

## **East Devon District Council**

# **Policy for the Delivery of Sandbags to Town and Parish Councils**

### **Reviewed**

There is no current written policy. The service has developed over the years through custom and practice.

### **Policy Approval**

Executive Board – recommended approval - 13 September 2006.  
Council – 11 October 2006

### **Reasons for introducing the Policy**

To assist the public, by enabling them to protect their properties from some flooding; this is carried out by working in partnership with the Town and Parish Councils.

### **Policy Statement**

The current custom and practice of this Council is to provide filled or unfilled sandbags to Town and Parish Councils once a year. A letter is sent to each Town or Parish, in August, asking them to inform the Council of their requirements for sandbags for that coming winter. The Council will then deliver the request to one address in each Town or Parish.

The Town or Parish is responsible for supplying these bags to their residents. If a request to this authority is received from an individual resident, then that resident is directed to their Town / Parish Council.

In the last two years, on average, thirty –five requests per annum have been received from Town and Parish Councils. Approximately fifty percent of these requests have been for empty sand bags.

During an emergency, further supplies can be collected from StreetScene Depots during normal working hours.

This service is provided to help facilitate individual members of the public in protecting their properties from flooding in severe weather conditions. Many of these properties could be in areas that are prone to flooding when it is raining heavily.

### **Terms Explained**

There are no terms to explain.

## **How will we go about it?**

- Upon request provide empty sandbags free of charge to Towns and Parish Councils. Members of the public can arrange to collect these from their Town / Parish Council and the individual member of public will be responsible for filling and utilising the bags.
- The Customer Service Centre is able to direct enquiries to the relevant Town or Parish.

## **Specific Policy Areas**

With increasing flooding events and a perceived increase in requests for sandbags it is anticipated that this service will grow. It has been found that filled sand bags have a limited shelf life unless they are kept under cover in dry conditions. Unfortunately, there is insufficient inside storage capacity available and often filled bags will need to be replaced even if they have not been used.

The Council will only provide empty sandbags, to Parish / Town Councils annually. Letters will be written to Parish and Town Councils in August / September offering a supply of empty sandbags for their and their residents use. The sandbags can be collected from the Council or if preferred they can be delivered to one address in that Town / Parish. During an emergency, further supplies can be collected from StreetScene Depots during normal working hours.

Past experience indicates that residents have tended to prefer empty sandbags. This is because they can be more easily stored and utilised when required. The resident does not have to rely on the Council to provide sandbags at inconvenient times, which could increase the risk of flooding to their property. The empty sandbags can be filled by the residents when they are required.

## **Outcomes**

- Provide a customer focused service.
- Assist in the protection of the public realm from the result of adverse weather.

## **Who is responsible for delivery?**

The Officers who have an emergency planning role within their job specification are responsible for ensuring that this service is delivered annually.

## **Performance Monitoring**

Not applicable, the service delivery is once per annum upon requests received from the relevant Town or Parish Council.

## **Policy Consultation**

This policy has been consulted upon with the Assistant Portfolio holder and the relevant officers.

## **Policy Review**

The Emergency Planning Officer will review this policy in August 2007.

## **Related Policies and Strategies**

None