

**KENT FLOOD RISK AND WATER MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 29th October, 2025

10.00 am

Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall,
Maidstone





AGENDA

KENT FLOOD RISK AND WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 29th October, 2025, at 10.00 am Ask for: **James Willis**

Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone Telephone **03000 417831**

Membership (7)

Reform (5): Mr W Chapman (Chairman), Mr J Finch, Mr M Paul, Mr J Baker,
Mrs S Emberson

Liberal Democrats Mr M Sole
(1):

Green and
Independent (1): Mr S Heaver

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the meeting on 02/07/2025 (Pages 1 - 4)
4. KCC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - Verbal Update
5. South East Water- Overview of Services-Presentation
6. Environment Agency-Presentation
7. Southern Water - Clean Rivers and Seas Task force-Presentation
8. KCC Severe Weather Response Activity Report (Pages 5 - 14)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Benjamin Watts
Deputy Chief Executive (Monitoring Officer)
03000 416814

Tuesday, 21 October 2025

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

KENT FLOOD RISK AND WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent Flood Risk and Water Management Committee held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday 02 July 2025.

PRESENT: Mr W Chapman (Chair), Mr S Heaver, Mr M Sole, Mr J Finch, Mr M Paul, Mr J Baker and Mrs S Emberson

ALSO PRESENT: Mr M A J Hood

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr C Gale (Dartford Borough Council), Cllr Summersgill (Maidstone Borough Council), Charles Mackonochie (KALC), Cllr D Kent (Tonbridge Wells Borough Council), Cllr T Hills (Folkestone & Hythe Borough Council) Ms G Brown (KALC)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Election of Chair

(Item 1)

Mr Paul proposed, and Mr Finch seconded that Mr Chapman be elected Chair of the Flood Risk and Water Management Committee. No further nominations were received.

RESOLVED that Mr W Chapman be elected Chair of the Committee.

2. Apologies

(Item 2)

Apologies were received from Mr Yates (Thanet BC), Mr Boughton (Tonbridge & Malling BC) and Mr Cornell (Canterbury CC)

3. Declarations of Interest

(Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

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5. Minutes of the meeting on 5 February 2025

(Item 5)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2025 were an accurate record and that they be signed by the Chair.

6. Environment Agency and Met Office Alerts and Warnings and KCC Severe Weather Response Activity
(Item 5)

Andy Jeffery, Head of Resilience and Emergency Planning, was in attendance for this item.

1. Mr Jeffery outlined the report.
2. In response to comments and questions from guests and Members the discussion covered the following:
 - a) Members queried the remit of the committee, noting the absence of a formal introduction to the committee for both new and returning Members. There was also a discussion about the committee's powers and its intended role going forward.
 - b) Members were encouraged to bring forward relevant items for discussion at future meetings. It was also agreed that a concise overview of the committee's powers and responsibilities be added to a future agenda setting as a matter of priority.
 - c) Mr Hood requested that representatives from Southeast Water be invited to attend the next Committee meeting in October 2025 in light of the recent disruptions to Kent's water supply.
 - d) The attending officer noted the request from Members that the Environment Agency be present at future meetings to answer questions on their respective data submissions held within the presented report.
 - e) Mr Hills highlighted inconsistencies in the report, specifically on pages 15 and 16, where information regarding flood zones 2 and 3 and related flood defences appeared unclear and contradictory. Mr Hills requested that the highlighted sections be made more transparent for readers of the report. The officer noted the feedback and would look to amend accordingly.
 - f) The Chair confirmed that the relevant agencies would be approached to attend the next Committee meeting. Mr Hood responded that as the committee was of a scrutiny nature there was an expectation that professional bodies attend when requested.
 - g) Mr Hills addressed a number of Members points regarding partner agencies and urged that adequate time be given to allow the collation and production of reports to future committees.

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- note the warnings received since the last meeting of the Committee; contribute to further planning and comply with response policy and practice through oversight and debate.
- Agree invite the Environment Agency and the Met Office to present at future meetings.
- Agree that the Resilience & Emergency Planning Service focusses on presenting data relating to KCC's response and KCC preparedness for severe weather, flooding, and water supply incidents.

