

To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee – 16th July 2018

From: Tony Hills, Chair of Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

Subject: Kent and Medway Offsite Reservoir Inundation Emergency Plan

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To brief Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on the recently re-published Kent and Medway Offsite Reservoir Inundation Emergency Plan and contribute any additional matters arising from debate by the Committee

1. Background

1.1 [The Kent and Medway Offsite Reservoir Inundation Emergency Plan](#) addresses planning for, response to, and recovery from offsite reservoir inundation emergencies occurring within, or impacting upon, the administrative boundaries of Kent and Medway. The plan incorporates technical data on 60 individual reservoirs.

1.2 The plan was written in compliance with relevant legislation and guidance including The Civil Contingencies Act 2004, The Reservoirs Act 1975 (as amended by the Water Act 2003), The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Framework for Reservoir Inundation Preparedness Planning (Cabinet Office: October 2009).

2. Plan aim, testing and validation

2.1 The aim of the plan is to provide clear definitions of the roles, responsibilities and actions for responding agencies at the pre-planning, response and recovery stages of a reservoir emergency, encompassing:

- Outlining key principles of pre-planning for a reservoir inundation emergency;
- Describing the actions of the first responders on the scene and/or to receive the incident notification;
- Providing a response escalation procedure to cover actions from the initial alert through to stand-down and post-incident recovery;
- Setting-out the multi-agency co-ordination and control arrangements at each level of response;
- Specifying the manner in which warnings may be communicated to the public and partner agencies in an accessible and consistent fashion;
- Providing contact details to facilitate an efficient call-out of resources; and
- Outlining key principles of recovery for a reservoir inundation emergency.

2.2 The draft plan was tested and validated on 29 November 2017 at Exercise Tethys, a multi-agency event hosted by Kent Fire and Rescue Service and utilising a realistic yet challenging reservoir dam breach scenario.

3. Publication and next steps

3.1 A public version of the plan can be found on the emergency planning page of the Kent.gov website, while a technical, and protectively marked, version is held on Resilience Direct, the government's secure resilience platform.

3.2 The plan is a living document and will be updated as new reservoirs are commissioned or existing reservoirs modified or decommissioned. Further, the planning assumptions informing the plan will be pro-actively tested using forthcoming emergency planning training and exercise events.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That Members:

- Note the publication of the updated Kent and Medway Offsite Reservoir Inundation Emergency Plan; and
- Contribute any additional matters arising from debate by the Committee to the future evolution of the plan.

Tony Harwood, Resilience and Emergency Planning Manager, Growth Environment and Transport tel. 03000 413 386 e-mail tony.harwood@kent.gov.uk

Background documents: [The Kent and Medway Offsite Reservoir Inundation Emergency Plan](#)