

To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

From: Katie Stewart, Director of Environment, Planning and Enforcement

Subject: Environment Agency and Met Office Alerts and Warnings and KCC flood response activity since last meeting.

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To update Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on Environment Agency and Met Office Alerts and Warnings, and flood response activity since the last meeting of the Committee on 13th November 2017. Members are requested to note this report.

1. Background

1.1 KCC Resilience and Emergency Planning Service and Contact Point receive Environment Agency and Met Office alerts and warnings by e-mail on a 24 hour basis. Potential impacts upon communities, infrastructure and the wider environment are then assessed and a response mobilised as required.

1.2 Some 70,000 properties in Kent are located within areas identified as potentially at risk from fluvial (river) or tidal flooding. Where practically possible, these properties are offered a Flood Warning Service by the Environment Agency. However, other parts of the County are also vulnerable to surface and ground water flooding. Early warning of flood risk to communities (including areas outside of floodplains) is delivered through flood guidance statements, severe weather warnings and mobilisation of Kent Resilience Forum Severe Weather Advisory Group (SWAG).

2. Latest situation

2.1 A total of 35 flood alerts (12 fluvial and 23 coastal) have been issued by the Environment Agency since the last meeting of the Committee¹. This contrasts with 21 flood alerts (4 fluvial and 17 coastal) during the corresponding period in 2016/17. However, no warnings or severe warnings were issued, nor serious surface water, fluvial or coastal flooding impacts reported to the Duty Emergency Planning Officer since the last meeting, reflecting relatively dry conditions and minimal storm activity.

2.2 A total of 11 yellow Met Office severe weather warnings have also been issued (5 for ice, 1 for snow and ice, 1 for snow, 1 for rain and 3 for high winds)². This contrasts with 8 alerts and warnings (7 for heavy rain and 1 for high winds) issued during the same period in 2016/17. However, no severe weather impacts were reported to the Duty Emergency Planning Officer since the last meeting. Contingency planning continues in relation to drought planning, with the Environment Agency chairing a Drought Severe Weather Advisory Group meeting on 12th February encompassing representation from Kent districts and the county council.

¹ Please see appendix 1

² Please see appendix 2

2.3 The Thames Barrier has been closed on 7 occasions (2 for test and 5 for flood defence) since the last meeting of the Committee. The figure for the same period in 2016/17 was 10 (2 for test and 8 for flood defence).

3. Next Steps

3.1 Elected Members will continue to be regularly updated on flood alerts, severe weather warnings, operational response and significant flood events across Kent.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That Members:

- Note the alerts and warnings received since the last meeting of the Committee; and
- Contribute any additional matters arising from debate by the Committee.

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Background documents: None

Appendix 1: Environment Agency Flood Alerts issued since 13/11/2018		
Flood Zone	Date issued	Status
Coast from Pegwell Bay to Deal including the Tidal Stour	18/11/2017	Alert
Rivers Eden & Eden Brook Area	11/12/2017	Alert
River Medway from Forest Row to Penshurst	27/12/2017	Alert
River Rother and its tributaries	27/12/2017	Alert
Rivers Eden & Eden Brook Area	27/12/2017	Alert
River Medway from Hampstead Lock to Allington Lock	27/12/2017	Alert
Upper River Medway from Forest Row to Penshurst	29/12/2017	Alert
River Rother and its tributaries	29/12/2017	Alert
Rivers Eden & Eden Brook Area	29/12/2017	Alert
River Medway from Hampstead Lock to Allington Lock	02/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Sandgate to Lydd	02/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Fairlight to Dungeness	02/01/2018	Alert
Isle of Sheppey and North Kent Coast	03/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Fairlight to Dungeness	03/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Sandgate to Lydd	03/01/2018	Alert
Rye Harbour	03/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Dartford to Allhallows	04/01/2018	Alert
Tidal Medway, Medway Estuary and Isle of Grain	04/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Fairlight to Dungeness	04/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Sandgate to Lydd	04/01/2018	Alert
Isle of Sheppey and North Kent Coast	04/01/2018	Alert
River Medway from Hampstead Lock to Allington Lock	04/01/2018	Alert
Rivers Eden & Eden Brook Area	04/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Fairlight to Dungeness	04/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Sandgate to Lydd	04/01/2018	Alert
Isle of Sheppey and North Kent Coast	04/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Fairlight to Dungeness	05/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Whitstable to Margate	18/01/2018	Alert
Isle of Sheppey and North Kent Coast	18/01/2018	Alert
Tidal Medway, Medway Estuary and Isle of Grain	18/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Dartford to Allhallows	18/01/2018	Alert
Coast from Dartford to Allhallows	01/02/2018	Alert
Tidal Medway, Medway Estuary and Isle of Grain	01/02/2018	Alert
Coast from Whitstable to Margate	01/02/2018	Alert
Isle of Sheppey and North Kent Coast	01/02/2018	Alert

Appendix 2: Met Office Severe Weather Warnings issued since 13/11/2018		
Met Office Warnings	Duration	Status
Yellow Warning of Wind for London & South East England	10/12/2017	Warning
Yellow Warning of Ice for London & South East England	11/12/2017	Warning
Yellow Warning of Ice for London & South East England	12/12/2017	Warning
Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England	27/12/2017 – 28/12/2017	Warning
Yellow Warning of Ice for London & South East England	27/12/2017 – 28/12/2017	Warning
Yellow Warning of Ice for London & South East England	29/12/2017	Warning
Yellow Warning of Wind for London & South East England	29/12/2017	Warning
Yellow Warning of Wind for London & South East England	16/01/2018	Warning
Yellow Warning of Ice for London & South East England	31/01/2018 – 01/02/2018	Warning
Yellow Warning of Snow & Ice for London & South East England	04/02/2018 – 05/02/2018	Warning
Yellow Warning of Snow for London & South East England	26/02/2018 – 27/02/2018	Warning