

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee
DATE	3 September 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Report of the Property Level Flood Protection Scheme Uptake and Changes to the Property Level Protection Grant Scheme to increase percentage to be claimed
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/24/249
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Reilly
REPORT AUTHOR	Claire Royce
TERMS OF REFERENCE	7

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to report the uptake of the Property Level Protection Scheme and seek Committee approval to expand the current grant support in relation to increasing the percentage of costs and maximum amounts to be claimed. The scheme will reduce the impact on properties vulnerable to internal flooding.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee: -

- 2.1 Notes as of 12/08/2024 the uptake of the grant since 01/03/2023 is as follows.

	Enquires	Survey Grants applied for	Survey Grant Paid	Installation Grant Applied	Installation Grant Paid
Commercial	4	2	2	2	2
Amount Paid			£300		£5,000
Residential	7	4	3	2	2
Amount Paid			£450		£2,858

- 2.2 Approves that the existing Property Level Protection Grant Scheme be changed to allow an increase in the percentage to be claimed back for the installation of Flood Protection schemes to property, from 50% to 75% with effect from the date of the Committee decision.
- 2.3 Notes that costs will be covered from the remaining amount of the original £500,000 budget, recorded in the General Fund Capital Programme and standing at £451,000.

- 2.4 Authorises the Chief Officer – Operations Services to make grants of
- i) 75% of the cost of installing Property Level Protection up to a maximum of £7500 per commercial property over 200m² ground floor area; and
 - ii) 75% of the cost of installing Property Level Protection up to a maximum of £3750 per commercial property less than 200m² ground floor area
 - iii) 75% of the cost of installing Property Level Protection up to a maximum of £3750 per domestic property
- to eligible property owners on receipt of proof of expenditure.
- 2.5 Instructs the Chief Officer – Operations Services to monitor take up of the grant and to report back to the Committee in the form of a service update in Spring 2026 ahead of the Council Budget meeting.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Aberdeen City Council currently offers a Property Level Protection Grant Scheme to help owners protect their property from flooding. Domestic properties that meet the criteria can receive a grant for a Flood Protection survey of £150 and a grant up to 50% of the installation cost up to a maximum of £2,500. Commercial Properties that meet the criteria can receive a grant for a Flood Protection survey of £150 and a grant up to 50% of the cost of installing Property Level Protection up to a maximum of £5000 per property over 200m² ground floor area; and 50% of the cost of installing Property Level Protection up to a maximum of £2500 per property less than 200m² ground floor area. The approved budget from 2016/17 to 2020/21 was £500,000.
- 3.2 Over the previous years the uptake of the grant has been very slow and less than 20% of the budget has been spent.
- 3.3 Given the significant remaining budget and the low uptake, it is thought that increasing the percentage to be claimed back may encourage applications while costs have increased due to price rises.
- 3.4 All properties must meet at least one of the following criteria to be eligible for the grants; 1) The property has been internally flooded previously and actual damage has been sustained 2) The property is located on an area in risk of flooding shown on the SEPA flooding maps. 3) The property is located on an area in risk of flooding shown on the Integrated Catchment Model.
- 3.5 The installation grant will be paid out retrospectively based on proof of expenditure.
- 3.6 The grants will be a first come first served basis up to the budget allocated.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 While there will be financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report due to increasing the percentage of total cost to be claimed, the cost will be covered from the remaining amount of the original £500,000 budget. The remaining budget is recorded in the General Fund Capital Programme and stands at £451,000.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Appropriate grant documentation will be entered into.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The installation of Property Level Protection to residential and commercial properties will increase resilience and support climate change adaptation.

6.2 The installation of Property Level Protection to residential and commercial properties will reduce internal flood risk to these properties.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	N/A			N/A
Compliance	Properties are awarded grants when they do not meet the criteria.	The application process is set out on the website and all applications are approved by a senior officer.	Low	Yes
Operational	N/A	Installation and Maintenance of the PLP will be the property owner's responsibility	Low	N/A
Financial	No additional budget will be required	Remaining budget of approximately £451,000 will be used	Low	Yes
Reputational	No significant risk. The expansion		Low	Yes

	of the PLP in relation to increasing the percentage to be claimed will have positive reputation to ACC.			
Environment / Climate	No significant Risk. The installation of Property Level Protection to properties will have positive impact (increases resilience, climate change adaptation and reduce flood risk)		Low	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26	
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The proposal within the report supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 13 - Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. The proposal seeks the approval of expanding the existing PLP Grant Scheme in relation to increasing the percentage to be claimed of vulnerable to flooding properties to increase resilience and support climate change adaptation, however it does not impact on carbon emissions.
Regional and City Strategies	

1) ABERDEEN ADAPTS – Aberdeen’s Climate Adaptation Framework	The proposals within this report support ABERDEEN ADAPTS-Aberdeen’s Climate Adaptation Framework and North East Flood Risk Management Strategy by recommending an increase in percentage to be claimed for properties to apply for current PLP Grant Scheme which will help to reduce flood risk and increase resilience.
2) North East Flood Risk Management Strategy	

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Completed and submitted to the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion team. The proposal will have only positive impacts.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee 08.11.2017 [CHI.17.251 Revision Property Level Flood Protection Grant Scheme.pdf \(aberdeencity.gov.uk\)](#)
- 10.2 Flood Risk Management Plan 20 North East Local Plan District 2022-2028 [Flood risk management plans 2021 \(sepa.org.uk\)](#) & Local Flood Risk Management Plans located in the following link: [Flood Risk Management Plans | Aberdeen City Council](#)
- 10.3 Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee 07.03.2023 [RES 23 058 - NZETC - Property Level Protection Report.pdf \(aberdeencity.gov.uk\)](#)

11. APPENDICES

None

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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