



### **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 reasonable request from Emergency Services.

### **Imminent flooding**

If a property is at risk of being flooded, Tendring District Council will on receipt of a reasonable 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 reasonable 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 reasonable 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 receipt of a reasonable 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 in response to a reasonable request from 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.