

# **South Ribble Borough Council's Statement of Intent for ECO Flexible Eligibility**

## **Overview**

South Ribble is committed to improving the energy efficiency of Homes, addressing health inequalities exacerbated by living in cold damp homes, reduce fuel poverty, tackle seasonal excess deaths and reduce carbon emissions from the domestic sector.

This Statement of Intent has been developed with the intention of supporting South Ribble Borough Council to participate in ECO2 transition and specifically flexible eligibility. It responds to the statutory requirements for [ECO Help to Heat](#) as set out in the [ECO2 Amendment Order](#) and the [guidance](#) to local authorities issued by the Department for Energy & Industrial strategy (BEIS) on Flexible Eligibility. It sets out the criteria South Ribble Borough Council will use in making declarations under ECO Flexible Eligibility and the delivery arrangements in place.

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## **1. Introduction**

In 2017 (latest figures available) South Ribble had 4672 households in fuel poverty (9.9%). This is lower than the national average (11.0%).

An interactive map of fuel poverty in Lancashire is available here:  
<http://dashboards.instantatlas.com/viewer/report?appid=76dd5dc8c5b041458608752ffd11b67a&authid=EeUdmTVM2tQfwwHh>

The council maximises the number of energy efficiency measures that its residents can access particularly those that are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home and/or are in fuel poverty or on a low income, by utilising local data to target initiatives successfully. This has been carried out with great success in the past as in 2010 the Council was named by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in the top 5 authorities in the country to lag its housing stock.

The link below identify the priorities for council as identified in the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report.

[HECA Link for South Ribble Borough Council](http://southribble.gov.uk/sites/default/files/HECA%20Report%202017.pdf)  
<http://southribble.gov.uk/sites/default/files/HECA%20Report%202017.pdf>

Flexible Eligibility is a means for the local authority to make an application for a range of energy efficiency measures for qualifying residents through a declaration to an energy company on behalf of the resident. **All ECO Flexible Eligibility declarations in the Borough will be managed by South Ribble Borough Council.**

The Council anticipates that flexible Eligibility will bring energy efficiency measures to residents that have traditionally not qualified for help in the past because they were not on an appropriate benefit. **When the local Authority makes a declaration on behalf of a resident this is not a guarantee that a measure will be installed.** The final decision will

rest with the supplier who will take into account a number of factors including the savings that can be achieved by the resident as well as whether they have already reached their target.

## **2. How the council intends to identify eligible households**

### **A) Criteria for identifying households living in fuel poverty**

The [CSE fuel poverty](#) (Centre for Sustainable Energy) fuel poverty calculator will be used to identify households living with a low income and high fuel costs and, therefore deemed to be fuel poor.

<sup>1</sup> In considering a household's savings the first £6,000 of savings will be disregarded.<sup>1</sup>

For people under 60 every £250 of savings over £6,000 will be regarded as £1 per week of income.

For people over 60 every £500 of savings over £10,000 will be regarded as £1 per week of income.

Anyone with savings over £16,000 will **not** qualify for help

### **B) Criteria for identifying households living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home**

Households will be eligible for funding if they meet at least one of the following vulnerabilities and have a \*low income.

#### **Vulnerabilities**

- people with a diagnosed cardiovascular conditions
- people with a diagnosed respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
- people with diagnosed mental health conditions
- people with diagnosed disabilities
- older people (65 and older)
- households with young children (up to the age of 5)
- pregnant women
- people who are terminally ill
- people with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV)
- people who have mobility issues and have attended hospital due to a fall

The following vulnerable groups will be considered on referral from a professional organisation:

- people who move in and out of homelessness
- people with addictions
- Recent immigrants and refugees.

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<sup>1</sup> This approach is consistent with other grant schemes such as Disabled Facilities Grant

### **\*Low income**

Low income will be determined by completion of the CSE Fuel Poverty calculator. £1,000 will be deducted from annual household income to take account of additional costs experienced by vulnerable households (e.g. medical treatments / equipment, higher energy use, transport to appointments etc.)

