

Kent County Council

**Local Flood Risk Management
Strategy Review 2013-14**

Draft

March 2014



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1 INTRODUCTION

Kent County Council (KCC) adopted the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Kent in June 2013. The strategy sets out a countywide framework for managing the risk from and coordinating resources to manage local flooding. Local flooding is defined in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as flooding from:

- **Surface water,**
- **Groundwater,**
- **Ordinary Watercourses.**

The aim of the local strategy

The aims of the local strategy are:

- to coordinate the work of the management authorities to improve the understanding of local flood risks;
- to ensure that we work together to provide effective solutions to local flood risks where we can; and,
- to improve the public's understanding of local flood risks in Kent and how everyone can play a part in reducing them.

These are the objectives of the local strategy.

1. Improving the understanding of the risks of flooding from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses in Kent.
2. Reducing the risk of flooding on people and businesses in Kent.
3. Ensuring that development in Kent takes account of flood risk issues and plans to effectively manage any impacts.
4. Providing clear information and guidance on the role of the public sector, private sector and individuals in flood risk management in Kent and how those roles will be delivered and how authorities will work together to manage flood risk.
5. Ensuring that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents in Kent are effective and that communities understand the risks and their role in an emergency.

1.1 Why has a local strategy review been produced?

The local strategy sets out an action plan, much of which is to be delivered over twelve months. As we approach the end of this period, it is appropriate to review progress on the action plan before we prepare the action plan for the following twelve months.

1.2 Action Plan

The Local Strategy included an action plan for delivering the objectives over the following 12 months. The actions were presented in three tables, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 in the Local Strategy. These showed the countywide actions to be led by KCC, shown in Table 9.1. Local actions, led by KCC, shown in Table 9.2. And actions that other risk management authorities can undertake within their existing risk management functions, shown in Table 9.3.

2 REVIEW OF 2013-14

2.1 Overview

The year 2013-14 has been challenging as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Clearly, we have experienced significant flooding over the Winter period, whilst the headlines were mainly about main river flooding, affecting Tonbridge, Yalding and other areas in the Medway Valley, there are a number of flooding issues. These include the flooding in the Nailbourne and Little Stour Valleys, flooding in the Darent Valley, tidal flooding during the tidal storm surge in early December and other local flooding incidents. At the time of writing information about these events has not been fully compiled, but they are likely to impact on our workload in the next financial year.

There has also been the continued delay of the commencement of the SuDS role in Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. This has led to further uncertainty not only for us, but also planning authorities and developers. KCC has continued to prepare for our SuDS role, despite this delay.

2.2 Project delivery

This year's programme of work included a number of projects to be undertaken by consultants (predominantly surface water management plans). It was intended to use the Environment Agency's Water and Environment Management (WEM) framework for this, which is available to LLFAs, to procure this work. The WEM Framework was due to be launched in April 2013. However, following a review of all public sector contracts early in 2013, some issues were identified with the procurement of this framework and it was not available to use until August 2013. Consequently, there was a delay in procuring some of these projects.

All of the projects that were identified for this action plan period have commenced and many have been completed or will be complete by the end of the financial year. Some have had to be extended into the next financial year, these are indicated in the tables below.

2.3 Team development

Two new posts have been created within the flood risk management team, a Flood Risk Project Officer and a Land Drainage Engineer. This is in addition to the Flood Risk Manager and the Sustainable Drainage Engineer.

The addition of the Land Drainage Engineer provides a full time resource to manage enquiries about local flooding incidents in the county. This officer works with land owners, residents, KCC Highways and other risk management authorities to find solutions to land drainage issues and advise these groups of their responsibilities for flood risk management.

The Flood Risk Project Officer will help us to deliver the projects we have to investigate and manage local flood risk in the county. This officer manages

projects and undertakes investigations into local flooding areas and works with our partners to coordinate our work across the county.

These additions have allowed us to improve the service we offer and engage with more agencies and the public and manage more projects to deliver flood risk benefits.

