



Policy for determining the eligibility for a Property Level Resilience Grant

Introduction

Devon County Council (DCC) is committed to increasing community resilience in Devon and is supported by DEFRA to deliver property level resilience measures. Working closely with a number of partners, DCC aims to help individual property owners be better equipped with the tools and basic defence measures they need to be able to deal with flooding. The purpose of this policy is to set out a number of criteria that will be used to determine whether a homeowner is eligible for a property level resilience grant of up to £5000.

There is limited funding, with an annual allocation to be made available each year. Other opportunities will be considered throughout the year as and when they arise. Applications will be prioritised based on the criteria set out below in order to maximize the number of properties benefitting from this opportunity.

About the Grant

The Property Level Resilience (PLR) Grant can be used to help fund the provision of resistance measures that will help reduce the risk of flooding to individual properties. The grant will be paid retrospectively to the homeowner's chosen contractor, on completion of works, providing approval from DCC has been sought. DCC cannot recommend a specific contractor, however, a list of contractors can be found at <http://www.bluepages.org.uk>.

Any costs over and above the maximum grant amount must be topped up by the homeowner. Decisions regarding the eligibility of homeowners will be made by DCC's Flood & Coastal Risk Management team. Further information and advice can be found on the Devon Communities Together webpages, including information on community resilience available in your area, at the following link: <http://www.devoncommunities.org.uk>. More general information about protecting your property can also be found on <http://www.centre4resilience.org/>

A survey will be required prior to agreement of works, which will be funded by DCC from the Grant allocation, following the Prioritisation Process. Homeowners are welcome to carry out the survey prior to application, at their own expense, if they feel that it would benefit their application.

While DCC will be able to provide advice and support with regards to choosing the most suitable protection for the homeowner, it should be noted that the homeowner is free to select whichever option they prefer, subject to costs being approved by the Council. However, this is done entirely at the homeowner's own risk, and DCC is not liable if the chosen PLR is not suitable in preventing flooding in the future. Unless approved by the Council in advance, the homeowner should always select the most cost effective option quoted to them.

DCC will endeavour to package works in nearby locations to ensure efficiency and the possibility of delivering PLR to a greater number of properties. If there are a number of applications for a specific area, it may be beneficial for DCC to consider alternative improvements or minor works, as opposed to providing PLR.

Some of the types of PLR equipment that could be installed using funding provided by DCC are as follows.

1. Flood resistant doors
2. Temporary or demountable barriers
3. Pumps
4. Airbricks/Airbrick Covers
5. Passive flood barriers
6. Flood safety doors

There is scope for homeowners to use the funding towards other alternatives, such as deflection walls/bunds, however this would be subject to full Council approval prior to commencement.

If for any reason, your circumstances change, following submission of an application (i.e. you have experienced additional flooding, you have received PLR from elsewhere, etc.), then please update DCC on floodrisk@devon.gov.uk or contact 01392 383000 and ask for Flood Risk.



Criteria

In order to qualify for a grant towards Property Level Resilience, a homeowner must meet a certain number of criteria. Further supporting information will also need to be provided to assist prioritisation of applications, ensuring that those who are in greater need of PLR will be allocated funding for it. If a homeowner qualifies for the scheme and leads to the provision of resilience measures on their property, the Council will provide the agreed amount direct to the contractor upon completion of the works and evidence of the installation has been received. No funding will be paid direct to the property owner or their representative/agent.

PLR is normally considered as a last resort where it is unlikely that the property will benefit in the near future from any more permanent catchment or community wide flood improvements. The provision of PLR may also reduce the benefit of providing any further investment of flood improvements in the near future. However, if the homeowner meets all the eligibility criteria and is considered high on the prioritisation list, then the provision of funding can be justified.

