

## PROPERTY FLOOD RESILIENCE GRANT CASE STUDY: **BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE**

The Property Flood Resilience Grant Scheme is administered at district level through local authorities and enables those affected by specific storms or flood events to apply for a non-repayable grant up to the value of £5,000 including VAT. This grant is to be used for making homes and businesses more prepared for, and resilient to the effects of future flooding.

### BACKGROUND

This case study highlights the experience of a resident from Burnley, Lancashire, whose property first flooded during Storm Eva in December 2015, resulting in damage to internal flooring, furniture, and personal belongings. Although eligible for the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Grant Scheme, they chose not to proceed with resilience measures, believing the event to be exceptionally rare and wishing to avoid further disruption following repair works.

However, during Storms Ciara and Denis in February 2020, the property flooded for a second time. Following the reintroduction of the PFR Grant Scheme, The Flood Hub People (previously Newground) supported Burnley Borough Council and affected residents in accessing funding and implementing flood resilience measures. As the resident had not previously taken up the grant, they were eligible to apply again and chose to use the funding to help protect their home from future flooding.

### HOW WE HELPED

Working in partnership with Burnley Borough Council, The Flood Hub People carried out a Property Flood Resilience Survey of the resident's home. Due to their age and mobility requirements, measures requiring manual deployment, such as flood barriers and air brick covers, were not considered suitable. Appropriate resilience options were discussed, including installation costs and ongoing maintenance requirements, enabling the resident to make an informed decision.



Image: The Flood Hub People

Once the proposed measures and quotations were approved by Burnley Borough Council, the resident received the grant funding in full, allowing orders to be placed and installation works to be scheduled.

## RESULT

The resident proceeded with the installation of:

- 2x single flood doors
- 1x set of flood French doors
- 4x automatic self-closing air bricks
- 4x non-return valves fitted to wastewater outlet pipes
- Sealing of pipework and cable entry points around the property.



Image: The Flood Hub People



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Although the cost of the flood resilience measures exceeded the value of the grant, the resident was willing to make the required contribution, recognising the long-term benefits of protecting their property and gaining greater peace of mind.

As Property Flood Resilience Grant Schemes are typically introduced in response to specific flood events, there is no guarantee that funding will be available following future incidents. Reflecting on their experience, the resident believes they would have benefited from taking up the grant after the first flood and feels fortunate that funding was available when their property flooded for a second time.



Image: The Flood Hub People

Reflecting on their experience, the resident encourages others living in flood-risk areas to invest in property flood resilience measures wherever possible. They also recommend making full use of any grant funding available following a flood event, having seen first-hand the benefits that such measures can provide.