

To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee – 22nd July 2019

From: Stephanie Holt-Castle, Interim Director of Environment, Planning and Enforcement

Subject: KCC Flood Response Plan

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To provide an update to Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on the evolution of the latest Kent County Council Flood Response Plan (Issue 7).

1. Rationale for and scope of updates to the Flood Response Plan

1.1 KCC Flood Response Plan is a longstanding document which outlines the principles governing KCC's response to flooding events within the local authority's administrative area and enables compliance with the County Council's enforcement and response duties. This plan also provides geographical data and an analysis of current research in relation to the various flood risks posed to Kent's residents, natural and built environment. The County Council's recent recognition of the UK Environment and Climate Emergency has both raised the profile and wider relevance of this area of Resilience and Emergency planning and response activity.

1.2 Updates and revisions include:

1.2.1 A new horizon scanning section addressing both current and projected climate change impacts and the uncertainty around the potential consequences for Kent (see section 5.3). This new section expands upon the risks identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 and incorporates additional research from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Committee on Climate Change (CCC), specifically focusing on the impacts to the South East.

1.2.2 A new section on people and communities rendered vulnerable by virtue of age, infirmity, poor health, deprivation etc. has also been included (see section 9.2). This provides an analysis on social vulnerability (i.e. political, social and economic factors which can constrain the ability of the population to respond to an event and their ability to adapt) to flooding and the associated impacts on the health and social care sectors, which is informed by research from Climate Just, 2019. This section incorporates new maps showing communities exhibiting multiple layers of deprivation located within geographical areas vulnerable to flooding for surface water, fluvial and coastal flooding impacts, also produced by Climate Just (see figures 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5).

1.2.3 Further updates address recent organisational change, contacts, links and revisions to corporate and multi-agency command and control.

2. Next steps

2.1 Following discussion at Flood Risk Management Committee, and subsequently at the four Directorate Resilience Groups, any amendments will be incorporated into a final draft which will then be presented for sign-off at Growth Environment and Transport Directorate Management Team (GET DMT) on 7th August. The KCC Flood Response Emergency Plan will then be uploaded to both the Resilience Direct secure platform and Kent.gov.

2.2 At last Kent Resilience Forum Severe Weather Group meeting on 4th July 2019 it was agreed that KCC will participate within a new Local Multi-agency Flood Plan task and finish group, which will ensure that KCC's Flood Response Plan and other 'single-agency' flood plans are complimentary to multi-agency flood planning and response in Kent and Medway.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Kent Flood Risk Management Committee review the draft plan and contribute any further considerations or additional content requirement.

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Background documents:

- *Draft KCC Flood Response Plan (Issue 7).*