

SOMERSET COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS MEMBER / OFFICER DECISION RECORD

KEY DECISION RECORD

Somerset Council new Sandbag Policy

Executive Member(s): Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change

Local Member(s) and Division: All

Lead Officer: Sean Papworth

Authors: Carwyn Jones and Nicola Dawson

Contact Details: carwyn.jones@somerset.gov.uk and nicola.dawson@somerset.gov.uk

Date of decision: 5 March 2023

Date of publication of decision: 5 March 2023

Date decision comes into force: 13 March 2023

Following consideration of the officer report and appendices the Lead Member agreed the following recommendations (noting officer advice on an administrative clarification that the published recommendations be amended to replace 'householders' with 'homeowners, tenants in private rented houses and housing association properties' and 'assets' with 'assets including Council Houses which are owned and operated by Somerset Council' to ensure clarity of the decision being agreed)

1. Lead Member Key Decision

The Executive Lead Member Environment and Climate Change agreed:

- a. Somerset Council should not provide sandbags or equivalents to homeowners, tenants in private rented houses, housing association properties and businesses.
- b. Somerset Council should retain a strategic sandbag stockpile to protect its assets including council housing which are owned and operated by Somerset Council during emergency situations.
- c. Somerset Council should coordinate and deliver a robust communications programme to explain the changes to town, parish councils and residents regarding the provision of sandbags allowing communities to adjust their arrangements.

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Signed by:

Cllr Dixie Darch

The Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change

2. **Reason for Decision(s)**
As set out in the Officer's report.
3. **Reason(s) for Urgency**
None.
4. **Details of any alternative options considered and rejected**
As set out in the attached report.
5. **Any relevant Personal Interest that the Lead Member may have under the Council's Code of Conduct for Members**
None.
6. **Details of any conflict(s) of interest declared by a Lead Member consulted about the proposals and any dispensation from Chief Executive**
None.
7. **Other background information considered by the Lead Member and Officer before making this decision.**
Comments and representations from Somerset Council Elected Members.