# Motion – Insulation

**Overview:-**

Council acknowledges that people living in poorly insulated homes suffer from significantly higher heating bills per sqm and are amongst the highest CO2 contributors from a heating perspective

This motion commits West Berkshire Council to take a bold step in helping as many residents as possible and as rapidly as possible to have a positive impact on energy needs next winter.

Council notes:

* That we declared a climate emergency across the district, and we need to make progress on our district target as a matter of urgency.
* That the better a property is insulated the lower the need for any kind of heating.
* That for any insulation scheme, there will be a shortage of skills needed to implement the scheme.
* That many believe the costs of fossil fuel will not return fully to previous levels for many years, if ever.
* That better insulation is one of the best ways to jump up from a poor EPC rating.
* That we can learn from the government’s current Sustainable Warmth initiative which comes to an end in March 2023
* That by having our own scheme we can more directly target relevant residents of West Berkshire.

**In order to help:**

This Council will introduce a scheme which will begin by focusing on those who cannot afford to undertake basic insulation, or lack the skills, or physical ability to do it. The intent for the scheme would be to allow council to undertake a long-term program which would help towards our enabling of net zero by 2030 for the district.

Criteria that should be met:

* Living in a home or flat that has an EPC of D or below;
* Can demonstrate to the Council that they are not in a position to:
	+ Afford the simple steps to better insulation, in which case material will be supplied;
	+ Afford the simple steps to better insulation and don’t have the skills to implement. In which case, materials will be provided and a suitable course made available for them to gain the skills;
	+ Afford the simple steps to better insulation and don't have the physical ability to undertake the work, in which case, the material would be provided, and work carried out for them.

**THE MOTION**

This council commits to:

* Presenting a scheme to council a.s.a.p in order to be able to take advantage of funds like the Household Support Fund which we expect to get further funding from.
* Officers developing details for a scheme to be considered by the Environment Advisory Group at their next meeting, leading to presenting to the Executive for a decision.
* Officers Identifying
	+ homes that meet the affordability and physical ability criteria.
	+ homes that meet the supply and training criteria.
	+ Homes that meet the supply only criteria.
* Officers to investigate creating a directory of local tradespeople who will participate in the implementation of the scheme.
* Officers to work with local education facilities (such as Newbury College) to ensure the suitable availability of short courses for those wanting to skill-up.
* Officers to present costs for such courses that will need to be funded
* Ensuring those that have the greatest need are helped first.
* Working with both the public and private sectors to ensure anyone meeting the criteria can take advantage of the scheme (no matter who owns the property).
* Applying for complete funding from government to fund the project.
* Investigating the creation of a WBC Insulation Bond that would act as a backstop or allow for the extension of the programme dependant on the success of the grant bid
* Approaching Greenham Trust to support WBC in this program with whatever match funding they could make available
* Investigate other funding sources as the scheme develops