

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure
DATE	29 August 2013
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Flood Management – Flood Guard Grant Scheme
REPORT NUMBER	EPI/13/129

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report has been produced in response to the motion raised by Councillor Malone on 21 May 2013 re installation of flood guards

The motion requested that

"In view of the recent floods experienced by many households throughout the city, I request that we follow the good practice of other local authorities by supplying affected households with appropriate flood guards that should have a useable life of around 15-25 years, instead of sandbags. I recognise that this would mean a change in policy, therefore I would request that officer's report back to the appropriate committee with a report comparing the labour costs etc"

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

1. agrees to the instigation of a grant for the provision of flood guards
2. agree that, subject to suitable funds being made available through the annual budget process, a sum up to a maximum of £50,000 be provided for the next 5 years to manage the project and approve the grant expenditures.
3. agree that, subject to a budget provision, a grant of 50% of the cost of installation of flood guards up to a maximum of £1,250 per property be made to affected property owners on receipt of proof of expenditure.
4. to instruct officer to monitor the take up on this provision and to report back to the committee at a future date

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An annual sum, to be capped at a maximum of £50,000, subject to suitable funds being made available in the annual budget process be provided to assist with the purchase and installation of flood guards to properties affected by the effects of flooding.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The award of a grant will reduce the requirement to provide sandbags to properties whilst reducing the risk of flooding to properties.

The alleviation of flooding problems relates to item 9 of the Single Outcome Agreement – ‘We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger’

5.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Aberdeen City Council are fully complying with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, however there are properties within the city which have experienced flooding problems, some on a regular basis, for which there is no prospect of a permanent solution in the short to medium term.

In these circumstances Aberdeen City Council provide sandbags to owners of properties which are liable to be flooded in a predicted flood event.

The average cost of supplying approx 20 sandbags and collecting after the (predicted) flood event is approximately £60 per property. This figure is high because in most instances the sandbags are made available for collection from one of the Roads depots, delivery usually only takes place during periods of high rainfall.

Current SEPA Flooding Maps show that in a 1:200 year flood approximately 400-500 properties will be affected, looking at the flooding instances around the 23rd December 2013 many of the properties affected were not on SEPA’s map but were caused by the culvert pipework being unable to cope with the high flows.

The average cost of supplying (excluding fitting) of flood guard products is as follows:

Domestic door guard	£500	x 2 =	£1,000
Garage door guard	£1000	x 1 =	£1,000
Air brick cover	£50	x 6 =	£ 300
Non-return valve	£100	x 1 =	<u>£ 100</u>
			<u>£2,400</u>

Probable cost to provide flood guards to known properties would be approx **£1,200,000**

In Moray, flood guards are to be issued **in lieu of a flood defence** scheme in one specific area and the average cost was approx £2500 per property.

Although there is no statutory obligation to do so other Local Authorities make discretionary ex-gratia payments to assist with the purchase of flood guards.

It is proposed that Aberdeen City Council implement a similar scheme.

On this basis it is therefore proposed to provide a grant of up to a maximum of 50% of this average cost i.e. £1250 per property for the owner to purchase and install flood guards.

The actual grant would be paid out respectively on the basis of proof of expenditure.

This grant would be set at an annual fixed sum available on a “first come, first served basis” until the annual limit is reached.

Each application would be assessed individually and the following qualifying criteria would apply:

- a) The property has been flooded previously and actual property/contents damage has been sustained.
- b) There is an ongoing risk of flooding to the property and there is no permanent solution available financially in the short term.
- c) The installation of flood guards would reduce the future risk of damage to the property.

6.0 IMPACT

An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment was not carried out on this proposal as there are no negative impacts anticipated on any particular group with the protected characteristics.

The Council shall ensure that any information published on the scheme/grant will be in accessible formats and translated versions made available on request.

7.0 REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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