

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



DATE	15th August 2017
PORTFOLIO	Housing and Environment
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Energy Company Obligation Flexible Funding (ECO Flex)

PURPOSE

1. To adopt a Lancashire wide Statement of Intent (Appendix 1) so that residents are able to access Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding.

RECOMMENDATION

2. To approve the Council's participation in the Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) Statement of Intent for ECO Flexible Funding.
3. That the Head of Housing and Development Control is authorised to sign a declaration confirming that a resident of Burnley meets the eligibility criteria for ECO Flexible Funding.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

4. To maximise funding into Burnley to improve the energy efficiency of homes within the Borough, subsequently assisting those residents in fuel poverty.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

5. Cosy Homes in Lancashire is a consortium of all 14 local authorities in Lancashire and the County Council. The consortium works together to attract energy efficiency funding into Lancashire.
6. Through the new ECO Flexible funding every local authority can make a declaration to an energy company for a qualifying resident to receive a range of energy efficiency measures. To take part in ECO Flex each local authority must have a statement of intent which details the criteria for a qualifying resident. The statement of intent has been agreed through CHiL and is contained within Appendix 1 to this report.
7. Each local Authority anticipates that the eligibility criteria 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.

8. Through the CHiL consortium we are able to attract larger energy companies to work across Lancashire delivering the energy efficiency measures. Discussions are currently being held with E.ON who will pay £80 per measure. This fee would go to Firefly to cover admin costs for taking enquiries, referrals, pre-qualifying and managing the partnership with E.ON. This would be an extension to them being procured to deliver the recent Central Heating Fund. An SLA will be signed between E.ON and Firefly to avoid the local authorities having to enter into a contract. There is no exclusivity with E.ON and CHiL will continue to seek other funders and partners.
9. Measures offered by E.ON are cavity wall and loft insulation, central heating, oil boilers, room in roof and electric storage heaters. E.ON also have various options for able to pay customers, including 2 years interest free credit. This would be up to the householder to take up. E.ON's own network of local contractors would be used, CHiL has asked for details so that we know who's working on our scheme and can have some level of input.
10. E.ON are also offering to put on an event for CCGs, highlighting regional case studies where CCG's have supported affordable warmth interventions, and one for Landlords which will be linked to the EPC requirements coming in in April 2018.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

11. There are no direct financial implications to the Council. The installation measures are funded through the energy companies and ECO flex.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

12. No direct policy implications outside the scope of this report

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

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ALSO: Stephen Nutter