

East Suffolk Resilience and Emergency Response Fund

Terms of Reference

Overview:

Using the £500,000 Reliance Reserve approved by Full Council on the 21 February 2024 a Resilience and Emergency Response Fund (RERF) will be established. This fund is designed to provide immediate **short term** financial assistance, and support to recovery operations, in areas of East Suffolk affected by future climate related emergency events.

Climate related emergencies could include:

Severe flooding events

Very high winds and widespread damage

Wildfires

Severe storms

Severe heatwave

Coastal erosion

The overall intention of this Resilience and Emergency Response Fund is:

- To provide short-term financial support to communities, working with and through Parish and Town Councils, with immediate recovery activities after a climate related emergency event.
- To provide the Council with the ability to be flexible and responsive to cover any additional costs, within reason, that the Council incurs immediately after an emergency event.

Approaches:

- Expenditure advanced from the Resilience and Emergency Response Fund to be approved by the Leader and or Cabinet Member responsible for Resources and Value for Money, in close consultation with the Chief Executive and or Chief Finance Officer.
- Disbursements must be made, wherever possible, to Town and Parish Councils in East Suffolk in consultation with the ward councillors.
- When disbursements are made in relation to an emergency situation, every effort must be made to recoup the funds from central government.
- Opportunities to 'match' with other emergency funding sources should be explored, e.g. Town Councils often have a small emergency fund, to achieve the best value for money possible.

Eligibility for spend:

- Spend can be made directly by the Council to an organisation, e.g. organise provision of skips.
- Direct grants can be awarded to local authority Town or Parish Councils or registered Voluntary Groups/charities, of up to £5,000, using a standard pre-drafted grant agreement.

- Household grants of £250 can be made to support households during and after a climate related emergency (pre agreed set of criteria).

Examples of support that could be provided by the fund: The nature of the support that could be provided is varied – given the wide range of emergency incidents that can occur from climate related emergencies. But to give a sense of the items that this fund could support:

- Temporary accommodation costs for up to 48 hours
- Disposal costs for damaged furniture/ carpets/ flooring
- Support for voluntary groups who can assist and coordinate recovery activities. For example, in Framlingham a local community group organised hot meals from local restaurants. These voluntary groups could potentially access grants from the fund.