

## **Annex C: Blaby District Council Sandbag Policy**

Blaby District Council does not have a statutory duty to provide residents with sandbags and maintain only limited stocks for the following reasons:

- Sandbags provide only limited protection against flooding and are relatively ineffective when compared with purpose designed flood protection products
- Transportation and the correct positioning of sandbags on a timely basis (before flooding has occurred) often prove difficult, particularly in the event of widespread disruption
- Sandbags have a limited shelf life
- Flood sacks once used are not suitable for long term protection
- There is limited space to store sandbags
- It is the responsibility of the property owner to dispose of used sandbags

### **Priorities**

Blaby District Council will attempt to make any stock available in line with the following priorities:

1. To protect life, critical infrastructure and buildings, for example hospitals and substations.
2. To protect elderly, disabled and vulnerable residents.
3. To the Emergency Services

### **Private and Commercial Property**

The primary responsibility for protecting property from the risk of flooding rests with the property owner. Blaby District Council urges those living within areas identified as being at risk from flooding to follow the advice of the Environment Agency to protect their homes.

Where capacity and resources allow Blaby District Council **MAY** be able to provide sandbags to private and commercial properties, however there is no guarantee that this service will be provided during flooding events as resources will be deployed in line with above priorities.

Note: Sandbags will NOT be made available for the protection of gardens, outbuildings or garages.

### **Purchasing Sandbags and Flood Defences**

Sandbags, sand or appropriate replacement materials can often be purchased from DIY stores and builders' merchants.

The 'Blue Pages' is an independent directory of property flood products and services put together to advise and inform you of what's available to help reduce the risk of flooding to your home or business.

## **Additional Information**

[The Environment Agency](#) - Advice on flood risk, protecting your home (including how to build a sandbag wall) and flood information services.

Contact: 0845 988 1188 / ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk))

[National Flood Forum](#) - A national charity, run by victims of flooding. They offer impartial advice on flooding issues.

Contact: 01299 403055 / ([www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk))

The '[Blue Pages](#)' - A directory of tried and tested flood protection products.

([www.bluepages.org.uk](http://www.bluepages.org.uk))

## **Additional Information**

Water activated sandbags can be purchased from the Council subject to availability. Charges may vary and are currently £10 per 1.5 metre water activated sandbag.

To help reduce the risk of flooding and information on what to do before, during, and after a flood incident please read the guidance document: [Flooding advice for the public](#) (PDF Document, 5.3 Mb)