

**To:** Kent Flood Risk Management Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**From:** Michael Harrison, Chairman of Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

**Subject:** Kent Resilience Forum Evacuation of Animals Task and Finish Group

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** To brief Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on progress by the Kent Resilience Forum Evacuation of Animals Task and Finish Group towards production of an Evacuation of Animals Emergency Plan

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## **1. Background**

1.1 At its meetings on 11<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> July the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee heard evidence and discussed the impacts of last winter's severe weather upon livestock and domestic animals.

1.2 A key issue arising from this debate was how improved warning and informing of stock owners and managers in advance of flooding and other severe weather events could best be achieved. In response to the concerns of Kent Flood Risk Management Committee and other stakeholders the Kent Resilience Forum Evacuation and Shelter Working Group has established an Evacuation of Animals Task and Finish Group. It is envisaged that the Task and Finish Group will produce a draft Evacuation of Animals Emergency Plan by the end of December 2014.

## **2. Latest situation**

2.1 The Task and Finish Group's inaugural meeting took place on the 15th October when Laurel Niven of Ashford Borough Council was elected as chair. Membership of the Group also includes KCC Trading Standards, National Farmers Union, KCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit, Gravesham Borough Council (Animal Welfare Group), Kent Wildlife Trust and RSPCA

2.2 At the initial meeting it was agreed that a similar plan produced by Somerset County Council following last winter's floods would be utilised as a template for a Kent document.

## **3. Next Steps**

3.1 It is envisaged that a final draft of the Kent Resilience Forum Evacuation of Animals Emergency Plan will be completed by the end of December and that this will operate county-wide and inform all relevant warning and informing and response activity.

3.2 Members will continue to be regularly updated on the progress of this locally significant area of flood, and wider severe weather, response planning.

#### **4. Recommendations**

##### 4.1 That Members:

- Note the establishment of the Kent Resilience Forum Evacuation of Animals Task and Finish Group and the timetable for emergency plan production; and
- Contribute any additional matters arising from debate by the Committee.

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*Background documents: None*