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**From:** Cabinet Member – Environment, Highways & Waste  
Mike Hill, Cabinet Member - Customer and Communities  
Paul Crick, Director, Planning & Environment  
Steve Terry, Emergency Planning Manager  
Tony Harwood, Senior Emergency Planning Officer

**To:** Environment, Highways and Waste Cabinet Committee

**Date:** 10 January 2013

**Subject:** Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) outbreak response

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** To brief the Environment, Highways and Waste Cabinet Committee on the Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) outbreak in Kent and the significant risk the disease presents and our ongoing response to manage the situation. Members are asked to note, endorse and contribute through debate to this approach.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) is the infective phase of the cup-fungus *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*, which was named as new-to-science in 2010. Latest research indicates that the organism is in fact native to Japan and Korea, where it co-exists benignly with native ash trees. The life-cycle of this organism appears to be that *Chalara fraxinea*, living on Ash leaves and shoots, develops into *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus* when the leaves fall. Individual cup-fungus then produce approximately 1,500 airborne spores an hour over a period of around 2 weeks, which drift up into the canopy, where they may alight on Ash shoots and initiate new infection. The *Chalara* phase is also understood to produce a less mobile form of spore, which may further infect the host and nearby trees. Once initiated, infection spreads along the Ash twig and under certain circumstances, which are not fully understood, into branches and the trunk of the tree. The destructive characteristic of this fungus derives from the fact that the *Chalara* phase produces a fungal poison, called viridiol, which is toxic to Ash. Saplings and coppice re-growth are particularly vulnerable to *Chalara* attack, while stricken larger trees exhibit a heightened risk from secondary infection and environmental stress.
- 1.2 Media reports widely cite the impact of the fungus Ash Dieback *Chalara fraxinea* in Denmark, where a 2010 estimate stated that some 60-90% of Ash trees were affected<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.2 Since the announcement of confirmed cases in the UK in October, the outbreak has been reported widely by national and local media with much speculation as

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<sup>1</sup> European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (2010)

to the fate of our Ash trees. The latest news reports<sup>2</sup> quote Danish scientists as suggesting that up to 95% of UK Ash trees could be affected.

- 1.3 Such headlines have generated significant local concern. Ash is the most widespread tree species found in Kent, with records from 930 of the county's 1,043 tetrads (or 2km squares)<sup>3</sup>. Some 111 invertebrates feed directly upon Ash and this fauna increases significantly when associated predators and parasites are considered<sup>4</sup>. In addition, some 255 lichens have an especial association with the alkaline substrate afforded by Ash bark<sup>5</sup>. The tree forms a component of high forest, coppice woodland and hedgerow habitats across Kent, and is also a prominent feature of our urban landscape, as street trees and within parks and gardens. Kent also supports the largest extent of surviving ancient woodland within the UK. If *Chalara fraxinea* takes hold in the UK at the rate and extent experienced in Continental Europe, it will undoubtedly bring profound change for the landscape, ecology and rural economy of Kent.
- 1.4 A key consideration for KCC is that Ash forms a significant component of our soft estate. Therefore, the health and safety considerations attached to ensuring effective monitoring and timely arboriculture interventions, to make safe dead or ailing trees, could be significant. The corollary to this is that public safety may also become a concern in relation to dead or dying trees growing on private land abutting KCC owned or maintained infra-structure, including highways, footways, offices and school campuses. It is estimated that some 4% of KCC highway trees are Ash, equating to some 20,000 individual trees. The figures for Ash growing on private land abutting and potentially impacting KCC property and public rights of way will, of course be significantly higher. Monitoring, land registry searches, serving notice or direct intervention to ensure safety works to these trees will inevitably also involve a cost to KCC. An additional consideration relates to the formulation of a replacement strategy, which must be informed by bio-security and bio-diversity considerations.
- 1.5 A further key role for KCC will involve Trading Standards, working alongside the arboriculture industry, putting safeguards in place to ensure that "rogue traders" do not seek to profit from this outbreak.
- 1.6 This report is being tabled at the Environment, Highways and Waste Cabinet Committee following discussion of potential environmental and financial impacts arising from the *Chalara* outbreak at Corporate Management Team and its proposed inclusion within the KCC Corporate Risk Register.

