilities
- Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases
- People with disabilities

AND

Total net Household Income does not exceed **£36,000 p.a.**

Note: All Option C applications MUST be accompanied by DCC's Verification Form A & Verification Form B signed by relevant Health Practitioner confirming the applicants Health Condition / Disability

Option D Exception Applications in off gas network and "Priority Area" homes

Durham County Council reserve the right to approve applications where in exceptional circumstances the household total income slightly exceeds the total income thresholds in Options B and C or where a resident is need of assistance, but does not meet the eligibility routes outlined within the Statement of Intent.

Each Exception Application will be reviewed on an individual case by case basis by Durham County Council. All Exception Applications must be accompanied by a detailed application explaining why an Exception is being sought. All approvals are solely at the discretion of Durham County Council

4 Applications and Declarations

All ASHP and SWI installation applications submitted to Durham County Council for review must include the following documentation:

4.1 All applications must include the Durham County Council Household **Verification Form A** (available on request from DCC) fully completed by the contractor and household.

4.2 All applications under Option C must include the Durham County Council Household **Verification Form A** and **Health Verification Form B** (available on request from DCC) fully completed by the household and a Health Practitioner.

4.3 All relevant documentation supporting the submission.

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4.4 Copy of the Certificate from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) showing the organisation making the application has a valid ICO Registration Number in the name of the company and has fully complied with all requirements under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

4.5 A fully detailed Exceptions Application statement that provides all relevant information to support the exceptions application.

Durham County Council reserve the right not to issue declarations where the above criteria have not been fully complied with.

5 Governance

The officer below will be responsible for receiving and authorising Declarations on behalf of Durham County Council.

Name: Adrian Cantle-Jones

Job title: Housing Project Manager

Telephone: 03000 265259

6 Evidence, monitoring and reporting

☑ The data above will include details of households assessed, how many were deemed eligible or ineligible, and how many received heating and insulation improvements

☑ Where resources allow, we reserve the right to consider using the Warwick Edinburgh survey pre and post intervention.

7 Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Paul', written in a cursive style.

Name **Geoff Paul**

Position **Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth**

Date 17.04.2020

Version 1 (Off Gas Air Source Heat Pumps & Solid Wall Insulation in Priority Areas) Date: 22.1.2019

Authorised by: A C-Jones