

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Responsible Officer

Abbi Gosling - GT EW

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

No

Strategy/Policy

Strategy/Policy

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Growth Environment and Transport

Responsible Service

Flood and Water Management Team

Responsible Head of Service

Max Tant - GT ECE

Responsible Director

Matthew Smyth - GT ECE

Aims and Objectives

KCC has a duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in Kent under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. This strategy will set out how local flooding will be managed in the county.

Kent has a large population and a dynamic economy. Due to the historic development of the county around waterways and along the coastline, and its geography, steep hills and areas of impermeable soils, there is a significant risk of flooding from many sources. This includes local flooding sources, which are significant in Kent and threaten the safety and wellbeing of Kent's residents, and the sustainability of its economy.

Through this Local Strategy for Kent, we aim to improve the safety and wellbeing of Kent's residents and the economy of Kent through appropriate flood risk management. To do this we will work effectively with communities and partners, adapt to climate change, and utilise natural processes to provide multiple benefits, where possible. Any projects that are as a direct result of this Local Strategy will be subjected to a separate EQIA.

This Local Strategy will build upon the lessons KCC have learned from previous local strategies for Kent to reduce flood risk in the areas identified as at risk, will enable KCC to continue to develop an understanding of flood risk, and improve how we work together with partners and communities.

The objectives for this Local Strategy reflect the need to build on the improvements achieved to date and to

address the challenges that we face now, and in the future. The objectives include: understanding flood risk, reduce the risk of flooding, resilient planning, and resilient communities.

All actions stated within this Local Strategy for Kent have been analysed to determine any potential positive or negative impacts on the protected characteristics. We have found that the actions stated to achieve Objective 4 may have potential impacts on protected characteristics, including age and disability; this is discussed further in Section C of this EQIA.

Kent's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be available on the KCC website and can be produced in other formats, if requested. We have considered whether the detail provided within the Local Strategy would have a negative or positive impact for the nine protected characteristics; we did not find any evidence to suggest this and have ensured the document is comprehensive for the general population of Kent with links to further information. For evidence, the county wide equalities data was reviewed to ensure the general population of Kent was considered.

Overall, the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will continue to provide information in an accessible way for all protected groups, whilst fulfilling our obligations as laid out in the Flood and Water Management Act, and the 2013 Kent County Council Strategy.

Outcome of the analysis: No change.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

The concept of the Strategy was presented to the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on the 12 July 2023.

Risk Management Authorities were asked for feedback prior to formal consultation.

Risk Management Authorities:

Water Companies (Southern Water)

Environment Agency

Internal Drainage Boards (Lower Medway, River Stour, Upper Medway)

KCC Highways Authority

Canterbury City Council

Members of Council (Tony Hills, Mike Dendor, Neil Baker)

The draft Strategy was taken to the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee (14 November 2023) prior to consultation. Following the consultation of the final draft Local Strategy, a consultation report will be presented to Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee (7 March or 21 May) or the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on 14 March 2024 or 26 June 2024 before adoption.

The Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the Strategy will be consulted on during public consultation. Public Consultation will run from 22 November 2023 to 30 January 2024 (10 weeks).

Hard copies, alternative formats or languages of any of the consultation documents will be made available

upon request. Contact details will be available on all material.
Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?
No
Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?
Yes
Section C – Impact
Who may be impacted by the activity?
Service Users/clients Service users/clients
Staff Staff/Volunteers
Residents/Communities/Citizens Residents/communities/citizens
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
The Local Strategy will set out actions to better understand flood risk in Kent, reduce the risk of flooding in Kent, increase resilient planning and help communities to become more flood resilient. This is likely to have small positive impacts for protected groups at risk of flooding in Kent, such as age, disability, pregnancy and maternity.
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
Yes
Details of negative impacts for Age
According to the 2021 mid-year population estimates for age and sex, most of Kent's population (roughly 14%) are aged between 50 - 59 years. Within this data set, people aged 60 years and over, represents approximately 26% of Kent's population. Plus, almost 18% of the population, within this data set, is represented by people aged 14 years and younger.
This group may have difficulty reading material published to advise about flood risk and mitigation measures, or reporting flood events due to poor eyesight, reduced access to the internet, and/or a lesser technical ability.
Mitigating Actions for Age
It needs to be ensured that any publications or reporting mechanisms are accessible.
For example, using Alt Text to describe any images within the document, a point of contact to verbally discuss the Local Strategy, printed publications to be available on request, Large Print copies available and for the website that the document is published on to have the option to be read by an automated voice.
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Max Tant
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
Yes
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
The 2021 census tables for disability states 281,423 (17.9%) residents in Kent were termed disabled under the Equality Act.
This group may have difficulty reading material published to advise about flood risk and mitigation measures, or reporting flood events due to poor eyesight, reduced access to the internet, and/or a lesser

technical ability.
Mitigating actions for Disability
It needs to be ensured that any publications or reporting mechanisms are accessible.
For example, using Alt Text to describe any images within the document, a point of contact to verbally discuss the Local Strategy, printed publications to be available on request, Large Print copies available and for the website that the document is published on to have the option to be read by an automated voice.
Responsible Officer for Disability
Max Tant
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
No. Note: If Question 21a is "No", Questions 21b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Completed
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No. Note: If Question 22a is "No", Questions 22b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
Yes
Negative impacts for Race
According to the census of 2021, the percentage of people living in Kent that did not have English as a main language within the household was 2.9%. Within this census, the percentage of people living in Kent who had at least one person within the household with English as a main language, regardless of age, was 3.6%.
Data from the 2021 census also shows results for proficiency in English. It stated that approximately 1% of people in Kent could not speak English well or at all. With 5.8% of people stating their main language was not English.
If the person accessing the information does not have a good level of English they may not understand the document.
Mitigating actions for Race
The document will be made available in different languages, on request. This will be clear on the website.
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Max Tant
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No. Note: If Question 24a is "No", Questions 24b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Completed
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No. Note: If Question 25a is "No", Questions 25b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No. Note: If Question 26a is "No", Questions 26b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Completed
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No. Note: If Question 27a is "No", Questions 27b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No. Note: If Question 28a is "No", Questions 28b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Completed