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To: Kent Flood Risk & Water Management Committee – 29th October 2025

From: Rebecca Spore, Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services

Subject: KCC severe weather response activity.

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To update Kent Flood Risk & Water Management Committee on the severe weather alerts and warnings received from the Met Office and Environment Agency, and corresponding KCC response activity since the last meeting of the Committee on 2nd of July 2025.

1. Background

- 1.1 This report provides the latest update to the Committee on the water-related alerts received by Kent County Council and the corresponding incident response activity led by the Resilience & Emergency Planning Service through the role of the Duty Emergency Planning Officer (DEPO). It outlines recent severe weather events, and the operational actions taken to mitigate associated risks.
- 1.2 The Environment Agency (EA) and Met Office send 24/7 regular alerts and warnings regarding severe weather to a list of recipients including the KCC Duty Emergency Planning Officer (DEPO), KCC Highways Senior Duty Officer and the Contact Point. The DEPO is also alerted to site-specific severe weather impacts by the emergency services and other resilience partners, with reports from the public received by Contact Point. KCC further initiates reporting using Severe Weather Impacts System (SWIMS) to capture multi-agency resources and costs arising from severe weather incidents.
- 1.3 Across the county, 85,500 residential and commercial addresses are recognised to be in areas at risk from fluvial (river) or tidal (coastal) flooding. Where possible, flood vulnerable properties are offered a Flood Warning Service by the EA. An early warning of flood risk to communities (including areas outside of floodplains) is delivered by Flood Guidance Statements, Severe Weather Warnings and the activation of a multi-agency Severe Weather Advisory Group (SWAG) by the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum (KMRF).

2. Kent water situation and weather statistics in Kent

2.1 Alerts

2.1.1 Flood alerts:

There were 8 flood alerts raised between July and September, with 3 flood alerts and 5 guidance statements: four for yellow surface water, and one wider Kent flood guidance statement. A table highlighting areas and number of alert per area can be viewed in **Appendix 1**.

A full list of flood alerts and warnings comparison to previous quarters and years can be found in **Appendix 2**. A visual representation of the flooding areas and comparison to the same quarter last year can be found in **Appendix 4**.

2.1.2 Weather alerts:

Between July and September there were a total of 12 weather alerts, of which: 12 yellow and 2 amber, respectively for Heath Heath and Thunderstorm. The Yellow alerts were divided in the following categories:

- Thunderstorm - 6 alerts
- Heath Heath - 2 alerts
- Wind warning - 1 alert
- Fog warning - 1 alert

2.1.3 Thames Barrier:

The Thames Barrier was closed on three different occasions for testing purposes on:

- 14/07
- 12/08
- 06/09

More details on weather warnings, Thames Barrier closures and comparison with previous quarters can be found in **Appendix 3**.

3. Recent Incident Response

3.1 Actions taken in response to incidents:

During this quarter, the DEPO was involved in the response to minor incidents, and the actions taken were:

- Monitoring the situation
- Liaising with other partner agencies
- Provide additional resources as a result from weather events
- Set-up SWAG meetings

3.2 Incidents worth of note:

There were no incidents worth of note.

3.3 Table 1 – type and number of alerts received between the current quarter (July to September 2025), and previous year equivalent quarter (July to September 2024).

Alert type	Alerts Jul – Sep 2025	Received from	Alerts previous year Jul – Sep 2024
Yellow weather	10	Met Office	11
Amber weather	2	Met Office	0
Red weather	0	Met Office	0

Alert type	Alerts Jul – Sep 2025	Received from	Alerts previous year Jul – Sep 2024
Water outages	3	SE Water, KMRF, KCC	2
Flood alerts	3	Environment Agency	15
Flood warnings	0	Environment Agency	3
Severe flood warnings	0	Environment Agency	0
Flood Guidance Statement	5	Flood Forecasting Centre	3

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Members to make note of the warnings received since the last meeting of the Committee; contribute to further planning, and comply with response policy and practice through oversight and debate.