## 2. Current Situation

- 2.1 Experience within the county of dealing with animal and plant health outbreaks, such as Foot & Mouth Disease and, more recently, Asian Longhorn Beetle, shows that robust and timely interventions can contain, slow and even prevent further spread of threats to plant and animal health. With this in mind, since the first cases were confirmed in Kent, KCC Emergency Planning has provided a direct link between the national response (led by Defra / Fera<sup>6</sup> and Forestry Commission) and a range of local partners, to ensure a consistent approach and single source of information.

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<sup>2</sup> Denmark's Ash disease dieback toll poses warning to UK. Jeremy Cooke (BBC Rural affairs correspondent)– 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012

<sup>3</sup> A New Atlas of the Kent Flora. E.G. Philp 2010

<sup>4</sup> UK Biological Records Centre Database of Insects and their Food Plants

<sup>5</sup> Pasture and woodlands in Lowland Britain and their importance for the conservation of the epiphytes and invertebrates associated with old trees. Nature Conservancy Council & The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology

<sup>6</sup> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs / Food & Environment Research Agency

- 2.2 This approach, and in particular safeguards introduced expeditiously to prevent the movement of potentially infected fallen leaves, has been endorsed by Martin Ward (UK Chief Plant Health Officer), who is leading the national response to the outbreak:

*'Your approach and bio-security precautions look sensible. One of the key messages is that bio-security is actually rather simpler for Chalara than for some other diseases because there are no 'resting spores' in the soil. So as long as dead leaves aren't moved from site to site that pathway is dealt with. Unlike aerial spread, which is much harder to stop.'*

- 2.3 To date, some 30 infection sites have been confirmed across the county, with the east of Kent hardest hit<sup>7</sup>. Given this knowledge, our growing understanding of the threat and the announcement of the imminent publication of an Interim *Chalara* Control Plan by the Secretary of State, Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP, relevant KCC managers agreed that a Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) should be convened to build upon the good work already undertaken, to ensure that Kent is well-prepared.
- 2.4 Routinely, SCG meetings are chaired by Kent Police, but given the nature of this unfolding situation, it was agreed that KCC would be best-placed to take the strategic lead, with Planning & Environment and Emergency Planning acting as co-chairs.
- 2.5 The inaugural meeting was very well-attended (with >25 local partners and national agencies involved) and productive. The SCG agreed a multi-agency strategy (see *Appendix 1*) for managing the response in Kent, a command & control structure (managed from the County Emergency Centre), high-level risk assessment and the basis for a local action plan to deliver the agreed strategy. A subsequent meeting, held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, focused upon local action plan implementation.
- 2.6 The Forestry Commission and Kent County Council staged a high profile regional Tree Health Summit in Kent on 18th December, where the Interim *Chalara* Control Plan was launched. The event was attended by Mr. Jeremy Kite, Deputy Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities, providing opening remarks, and Mr. David Brazier, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste, providing closing remarks. This is a testimony to the prominent role taken by KCC in relation to the response to the *Chalara* outbreak.
- 2.7 Emergency Planning have printed and distributed Forestry Commission *Chalara* public information notices to relevant KCC teams and a range of partners for installation at public open spaces across Kent. In addition, stocks have been supplied to parish clerks for display on notice boards.

### **3. Next Steps**

- 3.1 Much of our activity will be informed by the Interim *Chalara* Control Plan issued on 6<sup>th</sup> December. However, the scale of the problem in Kent, the influence of specific local factors and our acknowledged pioneering position in dealing with the outbreak dictates that an effective local response is sustained.
- 3.2 With this in mind, KCC Planning & Environment and Emergency Planning have produced a Local Action Plan (see *Appendix 2*) and have established working groups to facilitate the delivery of targets therein.

