



Subject:	Installation of sandbag containers
Date:	5 th April 2022
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Trevor McDonald Emergency Planning Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members to consider the locating of three new sandbag containers on Council land as part of a Multi – Agency partnership approach to help mitigate and support communities across Belfast impacted by flooding.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider the proposal in this report to locate three new sandbag containers at Stockmans Lane, Shore Road and Ardoyne Community Centre. This proposal will enhance community resilience within flooding ‘hot spot’ areas, support residents, Elected Members and Community Groups to be more resilient in times of potential flooding.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Emergency Planning working with partner agencies within the Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG), specifically DFI Rivers have identified three new locations which would benefit from sandbag containers across Belfast.</p> <p>Site 1. - Stockman's Lane (Musgrave Park)</p> <p>Site 2. - Shore Road, Shore Road Playing Fields (green space beside existing container)</p> <p>Site 3. - Ardoyne Community Centre (All Maps/photos included in Appendix 1).</p>
3.2	<p>The Stockman's Lane area is prone to flooding. In February 2021 emergency services responding to property flooding in this area and DFI Rivers deployed urgent sandbag deliveries to protect properties. This area has experienced flash flooding on a regular basis over the past number of years.</p>
3.3	<p>The Shore Road location has been a problem area for flooding in recent years particularly around the Whitewell Rd and Shore Rd area. Locating a container at this site would cover off sandbag availability to residents at risk from flooding in this part of North Belfast.</p>
3.4	<p>During August 2021 the Ardoyne Community area suffered flash flooding and approx. 200 sandbags were deployed by BCC Open Spaces and Street Scene Staff to protect homes. Since this flash flooding episode in August 2021 multi-agency debrief meetings have been held with partner agencies and Elected Members. Due to the topography of Ardoyne this location can be prone to flash flooding and over the past few years Emergency Planning and OSS have had to support Elected Members and residents with requests for sandbag deliveries to protect homes. The location of a sandbag container in the grounds of Ardoyne Community Centre will help to support the local community to protect their homes.</p>
3.5	<p>Once containers are put in place Regional Community Resilience Group members will engage with residents to establish Community Resilience groups in these areas. There is the possibility of using existing community groups to enhance this community resilience work.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Emergency Planning have completed site visits with colleagues from DFI Rivers and OSS at Stockman's Lane and Shore Road locations. Provisional locations for containers on both sites have been agreed in principle subject to necessary approvals.</p>

3.7	In December 2021 the Emergency Planning Team visited Ardoyne with DFI Rivers and NI Water colleagues. Following on from this site visit liaison has taken place with colleagues in Community Provision to agree the location of a container within the centre carpark.
3.8	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>DFI Rivers will provide three metal containers measuring 8ft x 12 ft and stock with sandbags. Emergency Planning have liaised with BCC colleagues regarding proposed costs for site works, including ground works and installation 2 x concrete bases for the proposed containers at Stockman's Lane and Shore Road. Estimated costs of £2,000 per site (£4,000 total)</p>
3.9	It is not anticipated that the installation of the container at Ardoyne Community Centre will have any cost implications
3.10	Emergency Planning propose to finance these installations within their 2022 - 2023 budget expenditure.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.11	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix A – Proposed site location maps of new sandbag containers.</p> <p>Appendix B – Existing sandbag containers located on BCC land.</p>