

Local Authority Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility

Additional Statement of Intent (first time gas central heating to Non Gas Properties)

Leicester City Council

1. Name of the local authority: Leicester City Council
2. Date of publication: (30/01/2020)
3. Published on Leicester City Council website (03/02/2020)

1. Introduction

This additional Statement of Intent (SOI), together with SOIs published on 10th September 2019, sets out how households in the City of Leicester will be declared to be eligible for assistance under Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility funding.

The focus of this SOI is to install gas connections and first-time gas central heating systems in dwellings that are currently heated by electricity and occupied by those deemed to be either fuel poor or living on a low income with high heating costs; making them vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home.

This SOI aims to directly target properties on Warren Drive, Warren View, Warren Avenue and Cookson Road that do not currently have gas central heating systems installed but, instead, use traditional electric storage/panel heaters as their main means of heating. These systems are renowned for being inflexible (storage heaters operating on Economy 7 often run out of heat later in the day/evening) and are typically more expensive to run than homes heated by gas central heating.

In all areas, the final decision on whether any individual household can benefit from energy saving improvements will be made by the obligated suppliers (Energy Companies) or their agents/contractors. The signing of a Declaration by Leicester City Council for a supplier/Contractor will not guarantee installation of measures or fully funded works, as the final decision will depend on the following:

- i) Cadent (or other any Company working on their behalf) confirming the new gas connections for this scheme will be free of charge.
- ii) A survey carried out by the ECO Agent/Contractor and installation costs calculated.
- iii) The energy savings that can be achieved for a property.
- iv) Whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their obligated ECO targets.

2. How Leicester City Council intends to identify eligible households

Homes not connected to the gas grid and using electricity as the main heating fuel are renowned for being costly to heat, with their occupants more likely to be in fuel poverty or living on a low income. The Council intends to support a pilot project which enables the installation of free gas connections and first-time gas central heating systems in up to 150 homes not currently connected to the gas grid, targeting and, in so doing, improving the living conditions and well-being of these vulnerable residents.

These criteria will be kept under review in relation to level of referrals made, delivery of installed measures and the practices of other authorities.

3. Governance

The Declaration of households meeting the Council's flexible eligibility criteria under this SOI will be signed off on behalf of Leicester City Council by Mr Michael Richardson (Energy and Sustainability Team Leader)

Before any declaration can be signed off, the contractor must self-certify that they are accredited to the standards required by Ofgem to undertake ECO-funded energy efficiency improvement works.

4. Marketing & Referrals

Leicester Council will work with a nominated partner (City Energy Network Ltd) to identify eligible homes which must be either privately owner occupied or privately rented (this scheme excludes social housing). If a tenant is privately renting, written permission will be required from the landlord prior to the commencement of any works.

Enquiries from residents living in the area should be made directly to Leicester City Council's delivery partner: City Energy Network Ltd; by e-mail: leicester@cityenergy.co.uk or telephone to 02920 499183 and select option 1.

5. Evidence, monitoring and reporting

Leicester City 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.

6. Signature

Name: Andy Keeling

Position: Chief Operating Officer

Signed: 

Date: 30/01/2020