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| For Immediate Release | 13 December 2023 |

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| **Free help to stay warm for less** |
| Every household in the borough can now get free help to keep their home warm, save money on energy bills and cut their carbon footprint.  As temperatures dip, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is making free energy-saving initiatives available to help residents stay warm while using less energy at home.  To help people understand how they can reduce how much energy it takes to heat and power their home, residents can now book a free home survey with the council’s newly launched Green Team, which supports communities to cut their carbon.  Taking around an hour to complete, the surveys use specialist software to create plans for how people can take action to reduce their energy use and make their home more efficient.  Recognising it is more difficult to improve the energy efficiency of certain properties, for example because they are older or in a conservation area, the council is also making 125 comprehensive full-home assessments available for people in these types of homes.  Offered to eligible homeowners by the Green Team and undertaken by consultants Insta Group, these assessments take around one to three hours to complete and provide a detailed property report with specific energy-saving recommendations.  Cabinet Member for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Cllr Chris Tomblin said: “We should all be able to live in a warm home that we can afford to heat and our newly announced support means more people will be able to do just that.  “From small actions like bleeding your radiators and using draught excluders through to larger energy-saving measures such as insulation, these surveys will help you to stay warm and reduce how much energy you use at home to save money on your bills.  “And with emissions from heating and powering our homes making up more than a fifth of our carbon footprints, cutting down on how much energy you use at home means you’ll be making a real difference in the fight against climate change too.”  People can book a free home energy survey with the Green Team or find out more about the comprehensive full-home assessments by emailing [GreenTeam@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:GreenTeam@basingstoke.gov.uk) or calling 01256 845777.  This support is being funded by the council’s successful bid for £197,000 of government funding to provide specialist in-person energy-saving advice to residents.  More information is on the website at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/home-energy-saving-initiatives](http://tracking.basingstoke.gov.uk/tracking/click?d=ad0QELTi-1JqghH4rWQ9fLMdiX9zQpHDmTgH1Pgu-YeM8Y5DRxfbl7yRpi58s7XVqHwZT1YlXH50GncG6ZtWFhNt2n0hqv-adKhbDk5knhR0MuelTsP-1uSuRmqP0ZcLgXBjMEY23vS9K57wlbn0u30wkxaA3CIeUQlyCUL1Q4ChQd89tEY6WxYmdLD5HxvDdw2).  **ENDS**   ​   **Notes to Editors**  With the unanimous backing of its councillors, the council declared a climate emergency for Basingstoke and Deane on 10 September 2019, which included an ambitious target to work towards a net zero carbon borough by December 2030.  The creation of the Basingstoke and Deane Green Team was approved at Council in February 2023 as part of setting the council’s budget for 2023/24.  Following this, the council submitted a successful bid to the Government’s Local Energy Advice Demonstrator programme. This included a request for additional funding to support its Green Team to provide specialist energy advice to residents.  The additional £197,000 funding boost was provided to the council by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority on behalf of the Greater South East Net Zero Hub, which was awarded a grant by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to support local energy advice projects.  The funding supports projects until March 2025 that deliver face-to-face advice to people who need the most help to make their home more energy efficient. This includes those who do not regularly use the internet or who own a property that is difficult to improve.  Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is one of seven successful applicants to be awarded government funding to support a pilot project exploring innovative approaches to providing in-person home energy advice to people in the Greater South East region. A total of 36 projects are set to be delivered across England.  For further information on this release please contact Engagement and Communications Officer Chris Pritchard on 01256 845214 or email [chris.pritchard@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:chris.pritchard@basingstoke.gov.uk)   Media enquiries line 01256 845220 or email [communications@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:communications@basingstoke.gov.uk)   Facebook [www.facebook.com/BasingstokeGov](http://tracking.basingstoke.gov.uk/tracking/click?d=eTYXvB42KXhectb-sCDwFOi3cMmxll5BaNIzKGZBO3DZBTpsGmomuV3GP2ATCvIk9huvX66MGdvJ_oYSN6km4LvBr1afkz0Nu8_hdsmmRQ5wG8_qW1igo9S-eGD5RnyJGVuPltfQMfhGQRuQRPTpp-01)  Twitter [www.Twitter.com/BasingstokeGov](http://tracking.basingstoke.gov.uk/tracking/click?d=yY3YpeOd2eoBL0Xf2UO4ooO8M-rCi3wnEKjFh1PoyB3cXoo7gqEjAhDmQ8bx-4zagxa5Cm0fKLfhRDcbK21iIXPV2WzXvDtquP7ZGV7mbdu-Cc2kAugsCHkvGK09L94uwsnqEZb437nibLqIcPIqHVo1)  YouTube [www.youtube.com/@BasingstokeGov](http://tracking.basingstoke.gov.uk/tracking/click?d=zQMgPNCy6_BPf6d0nzyNKQ5rimyrB-eFG-RjCtVOvCQMUYhGR1j9ZdMcc1fBjIIgvtKSIrVHiHISJTRRIV0YSQH1VHZucwnsU5aQooIgVOhhCLl_RvgUbP2fR8NVeqAlodKYvyCo15wemOInck29uck1)  Sign up to receive email updates on council services, news and events at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/signup](http://tracking.basingstoke.gov.uk/tracking/click?d=iWoU1tD2mMcZYF9xSLQey3kOFX6AB_9_Lay4nPxlWLH6Ys0C2CcrOu_Y_0ejFnm1CT6Ev80zajBSNXKRyUAU9KAP3zd9WNj9ofTsizpAPBUyj6fa6VBeCPmjmpd5bC2zwqhMPlkYMqBAi7Uxh4-F3kI1) |
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Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH, United Kingdom

