

## Statement of Intent: Argyll and Bute Council

- 1) Name of the local authority: Argyll and Bute Council
- 2) Date of publication 11/04/2019
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- 4) Publication on website: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/home-energy-efficiency>

### Introduction

This statement of intent will outline how householders will be declared to be eligible for ECO: Help to Heat funding – in accordance with guidelines from Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Outcome four of Argyll and Bute Councils Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is working towards ensuring that communities are regenerated by improving the quality, condition and energy efficiency of housing. To ensure that this is carried out, Argyll and Bute Council want allow for as many different funding options as possible to improve the general condition of Housing stock.

Argyll and Bute has a fuel poverty rate of approximately 45% (approximately 18,000 homes), with an extreme fuel poverty rate of 14% (Scottish Housing Condition Survey, 2018) – and therefore wants to ensure that fuel poor households can gain access to assistance. At least 48% of Argyll and Bute is off gas grid – meaning that more expensive means of heating have to be explored – such as electricity and heating oil.

Argyll and Bute is split into nine Housing Market Areas, each with their own unique characteristics that influence fuel poverty. The following fuel poverty levels have been ascertained from Home Analytics data:

- Tiree and Coll – 44%
- Mull and Iona – 39%
- Islay, Jura and Colonsay – 46%
- Kintyre – 39%
- Mid Argyll – 39%
- Oban, Lorn and the Inner Isles – 38%
- Cowal – 37%
- Bute – 37%
- Helensburgh and Lomond – 35%

ECO flexibility will ensure that Argyll and Bute Council can ensuring that communities are regenerated by improving the quality, condition and energy efficiency of housing; which will also lead to carbon emission reductions for future.

### Flexibility Criteria

2.1 ECO flexibility is available to private sector households, including owner occupiers and private tenants, in line with the Government's guidance (ECO: Help to Heat Flexible Eligibility).

2.2 Argyll and Bute Council will ensure that the ECO flexibility will assist with the current Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS: ABS); and all other domestic energy efficiency programmes in the future. The majority of the funding is currently focused on solid wall – hard to treat properties that are in rural areas

– which will be complimented by additional ECO funding that can be obtained. Solid Wall Insulation will be the main focus for the additional ECO funding – which will assist creating warmer homes; lower carbon emissions and ensure fuel poverty is reduced.

2.3 The Argyll and Bute HEEPS: ABS programme currently delivers to all Council Tax Band A-C properties (and D with an income of less than £20,000) across Argyll and Bute – for owner occupiers and private householders in the area. Householders on islands are also eligible if they live in a Council Tax Band D and above property, with an energy efficiency rating of E or below.

**Fuel Poverty Criteria/ Low Income/Vulnerable to Effects of Cold Criteria**

2.4 Argyll and Bute Council will use the following criteria for identifying fuel poor households through ECO Local Authority Flex:

1. Gross Household income of less than £27,000 **or** satisfies one of the following:

<p>1)High energy costs (FP)</p>	<p>Homes with an EPC rating of E, F or G</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The property is hard to heat due to at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• having solid walls</li> <li>• off the mains gas network</li> <li>• no existing central heating</li> <li>• being a park home or of non-standard construction</li> </ul>
<p>2)Low Income Vulnerability to Cold (LIVC)</p> <p>This is not an exhausted list. The council is aware that there may be unusual circumstances and therefore reserves the right to review individual cases and provide a declaration.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Over the age of 60</li> <li>b) Under the age of 5</li> <li>c) Chronic Asthma</li> <li>d) Heart Disease</li> <li>e) Rheumatoid arthritis</li> <li>f) Osteoporosis/ brittle bones</li> <li>g) Cancer</li> </ol>

**Governance**

The responsible person for signing off the declarations will be:

Job Title: Team Lead: Housing Operations

Address: Housing Services, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT

Email: Bill.Halliday@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Prior to sign off, Argyll and Bute Council Officers will scrutinise all declarations to ensure the relevant evidence and paperwork is in place for the declaration.

The current HEEPS: ABS programme is delivered in partnership with the sole contractor for the programme: BCA Insulation Ltd. The partner will have the responsibility for collecting all the household data that is relevant to the ECO Flexibility Eligibility. They will complete the declaration for the household and will identify whether the householder meets the criteria through the fuel poverty or living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of a cold home set of criteria. This will be submitted to Argyll and Bute Council along with evidence of meeting the criteria.

## **Referrals**

The statement of intent will seek to assist householders in fuel poverty. The main referral route for the Local Authority Flexibility for ECO will be through the current Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS: ABS) programme which Argyll and Bute Council currently deliver. The sole route into the HEEPS: ABS programme is through Home Energy Scotland.

## **Declaration Process**

ECO Flexible Funding will require a declaration to be submitted by a Local Authority to the ECO supplier. The decision on whether ECO funding is granted is made by the energy supplier which will depend on:

- 1) The survey carried out to determine costs of the installation
- 2) The energy savings a property can achieve due to installation
- 3) The availability of additional funding to levy in ECO funding
- 4) The availability of ECO and whether an ECO obligated party has achieved their targets.

Please note that a declaration of funding does not guarantee the delivery and installation of measures. This lies solely with the energy suppliers.

## **Signature**

Chief Executive: \_\_\_\_\_