



**East Hampshire  
Conservatives**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

15 Feb: immediate release

### **Whitehill & Bordon's insulation retrofit could be shape of things to come**

Conservative parliamentary candidate Damian Hinds has welcomed the initiative to help with energy efficiency improvements in homes in Whitehill & Bordon, and wants to see a much wider roll-out of the programme.

Under the Whitehill & Bordon scheme, the council will use grant funding from the government's 'Low Carbon Communities Challenge' to allow interest-free loans to homeowners to retrofit insulation and other energy-saving measures. The loans will be repaid from savings in energy bills.

If there is a change of government in a few months' time, this principle will be rolled out on a massive scale, in what the Tories call the 'Green Deal'. David Cameron's party plan to give every household in Britain the right to £6,500 worth of home energy efficiency improvements. The upfront costs will be financed by the commercial sector; and repaid over a period of up to 25 years through savings on energy bills. This will open up a whole new market in energy efficiency, create tens of thousands of skilled jobs and cut carbon emissions. It will also save families money and make homes warmer in winter - helping the elderly and 'fuel poor' in particular. A typical home could see around £20 a month knocked off its energy bills. Under the Green Deal the repayments would be attached to the energy bill, meaning there would be no restriction on moving house or changing energy supplier.

Damian Hinds says: "To tackle climate change effectively, we need to focus on the biggest contributing factors; home heating inefficiency is near the top of that list. Even better if people can see immediate benefits for themselves, too. That's a key point about the Green

Deal: it's about saving on bills as well as saving the world. I am delighted that East Hants is blazing the trail with this pilot programme in Whitehill & Bordon."

*ENDS*