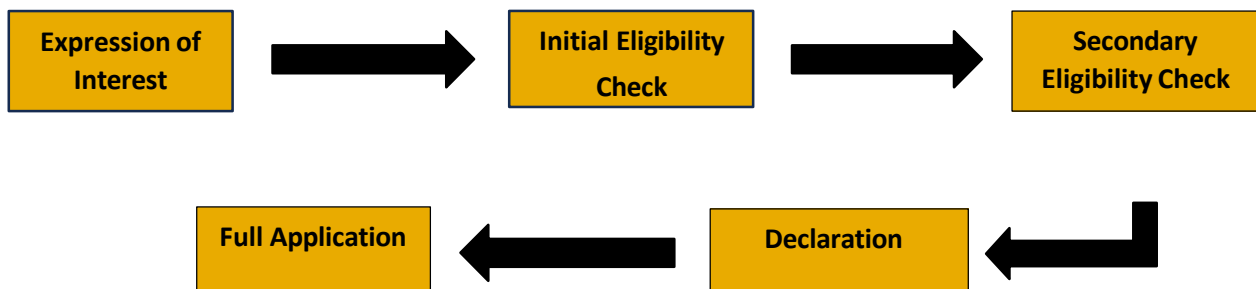


## WH:LG (Warm Homes : Local Grant) Scheme - Household Eligibility Criteria

As part of the WH:LG Scheme, The Warm Homes Local Grant Team have a list of criteria that households and applicants must meet for a household to be eligible for scheme funding. These requirements have been listed below.

### Initial Application Process



### Initial Eligibility Checks

Following an expression of interest to the scheme, the following parameter checks will be carried out by the Warm Homes Local Grant team to check if a household within Herefordshire is eligible.

### EPC Rating

- Only properties with a current Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating between D-G **will qualify** for the scheme.
- Therefore, properties with a current EPC rating of A-C do not qualify as part of this scheme and **will not qualify** for scheme funding.

### Household Qualifying Routes

#### Route 1 – Means-Tested Benefit

Households in receipt of means-tested benefits (including pension credit guarantee, universal credit, ESA and child or working tax credits). The recipient of the qualifying benefit must be a permanent adult resident of the property. To progress through the grant scheme you'll need to provide evidence of your benefit entitlement at a later stage.

#### Route 2 - Annual Household Income Threshold.

Households not in receipt of government benefits can still qualify for grants if their gross annual household income is below £36,000 per year. When calculating household income, all income from all residents who are permanently a resident at the home will need to be included. Residents will be asked to provide evidence to include the income of all adults who are permanently resident at home. Income should include that from employment, rental payments, pensions and investments. Residents in receipt of personal independence payment (PIP), disability living allowance (DLA) or carers/attendance

allowance can discount these payments from their household income. You'll be asked to provide evidence of your household income to support your claim.

### Route 3 - Flexible Eligibility

Households qualify automatically for grant support if they:

- Receive a council tax rebate (excluding the single person rebate)
- Have a long-term health condition and or disability that's affected by a cold home
- Receive **income-based** free school meals

### Route 4 - IMD Index

A household will automatically qualify if the property postcode is within Income Deciles 1-2 of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) index provided by government. These properties will still be subject to the criteria checks.

At full application stage Households will be asked to provide evidence to confirm their eligibility against their qualifying route.

## Council Tax Bands

- Only properties in the Council Tax banding A-D **will qualify** for scheme funding.
- Furthermore, properties in Council Tax banding E-G **will not qualify** for measures under the scheme. This is a proxy used to determine the size of a property – we don't have sufficient government funding to treat and install adequate measures for these properties.

## Conservation / Article 4 Areas and Listed Buildings

We invite expressions of interests relating to properties within a Conservation Area, Article 4 Area and for listed buildings. These properties will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Warm Homes Local Grant team. The applicant will be contacted initially to confirm their expectations and requirements as part of the scheme. This is due to the complexity of installing measures into these properties and recommendations outlined by planning officers.

## Previous Scheme Measures

- If a property previously had works completed under the previous Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) scheme, any future works will be eligibility checked by a Warm Homes Local Grant Officer dependent on the EPC rating after improvements were made and other case-by-case factors.
- The property will also be checked on the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) energy efficiency checker for any previous measures that were fulfilled. WH:LG Scheme funding for any future works will be at the discretion of the Warm Homes Local Grant Officer.
- This is to ensure that there is no duplication of government funding on measures.

## Secondary Eligibility Checks

Following the office-based initial criteria checks carried out by the Warm Homes Local Grant team, there are other requirements as part of the scheme. These are listed below:

## Owner of Additional Properties

Applicants who own more than one property **will not qualify** for WH:LG funding. Applicants will need to sign a declaration to confirm that they don't own additional properties. This includes fixed holiday accommodation (for example holiday homes, static caravans). There is the assumption that the applicant of multiple properties has access to capital to carry out works independently.

If a landlord owns a secondary property that is used as privately rented accommodation for a tenant, it will be subject to the criteria below.

## Rented / Leasehold Accommodation

- A landlord can apply for a property that is privately rented out to a tenant. The tenant will then be subject to the person eligibility checks. A declaration will be required from both parties.
- Landlords can receive 100% funding for the first property supported by the scheme.
- Subsequent properties will require the landlord to fund 50% of the total costs of works.
- A landlord **will not qualify** for funding at their own residence and can only apply for an eligible privately rented property.

## Social / Housing Association Rented Accommodation

Social housing tenants **do not qualify** for this scheme. Contact should be made to the relevant Housing Association representative to discuss the condition of the property.

## Major Renovation Works

A property **will not qualify** for grant funding if there are ongoing major renovation works already being carried out within the property. An application can only be submitted once these works have been completed.

## Property Ownership

The applicant must have owned and lived in the applied for property for at least six months before they can apply for the scheme. Evidence will be required to confirm this (Including mortgage statements or utility bills for the previous six-month period).

## Access to Savings/Capital

Households with personal savings and investments worth in excess of £50,000 will not be eligible for the scheme. A declaration from the applicant to confirm this is not the case will be requested at application stage. The savings limit does not apply to a tenant applying for the scheme.

**On receipt of an expression of interest for the scheme, the Warm Homes Local Grant team will complete checks as outlined above. Should all checks be passed, applicants will be invited to submit a full application and instructions to do so will be shared directly.**

**The Warm Homes Local Grant team reserve the right to update this policy document at any time**