

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Officer approval of updated Herefordshire Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent (Version 4)
<b>Date of decision:</b>	5 September 2019
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Director for Economy and Place
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	The authority is for the specified officer to take this decision as established in a decision notice dated 17 July 2017
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	The Statement has been updated in order to allow supporting funding to the Warm Homes Fund (Park Homes) project to be claimed for the residents at Fayre Oaks Home Park as recommended by the gas network operating partner, Affordable Warmth Solutions.
<b>Decision made:</b>	Approve and sign updated Herefordshire Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent (Version 4)
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The updated statement of intent will allow Fuel Poverty Network (Gas) Extension vouchers to be claimed for each of the Fayre Oaks Park homes in order to facilitate the works required for the Warm Homes Fund (Park Homes) project to be realised. Fuel Poverty remains a major issue in Herefordshire. According to the latest statistics, 12.2% of households live in Fuel Poverty, equating to around 10,000 homes.</p> <p>The ECO flexible eligibility scheme presents an opportunity for the council, in conjunction with its partners at Keep Herefordshire Warm to select eligible residents to receive support as part of the scheme in order to alleviate fuel poverty.</p> <p>Park Homes are difficult to heat affordably due to low levels of insulation and often expensive, inefficient and high carbon heating systems. Park home residents are therefore at increased vulnerability to the effects of cold homes making them susceptible to a range of health conditions. These problems are exacerbated by the fact that many park home residents are older (60+) and therefore at greater risk.</p> <p>A revised published statement of intent by the council would show its continued commitment towards the scheme</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p>Provider performance will be regularly reported and monitored via the Keep Herefordshire Warm SLA, the council's Marches Sustainable Energy Project Manager and Affordable Warmth Strategy working group.</p> <p>Outcome performance on the impact of the FE scheme will be reported corporately through the 'Percentage reduction in annual domestic energy consumption' performance measure. This can also be supported, if required, by more up to date household energy performance (EPC) data and sub-regional fuel poverty data.</p> <p>Individual building installations will take place in full consultation with relevant property management personnel to ensure health and safety compliance. The appropriate officers will also be required to provide technical sign-off in accordance</p>

	<p>with the schedule of works.</p> <p>Subject to a privacy impact assessment for data protection purposes and in order to monitor and audit the process, the council proposes to ask a proportion (at least a third) of households to share evidence of their eligibility at the time of their application. A high level of non-compliance in relation to these 'audits' will trigger a review of the FE process. Those householders selected to provide evidence will be asked to share documentation regarding their income and health. Property type and 'high cost factors' will be assessed by installer partners.</p>
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	The council opts not to continue to participate in the scheme; then it will not be able to select residents for energy efficiency measures (boilers, insulation etc.) and will instead have to rely on conventional ECO funding, which to date has proved inconsistent and irregularly distributed throughout the Country.
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	N/A

Signed Richard Ball  
Director for Economy & Place

Date: 5 September 2019