### **C) Criteria for identifying “In-fill” properties for solid wall insulation**

The local authority intends to facilitate solid wall insulation schemes including households that are not in fuel poverty or vulnerable (‘in-fill’).

Where a household does not meet the criteria for fuel poverty (outlined at A) or living on a low income and vulnerable to the cold (outlined at B), the local authority can declare a household as “in-fill” where they are:

- a) in the same terrace as
- b) in an immediately adjacent building to, or
- c) are in the same building as a household that does meet those criteria

In-fill is only allowed where a minimum percentage of households for which the LA is providing declarations are fuel poor (FP) or on a low income and vulnerable to the cold (LIVC), as set out in Table 1.

**Table 1 - Summary of the requirements for property types under in-fill**

<b>Property Type</b>	<b>LA declaration requirements</b>	<b>In-fill available</b>
Project consisting of a pair of semi-detached houses or bungalows, or a building containing no more than two domestic premises	At least one of the two-properties must be declared by the LA as FP or LIVC (ie 50% of the properties are FP or LIVC).	The other property to which it is directly adjoined is eligible for solid wall insulation.
Project consisting of any premises that are contained in the same building (eg flats), immediately adjacent buildings (eg neighbouring detached properties) or in the same terrace	At least two in three properties on the list must be declared by the LA as Fuel Poor or LIVC (ie at least 66% of the properties are FP or LIVC)	The other (i.e. up to one third) of properties in the project are eligible for solid wall insulation, provided they are either in the same building, an immediately adjacent building or in the same terrace as the ones identified as FP or LIVC

### **3. Acting on Behalf of the nominated officer**

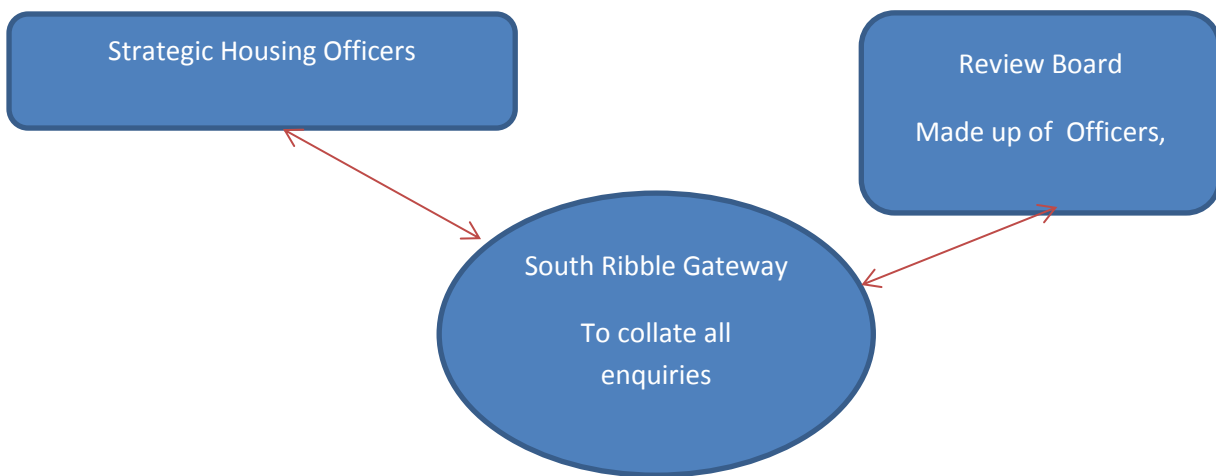
In most circumstance the designated South Ribble Borough Council’s officer signing the declaration, however where that officer is unavailable nominated officers from the Council will be granted permission to sign a declaration.

