

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| <b>COMMITTEE</b>          | Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee  |
| <b>DATE</b>               | 7 March 2023   |
| <b>EXEMPT</b>             | No   |
| <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>       | No   |
| <b>REPORT TITLE</b>       | Expansion of the Property Level Protection Grant Scheme to include commercial properties |
| <b>REPORT NUMBER</b>      | RES/23/058   |
| <b>DIRECTOR</b>           | Steven Whyte   |
| <b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>      | Mark Reilly  |
| <b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>      | Claire Royce   |
| <b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b> | 7  |

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to expand the current grant support for a Property Level Flood Protection Scheme in relation to domestic properties to include commercial properties. The scheme will reduce the impact on commercial properties vulnerable to internal flooding.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Agrees that the existing Property Level Protection Grant Scheme be expanded to include commercial properties with effect from the date of the Committee decision;
- 2.2 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 £460,000;
- 2.3 Authorises the Chief Officer – Operations and Protective Services to make grants for Flood Protection Surveys of
- i) £200 per qualifying property over 200m<sup>2</sup> ground floor area; and
  - ii) £150 per qualifying property less than 200m<sup>2</sup> ground floor area
- to eligible commercial property owners;
- 2.4 Authorises the Chief Officer – Operations and Protective Services to make grants of
- i) 50% of the cost of installing Property Level Protection up to a maximum of £5000 per property over 200m<sup>2</sup> ground floor area; and
  - ii) 50% of the cost of installing Property Level Protection up to a maximum of £2500 per property less than 200m<sup>2</sup> ground floor area

to eligible commercial property owners on receipt of proof of expenditure; and

- 2.5 Instructs the Chief Officer – Operations and Protective Services to monitor take up of the grant and to report back to the Committee in September 2024.

### **3. CURRENT SITUATION**

- 3.1 Aberdeen City Council currently offers a Property Level Protection Grant Scheme to help residents 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. 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 Over the previous years, a number of commercial properties were interested in the scheme, however they were rejected given the scheme was only for domestic properties.
- 3.4 Given the significant remaining budget, the low uptake from residents of domestic properties and the adequate interest from commercial property owners, it is recommended to expand the remaining budget of the scheme to include commercial properties.
- 3.5 A domestic property has to meet at least one of the following criteria to be eligible for the grants; 1) The property has to have been internally flooded previously and actual damage has to have 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. The commercial properties will have to meet the same criteria as the domestic properties to be eligible for the grant.
- 3.6 Commercial properties over 200m<sup>2</sup> ground floor area will receive a grant of up to 50% of the installation cost of Property Level Protection up to a maximum of £5000. For commercial properties less than 200m<sup>2</sup> ground floor area the grant will be 50% of the installation cost of Property Level Protection up to a maximum of £2500.
- 3.7 Commercial properties over 200m<sup>2</sup> ground floor area may apply for £200 per property to cover the cost of a survey to determine if property level protection will be suitable for the property as well as the type of protection that could be installed. For commercial properties less than 200m<sup>2</sup> ground floor area the grant will be up to £150.
- 3.8 The installation grant would be paid out retrospectively on the basis of proof of expenditure.
- 3.9 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 as opening up the scheme to commercial properties may increase the number of grants approved, 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 £460,000.

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Appropriate grant documentation will be entered into.

#### 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The installation of Property Level Protection to commercial properties will increase resilience and support climate change adaptation.
- 6.2 The installation of Property Level Protection to 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)<br><br>*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 £460,000 will be used  | Low   | Yes   |
| Reputational   | No significant risk. The expansion                                |  | Low   | Yes   |

|                              |   |  |     |     |
|------------------------------|---|--|-----|-----|
|                              | of the PLP to commercial properties will have positive reputation to ACC.   |  |     |     |
| <b>Environment / Climate</b> | No significant Risk. The installation of Property Level Protection to commercial properties will have positive impact (increases resilience, climate change adaptation and reduce flood risk) |  | Low | Yes |

## 8. OUTCOMES

| <a href="#">Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</a>           |   |
|--|---|
| 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 to vulnerable to flooding commercial properties to increase resilience and support climate change adaptation, however it does not impact on carbon emissions. |
| <b>Regional and City Strategies</b><br>1) ABERDEEN ADAPTS – Aberdeen's Climate | The proposals within this report support ABERDEEN ADAPTS-Aberdeen's Climate Adaptation Framework and North East Flood Risk Management Strategy by recommending commercial properties to   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Adaptation Framework<br>2) North East Flood Risk Management Strategy | apply for current PLP Grant Scheme which will help to reduce flood risk and increase resilience. |
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## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment                        | Outcome      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Integrated Impact Assessment      | Not required |
| 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](#)

## 11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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