**Energy Company Obligation, Flexible Eligibility, Statement of Intent:**

Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funds are provided by utility companies to assist

fuel poor residents. In January 2017, BEIS published their response to the ECO

consultation; “Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat April 2017 to September 2018” it introduces a new element to ECO funding. The new element is ‘Flexibility Eligibility Benefit’, through which, local authorities can set an eligibility criteria, Statement of Intent (SOI), to determine which fuel poor residents are eligible for ECO funds.

ECO funds and ECO Flexible eligibility funds rarely fully fund the costs of more expensive energy efficiency measures (e.g. boiler replacement and insulation) but can assist residents towards some of the costs. (Subject to availability and suitability.)

Under the ECO Help to Heat flexible eligibility scheme, obligated energy suppliers will be able to use the ‘flexible eligibility’ mechanism for up to 10% of their ECO Affordable Warmth obligation, by installing energy saving measures in premises that have been declared eligible by local authorities. Participating local authorities, working with ECO providers, have to ensure these are households in private tenure, living either in fuel poverty or living on a low income, and who are particularly vulnerable to the effects of living in the cold. In addition, some non-fuel poor homes will be allowed for solid wall insulation projects, as long as a proportion of the households in the project are in fuel poverty or living in the cold. (Where viable, subject to availability and funding.)

In Greater Manchester (GM) flexible eligibility will work as a funding mechanism to assist towards the costs of measures delivered through existing GM wide and or GM Local Authority (LA) led schemes, but is unlikely to provide the full costs of works. (Subject to availability and suitability.)

All 10 GM LAs have been consulted on the SOI, via the GM Domestic Retrofit Group. It was agreed by all 10 LAs that there would be one statement of intent (SOI) for the whole of GM.

GMCA’s statement of intent (SOI) is on the GMCA website.