

By: Max Tant, Flood Risk Management Officer
To: Flood Risk Management Committee
Subject: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
Classification: Unrestricted

- (1) This Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) is being prepared to meet our duties to manage local flood risk and deliver the requirements of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009). Kent County Council is defined as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Regulations. The PFRA is the first stage of the Regulations.
- (2) The PFRA process is aimed at providing a high level overview of flood risk from local flood sources, including surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. As a LLFA, Kent County Council must submit their PFRA to the Environment Agency for review by 22nd June 2011. The methodology for producing this PFRA has been based on the Environment Agency's Final PFRA Guidance and DEFRA's Guidance on selecting Flood Risk Areas, both published in December 2010.
- (3) The Environment Agency has used a national methodology, which has been set out by DEFRA, to identify indicative Flood Risk Areas across England. Of the ten indicative Flood Risk Areas that have been identified nationally, none are located within Kent County Council's administrative area. As a consequence, Kent County Council will not be required to undertake the further stages of the PFRA. One of the indicative areas is located in Medway Council.
- (4) However, the PFRA has been helpful to develop an overall understanding of the flood risk across Kent, which will be needed as we deliver other responsibilities required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, especially the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- (5) Flood risk data and records of historic flooding were collected from approximately 20 different local and national sources including the twelve district and borough councils, the Environment Agency, water companies, Internal Drainage Boards, emergency services and other risk management authorities.
- (6) Information relating to approximately 2500 flood events, caused by flooding from local sources, was collected. However, comprehensive details on flood extents and consequences of these events were largely unavailable. Based on the evidence that was collected, no past flood events were considered to have had 'significant harmful consequences'. Therefore, no records of past flooding have been included in Annex 1 of the Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet.
- (7) However, this is a reflection of the quality of data collection not the flood risk in Kent. In fact Kent is estimated to be the most at risk LLFA in England. Based on national surface water modelling approximately 70,000 properties are estimated to be at risk from flooding to a depth of 0.3m during a rainfall event

with a 1 in 200 annual chance of occurring. Kent also has significant flood risks from groundwater and ordinary watercourses, however the data available to assess these is less quantitative.

- (8) The PFRA work will be taken forward to identify priority areas for investigation in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

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