2.4 Partnership working

We have received a great deal of support from our partners in Kent. All of the risk management authorities have assisted us in projects where appropriate. We have continued to receive valuable support from the Environment Agency. We have also been particularly pleased with the relationships we have developed with districts and boroughs and Southern Water, who have been very helpful in assisting us to assess local flood risk and develop local surface water management plans.

KCC has contributed to a number of schemes across the county. These are listed below:

- Contribution to the maintenance of the tidal defences at Kingsdown, to Dover District Council.
- Contribution to the delivery of properly level protection for properties in Aylesford, to the Environment Agency.
- Contribution to the assessment of a flood scheme in the Beult River, to the Environment Agency.
- Contribution to the delivery of the Sandwich Town Tidal Defence scheme, to the Environment Agency.
- Contribution to land drainage management raising with land owners, to the Stour and Medway Valley Countryside Management Partnerships
- Contribution to the development of low cost flow monitoring, to the University of Greenwich

2.5 Action plan review

The actions proposed for 2013-14 are reviewed in Table 2.1, 2.2. and 2.3. Table 2.1 provides a review of the countywide actions. led by KCC. Table 2.2 provides a review of the Local actions, led by KCC. Table 2.3 provides a review of the actions that other risk management authorities can undertake within their existing risk management functions

These tables include a summary of the progress of the action in 2013-14 and whether it will be continued into the next action plan.

Table 2.1 Review of countywide flood risk management steps 2013-14

No.	Action	Local strategy objective	Timeframe for delivery	Comments	Status
C1	Establish register of structures and features	1; 4	2014	Work has progressed on the register of structures and features. Data has been collected and collated. We are currently working on developing a database for that data that will also be compatible with the new SuDS approving role.	Continued
C2	Establish a record of flood incidents	1; 4	2014	We have developed a tool to record flooding incidents. We are currently working with ICT and Digital Communications Teams on the best way for the public to access this.	Continued
C3	Develop an integrated drainage asset management strategy	2, 4	2014	Work on this action has shown that it is not necessary on a countywide basis, but in some localities. We are currently working on the Isle of Sheppey Integrated Asset Management Plan and will use this as a template for other areas. We will work with partners to identify other areas that need this approach.	Closed
C4	Establish SuDS approving role	2; 3; 4	Dependant on Defra timeframes to be published	Defra has delayed the commencement of this legislation until October 2014. KCC are in a good position to undertake this role when it is commenced. We have undertaken several training workshops and seminars with teams that will be involved, both within KCC. We will await the final details of the role from Defra	Continued
C5	Produce SuDS guidance to help integrate it with new developments	2; 3	On going	KCC has lead the development of SuDS planning guidance on behalf of the Southeast7, Water.People.Places.	Closed

No.	Action	Local strategy objective	Timeframe for delivery	Comments	Status
C6	Identify opportunities to retro fit SuDS into existing developments	2	On going	We have identified two opportunities to deliver retrofitted SuDS to resolve existing flooding problems. We are currently working with our partners to develop feasible schemes to deliver these.	This action will be amended to reflect the delivery role we will now take and that we will still seek opportunities to retrofit SuDS
C7	Organise training of call centre staff in risk management authorities to harmonise recording of flood reports to move towards a single point of contact	4, 5	2014	KCC call centre staff can log enquires on KCC's enquiry database, which is forwarded to the flood risk management team. Harmonisation across organisations is not possible due to the different systems that contact centres use and the different geographical coverage. Partners advise customers to contact KCC directly.	Closed
C8	Raise awareness of flood risk and local flooding issues for the public and how they can reduce the risks	1	On going	We have continued to develop our website and to undertake Surface Water Management Plans, which identify flood risk issues. We have prepared a simple leaflet to advise landowners of their riparian responsibilities. Highways has recently provided more information about scheduled gully cleansing on their website.	Continued
C9	Hold workshops with risk management authorities to develop guidance and best practice on how authorities can work together to provide clear information to each other and the public	1; 4	2014	Workshops are currently being undertaken to share knowledge about the upcoming SuDS approving role and how we will coordinate with planning authorities. We have also held workshops with other risk management authorities, including Southern Water and the Environment Agency.	Continued

