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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Cabinet Member Housing and Safer Communities
<b>DATE:</b>	16 May 2022
<b>SERVICE AREA:</b>	Safer Communities
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Head of Safer Communities (Dean Richardson)
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Update Of Sandbag Policy</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	ALL DISTRICT
<b>FORWARD PLAN REF:</b>	N/A

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**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek endorsement of the updated HBC Sandbag Policy.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 To endorse the updated HBC Sandbag Policy.

**3.0 RECOMMENDED REASON FOR DECISION**

3.1 To endorse the continued support to the communities within Harrogate district with the provision of sandbags to residents at imminent risk of flooding.

**4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR REJECTION**

4.1 Discontinue the provision of sandbags to residents. There is no statutory duty to do so, however impacts on supporting residents who may become displaced would place additional statutory duties on the authority that outweigh the possible preventative measure of sandbag deployment.

**5.0 THE REPORT**

5.1 Harrogate Borough Council has maintained a policy of providing sandbags to residents at immediate risk of flooding in support of the most vulnerable during a flood event. The original policy appears to have been absorbed into 'Customer Service Action pages.

5.2 Harrogate Borough Council has enjoyed a close relationship with its most vulnerable flood risk communities. Working together we have developed a network of sandbag stores in key risk areas, allowing for a responsive

deployment by the community. This in turn results in a better understanding of the local risk areas and provides a local level of control over the assets.

5.3 There is a central sandbag store at the Claro Road depot which allows the council to deploy directly with sandbags if we have to respond to calls for assistance.

5.4 The updated policy provides greater clarity around the process for sandbag deployment and can be used to support enquiries from staff, members and the public around sandbag use. This will also allow clearer understanding for transition through LGR to the new council, clearly outlining our current arrangements.

## **6.0 REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The following were considered: Financial; Human Resources; Legal and ICT implications; Strategic Property/Asset Management Considerations; Risk Assessment; Equality and Diversity (the Public Sector Equality Duty and impact upon people with protected characteristics). If applicable, the outcomes of any consultations, assessments, considerations and implications considered necessary during preparation of this report.

## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 This Policy has been updated to reflect the developed approach that has been adopted by HBC for the distribution of sandbags in support of the most vulnerable during a flood event. By empowering communities while also still retaining a response ourselves, we potentially reduce the additional impacts to the authority of supporting displaced communities. While sandbags may not be the most effective means of flood mitigation, they can support the response and can have a positive impact both reputationally and on local morale through engagement with the council during times of need.

**Background Papers – None.**

**OFFICER CONTACT:** Please contact Dean Richardson if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The Officer can be contacted by e-mail at [dean.richardson@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:dean.richardson@harrogate.gov.uk)