7. Contact Details

Report Authors:

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Michela Bernasconi (Resilience Officer, Resilience and Emergency Planning Service), Infrastructure, Deputy Chief Executive's Department, tel. +443000418442, e-mail michela.bernasconi@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director:

Rebecca Spore (Director of Infrastructure), Deputy Chief Executive's Department tel. 03000 412 064, email rebecca.spore@kent.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Flood Alerts and Warnings per Area

There were 3 flooding alerts across 2 areas identified for this quarter.

Warning area	Flood alerts Jul - Sep 2025	Flood warnings Jul - Sep 2025	Flood alerts & warnings previous year Jul- Sep 2024
Upper River Stour	0	0	0
Lower River Stour	0	0	0
Tidal River Stour	0	0	0
River Darent	0	0	1
River Cray & Shuttle	2	0	1
River Rother	0	0	2
Tidal Rother	0	0	0
River Beult	0	0	0
River Teise and Lesser Teise	0	0	1 1 warning
River Bourne	0	0	1
Rivers Eden and Eden Brook	0	0	3 1 warning
Tidal Medway, Medway estuary	0	0	0
Lower River Medway	0	0	1
Upper River Medway	0	0	3 1 warning
Middle River Medway	0	0	1
River Medway, Teise & Beult at Yalding	0	0	0
Tidal Thames (From Dartford Creek to Thames Barrier)	0	0	0

Warning area	Flood alerts Jul - Sep 2025	Flood warnings Jul - Sep 2025	Flood alerts & warnings previous year Jul- Sep 2024
Rivers of the Isle of Sheppey	0	0	0
Pent stream	1	0	0
Kent	0	0	0
TOT	3	0	14 alerts 3 warnings
Warning area	Flood alerts Jul - Sep 2025	Flood warnings Jul - Sep 2025	Flood alerts & warnings previous year Jul- Sep 2024
Isle of Sheppey and Coast from Kemsley to Seasalter	0	0	1
Coast from Ramsgate to Kingsdown	0	0	0
Coast from St Margaret's at Cliffe to Sandgate	0	0	0
Coast from Dartford to Allhallows	0	0	0
Coast from Whitstable to Margate	0	0	0
Coast from Sandgate to Dungeness	0	0	0
Coast from Fairlight to Dungeness (including tidal Rother)	0	0	0
Coast from Littlestone Golf Course to Dungeness	0	0	0
TOT	0	0	1

Appendix 2: Flood Alerts and Warnings Quarter comparison

Time period	Coastal alerts	Coastal warning	Total Coastal	River Alerts	River Warnings	River Total	Kent wide	Overall total
Current quarter July – September 2025	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	3
Previous quarter April – June 2025	0	0	0	3	0	3	2	5
Quarter January – March 2025	11	1	12	32	5	37	3	52
Quarter October 2024 – December 2024	15	0	15	29	0	29	0	44
Quarter July 2024 – September 2024	1	0	1	14	3	17	0	18
April – June 2024	18	1	19	10	1	11	0	30
Jan – March 2024	5	0	5	84	5	89	0	94
Previous year (1 st January – 31 st December 2024)	79	2	81	144	9	153	0	234
January – December 2023	39	0	39	74	2	76	0	115
January – December 2022	41	1	42	68	11	79	0	121

