

Current Policy on the Provision of Sandbags and Sandbagging Operations

The responsibility for protecting property during a flood rests with the property owner and there is no statutory duty for a Local Authority to provide sandbags. However, the Council may, where resources and priorities allow, react to anticipated or reported incidents and provide assistance including sandbagging operations where such action can reduce the flood inundation.

For health and safety reasons, access to Council depots will be controlled and limited. The Council may distribute pallets of sandbags to strategic points to allow the public to help themselves during flooding events. Locations will be advised by, for example, press releases, the Council's web site or via the Contact Centre. Individuals who, due to for example age or disability, need assistance with accessing sandbags for self help at strategic points, should get in touch with the Council to request assistance.

The Council will not generally provide sandbags in advance to communities at risk of flood inundation as a precautionary measure unless the forecast conditions and/or SEPA indicate a high level of risk.

Property owners are strongly advised to make prior preparations for protecting their own property as flood incidents can occur with little warning and can be widespread.

Any individual wishing to purchase sandbags for private use should do so from a local builder's merchants or garden centres.

The Council encourages individuals to be prepared for emergencies, including flooding.

Information on preparing for emergencies is available at www.readyscotland.org/athome/ and on flood awareness and preparation at www.sepa.org.uk/flooding.

There are more effective means of property level protection than sandbags and the Council recommends consulting the independent Scottish Flood Forum (www.scottishfloodforum.org) and seeking competent professional advice on which products are most suitable for each individual property.

The Council encourages people to sign up with SEPA's flood warning service to receive automatic advance flood warnings for their area – see www.floodlinescotland.org.uk.