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[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Map2b\\_12-12-04\\_UK\\_outbreak\\_map.pdf/\\$FILE/Map2b\\_12-12-04\\_UK\\_outbreak\\_map.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Map2b_12-12-04_UK_outbreak_map.pdf/$FILE/Map2b_12-12-04_UK_outbreak_map.pdf)

## 4. Recommendations

### 4.1 That Members:

- Note the potential serious consequences that the *Chalara* outbreak poses to the environment and economy of Kent;
- Endorse the KCC approach outlined within this report; and
- Contribute any related topics for further research and advice arising from debate by the Committee.

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## Multi-Agency Strategy<sup>8</sup>

### Background

In developing this Strategy consideration has been given to the COBR and Defra / Fera strategic guidance for the Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) outbreak. In accordance with this, members of the SCG will seek to act and react positively and proportionately in managing the outbreak in Kent & Medway and seek to prevent wider infection, whether accidental or deliberate.

### Strategic Aim & Objectives

#### Aim

We will work in partnership to protect the environment, by containing the outbreak, limiting the spread and mitigating its potential wider consequences.

#### Objectives

We will achieve the above aim by putting in place an Action Plan to support the following strategic objectives:

- Establish robust Command, Control & Co-ordination (C3) arrangements (including relevant plans and protocols) to support effective & proportionate local, cross-border & national response arrangements;
- Provide a single-source of consistent Scientific & Technical Advice, to inform risk assessment and decision-making, including options for monitoring & treatment, containment / bio-security & disposal;
- Implement a rigorous Environment Management Strategy to support the effective implementation of relevant mitigating actions including monitoring, enforcement & treatment;
- Maximise public, media & stakeholder awareness & confidence through a joined-up Media & Communications Strategy; and
- Maintain continuity of the response & develop a long-term Recovery Strategy, covering business & economic confidence, cultural & amenity impacts and long-term environment management.

### **Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004 Definition of an 'emergency'<sup>9</sup>**

#### *1. Meaning of 'emergency'*

*(1) In this Part 'emergency' means —*

*(a) An event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the UK;*

*(b) **An event or situation which threatens serious damage to the environment of a place in the United Kingdom;** or*

*(c) War, or terrorism, which threatens serious damage to the security of the UK;*

*(3) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b) an event or situation threatens damage to the environment only if it involves, causes or may cause —*

*(a) Contamination of land, water or air with biological, chemical or radio-active matter; or*

*(b) **Disruption or destruction of plant life or animal life.***

<sup>8</sup> Agreed at inaugural meeting of the Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) Outbreak SCG on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012

<sup>9</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/36/section/1](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/36/section/1)

**Kent Resilience Forum (KRF)  
Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) Outbreak  
Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG)**

**ACTION PLAN**

**Introduction**

At the initial Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) Ash Dieback Outbreak Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG), held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012 it was agreed that an Action Plan would be drafted to provide clear direction to local, cross-border & national partners as to the response to be implemented across Kent & Medway in support of the agreed multi-agency Gold Strategy and the Interim Chalara Control Plan.

Four “virtual working groups, largely utilising email and teleconference facilities, will be established to oversee the implementation of the objectives outlined in the Gold Strategy as follows:

- **Scientific & Technical Advice Cell (STAC);**
- **Environment Management Group (EMG);**
- **Media & Communications Group (M&CG); and**
- **Recovery Advisory Group (RAG).**

**Background**

Media reports widely cite the impact of the fungus Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) in Denmark, where a 2010 estimate stated that some 60-90% of ash trees were affected and may eventually die<sup>10</sup>. Since the announcement in October of confirmed cases in the UK, the outbreak has been reported widely by national and local media with much speculation as to the fate of our Ash trees. The latest reports<sup>11</sup> quote Danish scientists as suggesting that up to 95% of UK Ash trees could eventually be affected.

Such headlines have generated significant local concern as Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is the most widespread tree species found in Kent, with records from 930 of the county's 1,043 tetrads (or 2km squares)<sup>12</sup>. Some 111 invertebrates feed directly upon ash, and this figure increases significantly when associated predators and parasites are considered<sup>13</sup>. In addition some 255 lichens have an especial association with the alkaline substrate afforded by Ash bark<sup>14</sup>. The tree forms a component of high forest, coppice woodland and hedgerow habitats across Kent, and is also a prominent feature of our urban landscape, as street trees and within parks and gardens. Kent also supports the largest extent of surviving ancient woodland within the UK. If *Chalara* takes hold in the UK at the rate and extent experienced in Denmark, and elsewhere within Continental Europe, it will bring profound change for the landscape, ecology and rural economy of Kent.

