

**BRIEFING NOTE
MANAGEMENT TEAM
DATE: 14 March 2023**

2023 Review of Tendring District Council Sandbag Policy.

(Briefing note prepared by Catherine Boyer-Besant)

Background

Due to the risk from coastal flooding and increasing incidents of surface water and groundwater flooding it is important that we have a clear, published policy outlining when the authority will provide sandbags to the community.

Proposal

The Tendring District Council Sandbag Policy is reviewed on an annual basis.

Only one word has been changed in this review, copy attached.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Tendring District Council Sandbag Policy 2023 is approved by Management Team.

Anastasia Simpson
Assistant Director, Partnerships



Responsibility

The public has a general expectation that in a period of likely flooding Local Authorities will make sandbags available. This is not the case. Members of the public have a responsibility to protect their own properties. If their property is in a known flood plain or they consider they are at risk of flooding, then they should purchase sandbags in advance from local building suppliers. Sandbags will only be issued by Tendring District Council in response to a request from Emergency Services.

Imminent flooding

If a property is at risk of being flooded, Tendring District Council will on request from Emergency Services endeavour to send sandbags. Sandbags will not be provided for the protection of gardens, outbuildings or other structures. Where Emergency Services are in attendance and make a request for sandbags, the Council will, if stocks permit, respond.

Shops, Businesses and Commercial Properties

The protection of shops, businesses and commercial properties is the responsibility of the owners or occupiers. They should undertake their own risk assessment and make provision for the supply and positioning of sandbags. The Council will where possible respond to requests from the Emergency Services to protect strategic properties until the arrival and support of the owners or occupiers.

Delivery / Disposal of Sandbags

At times of high flood risk the Council will endeavour, on request from the Emergency Services, deliver sandbags to occupied properties at imminent risk. However, this will not always be possible due to demand and / or weather conditions.

When sandbags are provided, they become the responsibility of the person receiving them. The Council will not accept liability for their placement; neither will the Council be responsible for collecting or disposing of issued sandbags

Charge for Sandbags

If there is a "Severe Flood Warning" issued or flooding is occurring there is no charge for sandbags from Tendring District Council. However, this deployment must be at the request of Emergency Services.

Note:

At times of actual or potential flooding owners of property look to ways that they might act to reduce the risks or impact on their property. The obvious quick fix is to try to prevent the ingress of water by providing a barrier of sandbags either around their property or at the portals to their buildings. Sandbags can be useful to deflect a flow of water but are not waterproof and therefore are generally ineffective in preventing standing water from entering a building. Water will also seep through the ground, airbricks and the brickwork itself. Caution must be exercised in using sandbags as differential water levels between the inside and outside of a building can induce structural failure.