

## Wiltshire Council

### Council

18 October 2022

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#### Liberal Democrat Amendment to Cost of Living Motion

Notice of Motion No. 2022-02 - Cost of Living from Councillors Richard Clewer and Laura Mayes

Wiltshire Council is determined to ensure the protection of the residents of Wiltshire from the cost of living **challenge crisis** driven by Covid-19, **shortages in energy supply** and Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, **together with the mortgage rate rises and financial disruption since the September fiscal statement**. Their combined effects have led to rising energy prices and residents facing significant cost of living pressures.

This council is thankful for the significant work that the Government has done to support the residents of Wiltshire. It notes the benefit that the **two-year six-month** energy price guarantee and the certainty it will give to residents across Wiltshire as well as the **enormous** help that the £400 energy bill discount will provide to every household. It further notes the additional support of the £650 cost of living payment for those in receipt of means-tested benefits, £300 for pensioner households and £150 for recipients of disability benefits in Wiltshire.

**Wiltshire Council welcomes and thanks our staff, Town and Parish Councils, local charities, faith and community groups, as well as very many individuals for their significant efforts to help and support our vulnerable neighbours by way of providing warm places, additional food, clothing and other practical help. We urge our Area Boards to do all they can to back and help develop such initiatives.**

Wiltshire Council thanks the Government for providing equivalent support for those not on the mains energy grid and the protection of jobs in Wiltshire that the six-month protection for businesses will provide. **Wiltshire Council will work to ensure that these initiatives reach those that need them.**

Wiltshire Council further **thanks recognises** the Government's **on-its-long-term** plans **that will maximise to increase** domestic energy **produce-production** through North Sea oil and gas, **as well as nuclear and renewables that while also recognising the need to accelerate the transition to renewables and other forms of low-carbon energy that will address climate change**, will contribute towards securing energy independence in the long term and ensure that Wiltshire will never be subject to energy price hikes caused by **disruptions such as pandemics, illegal wars and supply shortages** again.

Wiltshire Council therefore resolves to: 1) Work with the Government to ensure that it delivers the much-appreciated support to the residents of Wiltshire as quickly as possible. **Wiltshire Council commits to working with landlords to ensure that the**

energy bill discount reaches those residents whose energy costs are included with their rents.

2) Proactively identify those most in need of support in Wiltshire and ensure that they access all the Government support they are eligible for. Wiltshire Council undertakes to communicate comprehensively with residents and to support individuals with the processes for means tested and disability benefits where appropriate. Wiltshire Council, via its Area Boards, undertakes to play its critical role in coordinating efforts within and between local communities, ensuring that no parishes are left out of benefiting from the efforts to provide warm spaces and food for those residents that need them.

3) Identify local opportunities in Wiltshire ~~for energy generation~~ to help increase the supply of energy, particularly renewable energy, to further aid the long-term lowering of prices, support the Government's aim of domestic energy security and create local jobs in the "green economy", while continuing with Wiltshire's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 by reducing reliance on environmentally damaging fossil fuels.

4) Request the Government to look again at the level of help in the Alternative Fuel Payment Scheme given the amount announced is £100, which compares to a rise of £1200 for the average bill for domestic heating.