Practical challenges are posed by the threat of unprecedented numbers of deteriorating trees, growing on private and public land, and to the safety of public spaces, pedestrian and bridle routes, the railway network and highways. The risk that “rogue traders” will seek to profiteer from the outbreak is another key concern.

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<sup>10</sup> European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (2010)

<sup>11</sup> Denmark's ash disease dieback toll poses warning to UK. Jeremy Cooke (BBC Rural affairs correspondent) – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012

<sup>12</sup> A New Atlas of the Kent Flora. E.G. Philp 2010

<sup>13</sup> UK Biological Records Centre Database of Insects and their Food Plants

<sup>14</sup> Pasture and woodlands in Lowland Britain and their importance for the conservation of the epiphytes and invertebrates associated with old trees. Nature Conservancy Council & The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology

## Local Action Plan

Responsible Owners (Tactical Co-ordination): KCC Senior Emergency Planning Officer / KCC Senior Biodiversity Projects Manager

Reporting To (Strategic Co-ordination): KCC Director of Planning & Environment / KCC Emergency Planning Manager

	Key Targets	Performance Measure	Accountability	Timescale	RAG
<b>1.</b>	<b>Command, Control &amp; Co-ordination (C3):</b> Establish robust C3 arrangements (incl. relevant plans & protocols) to support effective & proportionate local, cross-border & national response arrangements				
1.1	Effective multi-agency C3 structure, Gold Strategy and Action Plan in place, being implemented, monitored and communicated.	Regular SCG and Working Group / Cell meetings to progress issues & flow of communications via Tactical Co-ordination leads  Regular flow of communications between local, cross-border and national partners.	SCG Co-Chairs / Tactical Co-ordination Leads / All SCG Members	Ongoing	<b>Amber</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Scientific and Technical Advice Cell (STAC):</b> Provide a single-source of consistent Scientific & Technical Advice, to inform risk assessment and decision-making, including options for monitoring & treatment, containment / bio-security & disposal. STAC will be largely “virtual” in format, utilising email and teleconference facilities.				
	<b>Membership:</b> KCC Emergency Planning (Tony Harwood [Chair]), Forest Research (Dr. Gary Kerr), Fera (Martin Ward), Forestry Commission (Jonathan Harding), Jacobs (Aubrey Furner), KCC Flood Risk and Natural Environment Team (William Moreno), KCC Property and Infrastructure Support (Bruce MacQuarrie), Kent Downs AONB Unit (Nick Johannsen), UKC (Roger Fraser), Arboricultural Association (Jim Quaife), KMBRC (Tony Witts)				
2.1	Compile detailed data set on Ash Dieback impacts within UK and Continental Europe, including better understanding of damage inflicted upon mature Ash trees and consequent health and safety implications to enable enhanced planning and response.	Report back to Strategic Co-ordinating Group	STAC Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2013	<b>Amber</b>
2.2	Bio-security tool-kit / guidance to seek to contain level of Chalara fraxinea spread within county, with specific focus upon	Ash tree management guidance note produced	STAC Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2013	<b>Amber</b>

