

To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

From: Alan Turner, Water Resources Manager, Kent County Council

Subject: South East Water's Water Resources Management Plan and Drought Plan

Classification: Unrestricted

- 1 There are five water supply companies that serve Kent. South East Water covers approximately 65 percent of the County as well as most of East Sussex and parts of Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire. It serves a total of 2.2 million customers.
- 2 Water supply companies in England and Wales produce a new, long-term Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) every 5 years. South East Water's current WRMP covers the period from 2015 to 2040 and can be viewed here: <https://corporate.southeastwater.co.uk/about-us/our-plans/water-resources-management-plan-2014>
- 3 WRMPs consider the future demand and supply of water and identify the new investments that will be needed to ensure that demand and supply remain in balance with an allowance for risks (referred to as 'headroom'). Rainfall obviously varies considerably from year to year and the WRMPs accommodate this by planning for a dry year that would be expected to occur approximately once in every ten years. More extreme dry years are planned for in the companies' Drought Plans (DPs). South East Water recently consulted on a draft of their new Drought Plan for the period 2018 to 2023 and has also issued a Statement of Response. These documents are available here: <https://corporate.southeastwater.co.uk/news-info/publications/drought-plans> A copy of KCC's full comments on this Draft Drought Plan are available on request.
- 4 South East Water has prepared a new Draft WRMP which has recently been approved by Defra. The company will launch their public consultation surrounding their latest plan shortly.
- 5 Lee Dance, Head of Water Resources for South East Water, will give the Committee a presentation of the company's Draft WRMP and Drought Plan.

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