#### 4. Governance

The nominated Officer from South Ribble Borough Council will be responsible for signing declarations. In the event that the nominated officer is unavailable then only any South Ribble Borough Council's nominated officer/s can sign the declaration on their behalf.

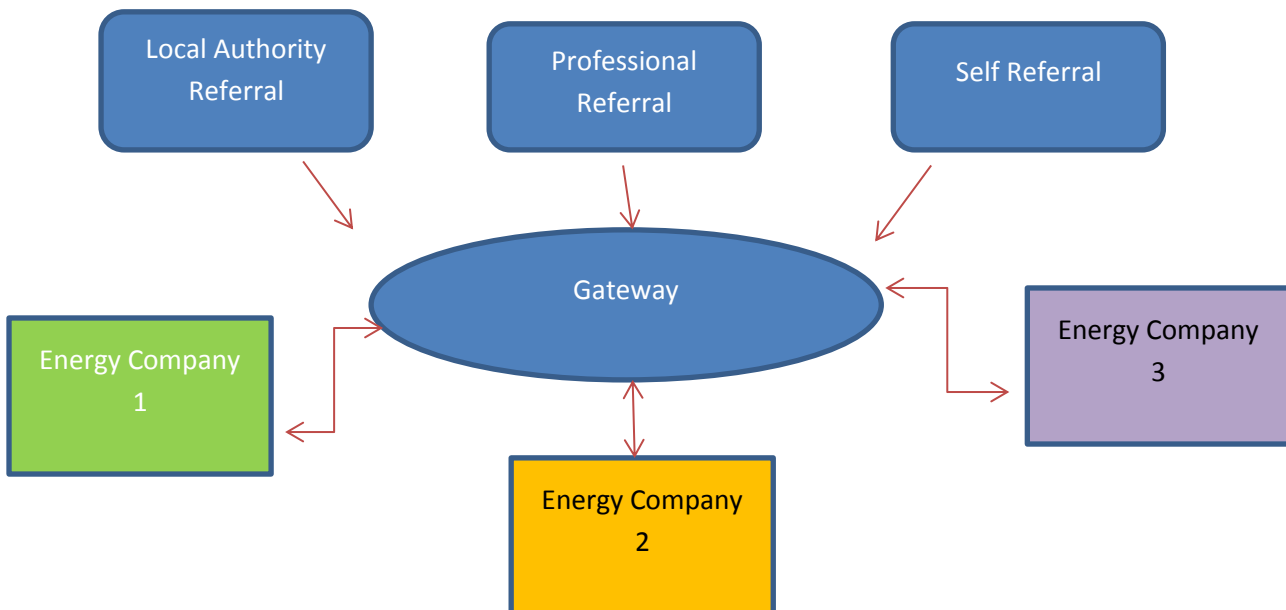
Where the Council does not want to endorse a certain measure in a particular area it will be their responsibility to inform the customer.

In addition to the above a review board will be established consisting of South Ribble Borough Council officers when required so that they will be able to assess individual cases where the applicant either falls just outside the qualifying criteria but there is still a clear need or where the applicant disputes the decision of the local authority in respect of them not qualifying under Flexible Eligibility. This board's decision will be final



#### Referrals

All referrals will be coordinated through the council's Gateway. The council can take referral directly or via an agent / representative.



**5. Evidence, Monitoring and Reporting**

- All applications will be recorded on a secure CRM system by Gateway
- South Ribble Borough Council will have a Service Level Agreement in place with each Energy Supplier it enters into an arrangement with that will detail acceptable time scales and processes
- Gateway will hold electronic copies of all documents relating to each application including any evidence supplied by the applicant
- Every applicant will be required to sign a declaration stating that the information they have supplied is truthful and accurate.

**6. Signatures**

South Ribble Borough Council

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Role: Senior Strategic Housing Officer

Signature: .....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Role: Strategic Housing Manager

Signature: .....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Role: Director Of Development, Enterprise & Communities

Signature: .....

**Chief Executive:** Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....