	Key Targets	Performance Measure	Accountability	Timescale	RAG
	tackling spread from natural environment into parks, gardens and other urban green space.				
2.3	Ensure measured, cost-effective systems in place for ongoing monitoring and assessment of Ash Dieback spread (informed by national policy).	Systems in place.	STAC Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2013	Amber
<b>3.</b>	<b>Environment Management Group (EMG):</b> Implement a rigorous Environment Management Strategy to support the effective implementation of relevant mitigating actions including monitoring, enforcement & financial safeguards. EMG will be largely “virtual” in format, utilising email and teleconference facilities.				
	<b>Membership:</b> KCC Flood Risk and Natural Environment Team (William Moreno [Chair] / Ruth Childs), Forestry Commission (Jonathan Harding), Maidstone Borough Council (Jason Taylor), Medway Council (Nigel Holman / Robert Lucas), Kent Highway Services (Alan Riley), Highways Agency (John Henderson), KCC Emergency Planning (Tony Harwood), Kent Tree Officers Group (Daniel Docker); Greenspace Forum Kent (Darran Solley), KCC Public Rights of Way (Graham Rusling) Environment Agency (Nick Paige), East Sussex County Council (Anthony Becvar), UK Power Networks (James Nicholl)				
3.1	Ensure baseline asset and tree safety audit data for Ash on public land informing identification of required staffing / contractor / financial resources.	Audits in place.	EMG Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2013	Amber
3.2	Project management i.e. confirm relevant partnership arrangements for assessing, monitoring and, where necessary, enforcement of bio-security and health and safety interventions (informed by Sussex Dutch Elm Disease Plant Health Order protocols)	Audits in place.	EMG Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2013	Amber



	<b>Key Targets</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Accountability</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>RAG</b>
3.3	Assess potential scale and cost of monitoring and felling (for safety purposes only) dead and dying Ash at public open spaces in Kent and Medway (including parks and gardens).	Reports back Strategic Co-ordinating Group.	EMG Chair	Updates at future SCG meetings	<b>Amber</b>
3.4	Assess potential scale and cost of increased workloads around enforcement, applications for works to TPO trees / trees located within Conservation Areas, notifications of works as exception to regulations and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	Reports back Strategic Co-ordinating Group.	EMG Chair	Updates at future SCG meetings	<b>Amber</b>
3.5	Draft strategy for monitoring and felling (for safety purposes only) dead and dying Ash adjacent to transport routes in Kent and Medway (including footways, bridleways, road and railway network). This can be part of a wider Tree Strategy for Kent.	Key stakeholders (Highways Agency, Medway Council, Kent County Council, Network Rail) to confirm that threat is being considered internally and report back to future SCG meetings with 'for information' updates.	EMG Chair	Updates at future SCG meetings	<b>Amber</b>
3.6	Assess potential scale and cost of monitoring and felling (for safety purposes only) dead and dying Ash within privately owned sites with public access (including zoo parks and heritage sites).	Key stakeholders (private landowners and land managers, commercial and relevant charitable organisations) to confirm that threat is being considered internally and report back to future SCG meetings with 'for information' updates.	EMG Chair	Updates At future SCG meetings	<b>Amber</b>

	Key Targets	Performance Measure	Accountability	Timescale	RAG
4.	<b>Media &amp; Communications Group (M&amp;CG):</b> Maximise public, media & stakeholder awareness & confidence through a joined-up Media & Communications Strategy. M&CG will be largely “virtual” in format, utilising email and teleconference facilities.				
	<b>Membership:</b> Maidstone Borough Council (Roger Adley [Chair]), KCC Communications (John Todd), Forestry Commission (TBC), KCC Emergency Planning (Fiona Gaffney), KCC Flood Risk and Natural Environment Team (William Moreno), DCLG RED (Chris Innes), Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre (Hannah Cook)				
4.1	Develop a local Media & Communications Strategy for the outbreak, to support the national strategy led by Defra & Forestry Commission, using a range of channels	Strategy developed.	M&CG Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2012	Amber
4.2	Forestry Commission public information signs installed at entrances and on notice boards at publicly accessible wooded sites across Kent and Medway.	2,500 Forestry Commission Public Information Signs circulated to key stakeholders and installed at wooded sites.	M&CG Chair	Signs installed by end of calendar year 2012	Green
4.3	Link to Forestry Commission Ash Dieback page posted on all Kent and Medway Local Authority websites.	All Local Authorities comply with target.	M&CG Chair	Link posted by 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2013	Amber
4.4	Develop on-line Ash Dieback forum for sharing best practice. Create links with European forums on tree and plant health.	Forum and links established	M&CG Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2013	Amber
4.5	Link to Defra Interim Chalara Control Plan distributed to all KRF partners to inform relevant activities by their personnel and contractors. Partners to utilise their networks and partnerships to optimise extent of distribution e.g. key service users, associations, trade bodies, land-owners, community groups, businesses etc.	Defra Interim Chalara Control Plan distributed.	M&CG Chair	End of calendar year 2012	Amber