No.	Action	Local strategy objective	Timeframe for delivery	Comments	Status
C10	Update Local Multi-Agency Flood Plans with the latest data	5	On going	New data has recently been released and the multi-agency flood plans are currently being reviewed. As part of these we will ensure the latest information is used.	Continued
C11	Support and monitor risk management authorities in delivering the local strategy, Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and other flood risk management duties	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	On going	KCC has worked with a number of partners to support their risk management role.	Continued

Table 2.2 Review of local flood risk management steps 2013-14

No.	Action	Local strategy objective	Timeframe for delivery	Comments	Status
L1	Canterbury City Centre SWMP	1	2014	This SWMP is complete. It has shown that Canterbury City centre has a low risk from surface water flooding and no specific actions will be taken forward	Closed
L2	Paddock Wood FAS Initial Assessment	1; 2	2014	This FAS has commenced, it will report in Autumn 2014	Continued
L3	Deal Town FAS	1; 2	2014	The Deal SWMP that was on-going when this action was proposed has shown that the town does not need a FAS. Specific actions identified in the SWMP will be taken forward next year	Closed
L4	Folkestone SWMP	1; 2	2014	The SWMP has been completed and has identified an important mitigation opportunity that KCC and Southern Water are taking forward.	Closed
L5	Dartford SWMP	1	2014	This SWMP has commenced, it will report in Spring 2014	Continued
L6	Margate SWMP	1	2014	This SWMP has identified a number of opportunities for mitigation that we will explore with our partners	Closed
L7	Ramsgate SWMP	1	2014	This SWMP has identified a number of opportunities for mitigation that we will explore with our partners	Closed
L8	Isle of Sheppey pilot asset management plan	1	2014	This plan has commenced, it will report in Spring 2014	Continued

Table 2.3 Review of measures for all risk management authorities in Kent 2013-14

No.	Action	Local strategy objective	Comment	Status
R1	Registering flood assets, as defined in Section 5.2	1	Several local authorities have provided details of assets in their area. More details will be required as the register of assets develops.	Continued
R2	Reporting all local flooding incidents they are aware of to Kent County Council	1	Partners have directed customers to KCC to report local flooding where appropriate	Closed
R3	Assist with development and implementation of integrated asset management strategy	2, 4	See Action C3, Table 2.1	Closed
R4	Provide local knowledge to the SAB regarding developments in their area	2; 3	Local authorities have been advising developers of KCC's new role. This will need to continue until KCC's SuDS role is formalised.	Continued
R5	Encourage the use of SuDS through policy and use in own projects	3	Local authorities have adopted SuDS policies where they have been consulting on local planning documents.	Continued
R6	Take details of all flood events from members of the public and pass them on to the appropriate authority, giving the customer the details of the report that has been logged	4	See Action C7, Table 2.1	Closed
R7	Provide clear, publicly accessible information about risk management functions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the area and features they have responsibility for • schedules for routine maintenance and records of maintenance having been undertaken 	4	This action will be delivered through a number of other activities, including Integrated Asset Management Strategies and Flood Risk Management Plans.	Closed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plans for improvement works • plans for new flood management measures and • relevant contact details 			
R8	Ensure Strategic Flood Risk Assessments consider the impact of new development on the finances of flood defences in light of the new way of allocating grant in aid for flood defences	3	KCC will continue to advise planning authorities to assess the impact of the new funding measures.	Continued
R9	Assist with development and delivery of flood investigations and surface water management plans where appropriate	1	KCC has received a great deal of support from partners in the development of its projects.	Continued
R10	Provide flood risk information in a timely manner	1; 2; 3; 4	KCC has received information in a timely manner when it has requested it.	Closed

3 DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2014-15

The draft action plan for 2014-15 is proposed in Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3. The format is the same as the previous action plan, with countywide actions in Table 3.1. Local actions are shown in Table 3.2. Actions other risk management authorities are encouraged to deliver are shown in Table 3.3.