Appendix 3: Weather Warnings and Thames Barrier Closures

3.1 Weather Warnings - July to September 2025 comparison with equivalent quarter previous year

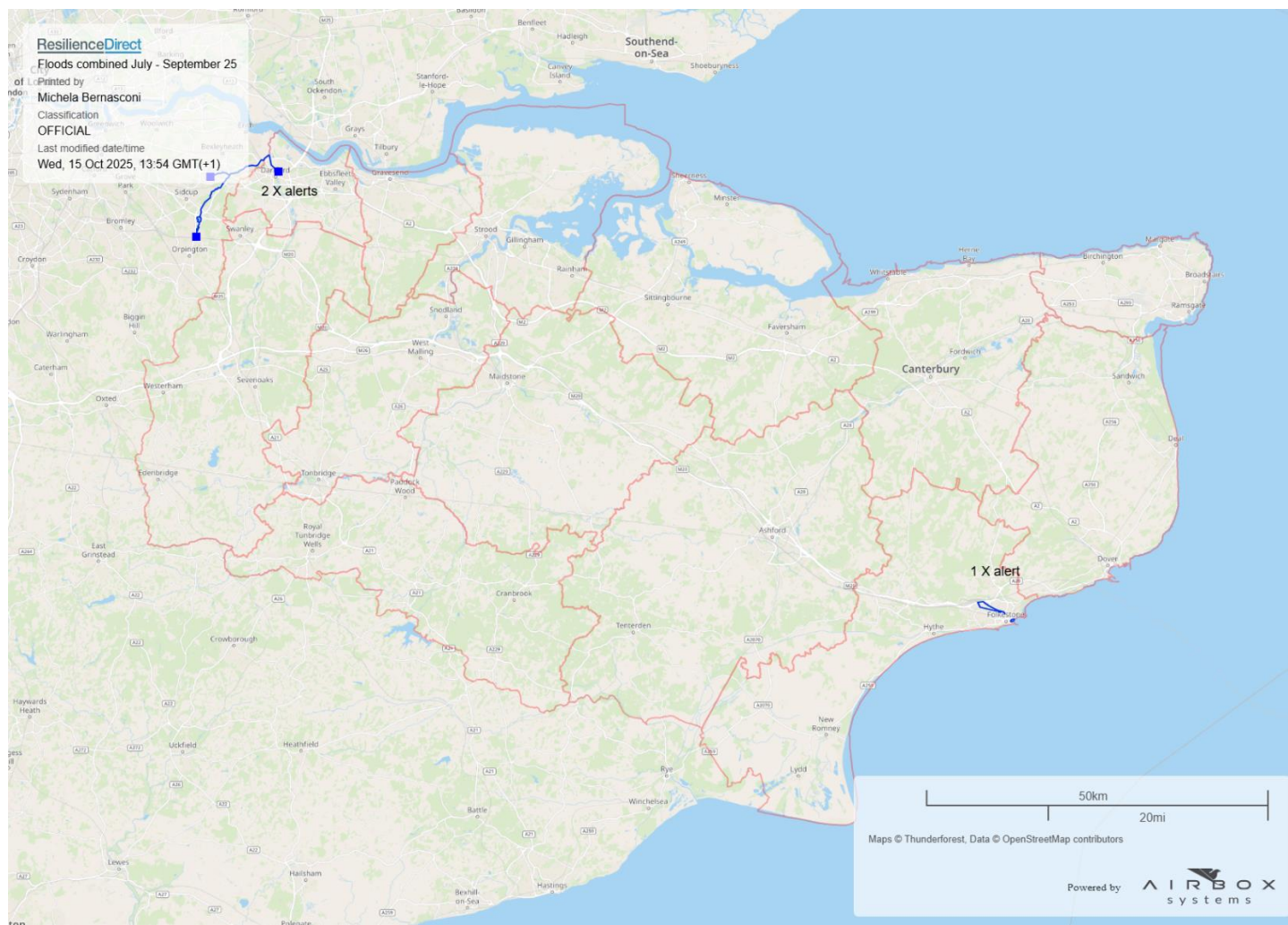
Weather	Number of warnings	Number of events
Current quarter Jul - Sep 2025		
Thunderstorm	6	6
Rain	0	0
Fog	1	1
Ice	0	0
Wind	1	1
Heath-health	2	2
Comparison Previous year quarter Jul - Sep 2024		
Thunderstorm	2	2
Rain	8	8
Fog	0	0
Ice	0	0
Wind	0	0
Heath-health	1	1

