

# Statement of Intent

Dacorum Borough Council

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Version 4

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## 1) Introduction

The Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme partnership, comprising all ten district and borough councils across Hertfordshire, is determined to tackle fuel poverty, reduce excess winter deaths and improve the energy efficiency of homes across Hertfordshire.

The publication of this Statement of Intent (SOI) enables Dacorum Borough Council to support the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme by providing additional eligibility criteria under the Energy Company Obligation Local Authority Flexibility route (known as LA-Flex).

The final decision on whether a household is deemed eligible for an energy efficiency measure under the Energy Company Obligation will be made by the named energy supplier(s) or scheme lead. Inclusion in a Declaration made by Dacorum Borough Council to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures, as the final decision will depend on the following:

- i. survey carried out by suppliers agents/contractors and installation costs calculated,
- ii. the energy savings that can be achieved for a property, and
- iii. whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets

As set out in Article 17 (1)(a) of The Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2018 ("The Order"), only owner occupied premises, certain private rented premises (under Article 17 (2)(a)) and certain EPC unrated premises (Article 17 (3)(a)) are considered eligible for LA-Flex. Therefore social housing (as defined in The Order) is excluded from LA-Flex.

The Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme contributes towards the following priorities:

### Dacorum Borough Council

Through boosting the health and wellbeing of local residents it will contribute to Dacorum Borough Council's Corporate Plan (2015 – 2020) priorities:

- Building Strong and Vibrant Communities

It will also contribute to Dacorum Borough Council's work to tackle fuel poverty as set out in its Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report 2019-20.

### Hertfordshire County Council

This will contribute to the Hertfordshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19 as well as the following Hertfordshire County Council's Corporate Plan priorities:

- Opportunity to Thrive: A cleaner, greener county with children and adults given the support they need
- Opportunity to be Healthy & Safe: Healthier lifestyles, tailored social care and less crime

It will contribute towards the following Public Health Strategy 2017 -21 priorities:

- Starting and developing well, healthier lives for 0-25 years
- Keeping Well, supporting longer lives, more disease-free years and self-management of long-term conditions
- Working to reduce health inequalities: Reducing inequalities in health outcomes and life expectancy between most and least affluent

## **2) How the LA intends to identify eligible households**

Dacorum Borough Council will identify households that may benefit from LA-Flex in a number of ways. To be eligible, households must meet the primary criteria and at least one of the secondary criteria.

'Household income' includes the resident's income and (if applicable), their partner's income combined. Please be advised that non-dependent's income is not included in this calculation.

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### **Primary Criteria**

The household must meet this criteria based upon their current household composition at the time of application to the scheme.

**Table 1: Recommended after housing costs\* equivalised income thresholds, by household composition**

<b>Household Composition</b>	<b>Income Thresholds</b>
<b>1 Adult</b>	£10,230
and 1 child	£13,400
and 2 children	£16,500
and 3 children	£19,800
and 4+ children	£23,100
<b>2 Adults</b>	£16,720

and 1 children	£20,020
and 2 children	£23,210
and 3 children	£26,510
and 4+ children	£29,480

*\*After housing costs is determined as the combined household income after deducting rent or mortgage and council tax expenses. See example detailed within Table 2 below.*

*Table 1: Income thresholds outlined by Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy Energy Company Obligation: ECO3, 2018-22 Flexible Eligibility Guidance (2019) with a 10% increase in recognition of the high cost of living in Hertfordshire.*

**Table 2: Example income threshold – after housing costs**

Annual combined household income	£30,000 per annum
Less annual mortgage expenditure	£11,400 (at £950 per month x 12)
Less annual council tax expenditure	£1,770 (as per Council Tax statement)
<b>Remaining household income</b>	<b>£16,830</b>

## **Secondary Criteria**

Having met the primary criteria, the household must also meet one of the secondary criteria below.

**Table 3:**

<b>High Energy Costs</b> <i>(identifying households in or at risk of fuel poverty)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100mm or less loft insulation</li> <li>• Unfilled cavity walls</li> <li>• Uninsulated non-cavity walls</li> <li>• No working heating system</li> </ul>

**Table 4:**

<b>Vulnerability to the Cold</b> <i>(identifying low income and vulnerable to the cold households)</i>
<p>A health condition made worse by the cold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People with cardiovascular conditions</li> <li>• People with respiratory conditions <i>(in particular chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)</i></li> <li>• People with mental health conditions</li> <li>• People with disabilities</li> <li>• People who are terminally ill</li> </ul>

- People with autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. *lupus, cancer treatment, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, HIV*)
- People with neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. *fibromyalgia, myalgic encephalomyelitis [ME]*)
- People with Haemoglobinopathies (e.g. *sickle cell disease, thalassaemia*)

A vulnerability to the cold:

- People aged over 60 years old, particularly those over 75 years old
- Children aged under 5 years old and pregnant women
- People with addictions
- People who have attended hospital due to a fall
- People diagnosed with dementia
- Recent immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees (*if living in private tenure*)
- People who move in and out of homelessness
- Other illness exacerbated by the cold (*confirmed by GP*)
- People with musculoskeletal conditions (e.g. *arthritis, limited mobility*)
- Households that have acute or long term debt
- Householders that are in their home during working hours and/or have declared that they restrict heating use due to concerns about the energy bills

*\*Table 4 source: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Quality Statement and Guidance (2015) on Excess Winter Deaths and Illnesses Caused by Cold.*

### 3) Governance

Dacorum Borough Council works in partnership with the 9 other district and borough councils in Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire County Council to promote the provision of home energy efficiency improvements across the county. Hertfordshire County Council will process all relevant referrals (as received from the named single-point-of-access provider HertsHelp) and client self-declarations, determining client eligibility. Dacorum Borough Council will review and approve any LA-Flex declarations and request relevant supporting information. Hertfordshire County Council work with a commissioned delivery partner and their network of subcontractors.

*Responsible officer(s)*

The officer(s) below will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of the local authority.

Officer Name:	Vicki Nash
Job Title:	Home Energy Conservation Officer
Telephone Number:	01442 228338
Email:	<a href="mailto:vicki.nash@dacorum.gov.uk">vicki.nash@dacorum.gov.uk</a>

#### 4) Referrals

Referrals into the scheme can be made as follows:

- Self-referrals from Hertfordshire residents
- Referrals from health and social care professionals
- Referrals from voluntary and charitable organisations

All referrals and enquiries should be made via the schemes single-point-of-access service HertsHelp. Contact details are as follows:

**By phone:** 0300 123 4044

**By email:** [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net)

**Website:** <https://hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertswarmerhomes>

#### 5) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

Hertfordshire County Council will provide the central administration and management of the Energy Company Obligation LA-Flex in Hertfordshire.

Eligible residents will be required to undertake a telephone eligibility assessment with the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes team (application forms are available upon request). Residents considered potentially eligible under the LA-Flex criteria will be required to complete and return a self-declaration form to confirm their eligibility based upon the criteria outlined in section 2 above.

Scheme activity is reported to the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes partnership on a monthly basis. The scheme reports to the Healthy Places Implementation Group on a bi-monthly basis.

An annual evaluation of the scheme is conducted to review the outcomes and value of the scheme alongside the effectiveness of targeted promotions to identify eligible households across the county. The evaluation includes post-installation surveys with residents to determine the potential health impacts resulting from the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme.

Dacorum Borough Council will audit all eligible referrals on a quarterly basis to prevent and detect fraud.

#### 6) Signature

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF**

**Dacorum Borough Council**

**by**



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*Signature*

Name: Mark Gaynor

Job Title: Corporate Director (Housing & Regeneration)