In order to be eligible for PLR, you must meet the following criteria. Applications that do not meet these criteria will not be considered:

1. You must have been affected by internal flooding or be considered to be at very high risk of flooding
 - a. Internal flooding is defined as water flowing into a building or household. A garage may only be included in this definition if the garage is integral to the house and not separate. Gardens and driveways are classed as external property flooding and are not included in this grant application.
 - b. External flooding is not considered a priority for DCC.
2. You must be willing/able to top-up the given grant if the quote for PLR is more than £5000
3. You must be able to provide evidence of the extent of the flooding, such as photographic proof.
4. You must not also be applying for PLR funding through another scheme or grant.
5. You must be willing/able to obtain at least two quotes from contractors and seek approval from DCC before installation commences. (Special arrangements will be considered to provide assistance to those unable to arrange works with the contractor/supplier)

Prioritisation

Eligibility does not guarantee that you will receive funding. With the limited budget available each year, DCC must prioritise applications to ensure those with the highest risk are allocated funding first. Applications received will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and the highest priority cases held at that time will be progressed. Priority will be given to those homeowners who:

1. Have flooded at least once in the last five years.
2. Do not have a flood management scheme nearby, or one soon to be delivered, that does/will provide direct benefit to the property
 - a. Consideration will be given to those who have a flood management scheme proposed nearby that is unlikely to be constructed in the near future.
3. Are in Flood Zones 2 or 3, as shown by the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea)
 - a. <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby>
4. Are determined to be at a high risk of flooding, as shown by the Environment Agency's Risk of Flooding maps (Rivers and Sea, Reservoirs and Surface Water).
 - a. <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby>
5. Have not had PLR provided previously.
6. Have vulnerable people in the household
7. Live in a high risk community, as determined by DCC.
8. Live in an area where neighbours have benefited from PLR in the past or have an interest in this grant opportunity.



What is not covered by this policy

DCC will have no responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the PLR provided. Any defects arising, following the installation, should be taken up with the contractor who supplied the products. In the event of a flood warning, it is the homeowner's responsibility to deploy the selected PLR equipment and ensure it is well maintained and working efficiently. With regards to this scheme, the Council exists solely to provide funding and advice.

Please refer to the disclaimer attached to the application form for more information about the responsibilities of both DCC and the homeowner.

How to apply

If you believe you meet the criteria laid out above and interested in applying for a grant to support the provision of flood resilience measures to your property, then you will need to complete the application form available on our website at the following address www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement

Alternatively, if you prefer or do not have access to the internet, we can send you a paper copy of the form. In this case you should contact the Flood & Coastal Risk Management team on 01392 383000 and ask for Flood Risk or send your address details to floodrisk@devon.gov.uk. For ease and efficiency, please title your email 'PLR Application Form Request'. Please allow at least 3 – 5 working days for your request to be processed and an application form sent out to you.

It is free to apply, and once you have completed the application form, return it to us using one of the two methods detailed on the form.

1. If you return the form by email, you will receive an email (normally within 2 working days) confirming receipt of your application.
2. If you posted the application to us, and have supplied an email address on your application, we will endeavor to send a confirmation email for these applications as well. Subject to demand it may not be possible to confirm receipt of all postal applications.

Following submission, your application will be reviewed, and your details entered into our priority list. All applications will be reviewed quarterly throughout the year and a suitable number of those considered to be high priority, relative to available resource and funding, will be progressed. DCC considers all incidents that have caused internal flooding to properties to be significant, however with the limited resource and funding together with the likely high number of application requests it is not possible to provide a timescale if or when any application will be determined. If your application is successful, we will contact you, in due course, to inform you of the next steps.

Please note:

1. **It is the responsibility of individual property owners to protect their homes from flooding and that this grant scheme aims to assist property owners in doing so.**
2. **Funding will be allocated subject to the number and priority of applications received and there can be no guarantee of funding being provided, even though the required criteria may have been met.**
3. **All grant payments will be made to the survey consultant and product supplier for the specific individual property. No funding will be paid direct to the property owner or their representative/agent.**
4. **This is a new initiative being made available by Devon County Council and may be subject to minor amendments as the scheme matures.**
5. **The decision of Devon County Council's prioritisation is final once allocations are approved and confirmed.**