3.2 Thames Barrier Closures - July to September 2025 comparison with equivalent quarter previous year

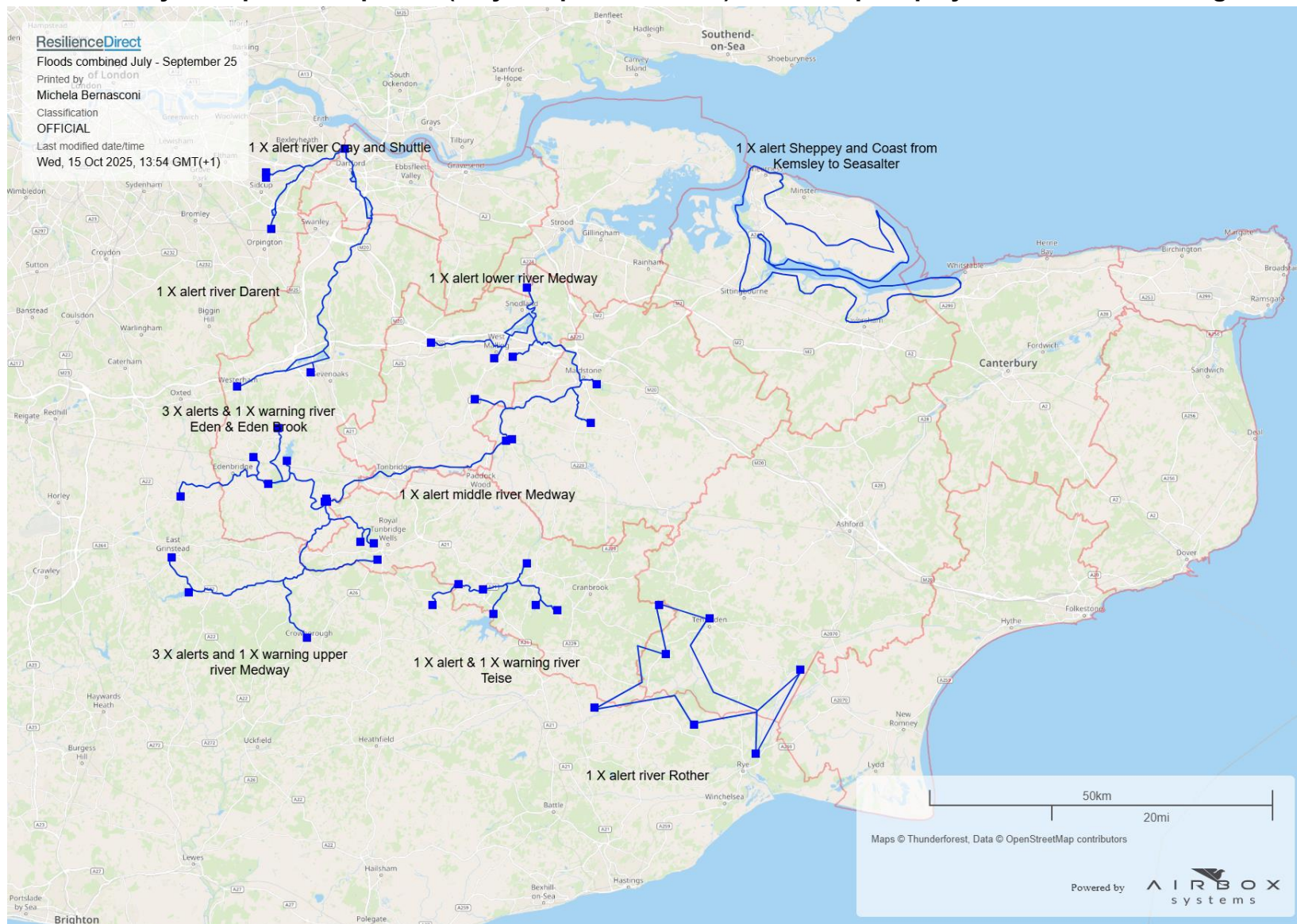
	Current quarter Jul - Sep 2025	Previous year for respective quarter (Jul - Sep 2024)
Operational closures	0	0
Test closures	3	2

Appendix 4: Visual Representation of flooding areas across Kent

4.1 Current quarter (July - September 2025) visual map display of alerts and warnings



4.2 Previous year equivalent quarter (July - September 2024) visual map display of alerts and warnings



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