	Key Targets	Performance Measure	Accountability	Timescale	RAG
4.6	Engage with Fera “train the trainers” initiative aimed at developing a plant health network of trained personnel to support official surveillance and detection.	Local personnel signed-up to initiative.	M&CG Chair	Ongoing	Amber
4.7	Trading Standards teams to produce and publicise guidance (in co-operation with arboriculture trade) addressing risk from “rogue traders” profiteering from outbreak.	Guidance produced and publicised.	M&CG Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2013	Amber
5.	<p><b>Recovery Advisory Group (RAG):</b> Maintain continuity of the response &amp; develop a long-term Recovery Strategy, covering business &amp; economic confidence, cultural &amp; amenity impacts and long-term environment management. RAG will be largely “virtual” in format, utilising email and teleconference facilities.</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> Kent Downs AONB (Nick Johannsen [Chair]), KCC Flood Risk and Natural Environment Team (Elizabeth Milne), Forestry Commission (Jonathan Harding), Kent Downs AONB (Nick Johannsen), Shepway District Council (David Sephton), Maidstone Borough Council (Deanne Cunningham / Nick Gallavin), Kent Tree Officers Group (Daniel Docker), Kent Wildlife Trust (Debbie Salmon), Kent Local Nature Partnership (Linda Davies), Greenspace forum Kent (Darran Solley), KCC Emergency Planning (Tony Harwood), Kent Economic Development Officers Group (Jeremy Whittaker), KCC Regeneration and Economy (Alan Turner)</p>				
5.1	Work in partnership to minimise direct & secondary impacts of the outbreak on the local economy and cultural amenity, by maintaining consumer / public confidence, supporting businesses with relevant insurance & legal advice and providing a strong voice for Kent & Medway in negotiations with central government.	Ongoing commitment.	RAG Chair	Ongoing	Amber
	Advocate for the development and adoption by all Kent councils of a tree strategy for Kent and Medway.	Action included as a priority in the Kent Environment Strategy.	RAG Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014	Amber
5.2	Incorporate a ‘Kent & Medway natural regeneration and dead wood retention	Draft policy drafted and circulated to key stakeholders.	RAG Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014	Amber

	<b>Key Targets</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Accountability</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>RAG</b>
	(saproxylic wildlife) policy' into existing Local Authority / government agency landscape strategies and guidance and circulate across wider landowner / land management community - to maintain biodiversity and engender good bio-security and a resilient natural environment.				
5.3	Incorporate a 'Kent & Medway tree planting / landscaping bio-security policy' into existing Local Authority / Government agency landscape strategies and guidance and circulate across wider landowner / land management community, predicated upon excellent bio-security, genuinely local provenance stock and optimising species diversity (Kent Design Guide approach).	Draft policy drafted and circulated to key stakeholders.	RAG Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014	<b>Amber</b>
5.4	Ensure a multi-agency replacement policy for ash trees lost from formal street plantings, parkland gardens and other locations (where natural regeneration is impossible), predicated upon excellent bio-security, genuinely local provenance stock and optimising species diversity.	Draft policy drafted and circulated to key stakeholders.	RAG Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014	<b>Amber</b>
5.5	Identify opportunities for woodland extension and creation at species-poor sites, utilising naturally Ash Dieback resistant local provenance Ash seed / saplings. Formulate bid for project funding.	Number of woodland extensions / new sites achieved.	Kent Local Nature Partnership	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014	<b>Amber</b>

	<b>Key Targets</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Accountability</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>RAG</b>
5.6	Address financial recovery implications of outbreak for responding agencies, including financial record keeping and investigation of Bellwin scheme and other potential reparation options.	Financial recovery strategy agreed.	RAG Chair	Ongoing	<b>Amber</b>