Table 3.1 Countywide flood risk management steps 2014-15

No.	Action	Local strategy objective	Driver	Responsible Body	Supporting Bodies	Funding source	Date added	Timeframe for delivery	Comments
Actions for KCC to deliver									
C1	Deliver a database to record structures and features	1; 4	Flood and Water Management Act	KCC	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2013	2015	
C2	Roll-out the recording tool for flood incidents	1; 4	Local strategy	KCC	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2014	2015	
C4	Establish SuDS approving role	2; 3; 4	Flood and Water Management Act	Defra; KCC	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2013	Dependant on Defra timeframes to be published	
C6	Continue to identify opportunities to retro fit SuDS into existing developments	2	Local strategy	KCC	Planning authorities	Defra grant	2013	On going	
C12	Collect structures and features data	1,4	Flood and Water Management Act	KCC	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2014	On going	
C13	Promote SuDS good practice in KCC estate	3	Local strategy	KCC		Defra grant	2014	On going	
C14	Develop guidance and best practice for land management to reduce flood risk	2	Local strategy	KCC	Planning authorities	Defra grant	2014	On going	

No.	Action	Local strategy objective	Driver	Responsible Body	Supporting Bodies	Funding source	Date added	Timeframe for delivery	Comments
C15	Continue to support development of low cost flow monitoring equipment	1,2	Local strategy	KCC	Planning authorities	Defra grant	2014	2017	
Actions for KCC to coordinate with other authorities									
C8	Raise awareness of flood risk and local flooding issues for the public and how they can reduce the risks	1	Local strategy	KCC, EA, SW	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2013	On going	
C9	Continue to work with risk management authorities to develop and deliver best practice on how authorities can work together to provide clear information to each other and the public	1; 4	Local strategy	KCC; EA	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2013	2014	
C10	Update Local Multi-Agency Flood Plans with the latest data	5	Local strategy	KCC	Environment Agency	Emergency planning	2013	On going	
C11	Support and monitor risk management authorities in delivering the local strategy, Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and other flood risk management duties	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Local strategy	KCC	Planning authorities		2013	On going	

Table 3.2 Local flood risk management steps 2014-15

No.	Action	Local strategy objective	Driver	Responsible Body	Supporting Bodies	Funding source	Date added	Timeframe for delivery	Comments
L1	Paddock Wood FAS	1, 2	Paddock Wood SWMP	KCC	TWBC; EA; Southern Water	Defra grant	2014	2015	
L2	Margate flood reduction works	1; 2	Margate SWMP	KCC	TDC; Southern Water	Defra grant	2014	2015	
L3	River Beult Catchment SWMP Programme	1	Maidstone SWMP	KCC	MBC; EA; Southern Water; Medway IDB	Defra grant	2014	2015	
L4	Hythe SWMP	1	Folkestone and Hythe SWMP	EA; KCC	ShDC; EA, Southern Water	Defra grant	2014	2015	
L5	Edenbridge investigation	1	Sevenoaks SWMP	KCC	SBC, EA, Southern Water	Defra Grant	2014	2015	
L6	Nailbourne Valley investigation	1	Canterbury SWMP SWMP	KCC	CCC, EA, Southern Water	Defra Grant	2014	2015	
L7	Folkestone flood reduction works	2	Folkestone SWMP	KCC	ShDC, EA, Southern Water	Defra Grant	2014	2015	

Table 3.3 Measures for all risk management authorities in Kent 2014-15

No.	Action	Local strategy objective	KCC linked measures
R1	Registering flood assets, as defined in Section 5.2	1	C1
R4	Provide local knowledge to the SAB regarding developments in their area	2; 3	C4
R5	Encourage the use of SuDS through policy and use in own projects	3	C5
R8	Ensure Strategic Flood Risk Assessments consider the impact of new development on the finances of flood defences in light of the new way of allocating grant in aid for flood defences	3	C11
R9	Assist with development and delivery of flood investigations and surface water management plans where appropriate	1	All local measures