

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

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

**Subject:** Environment Agency and Met Office Alerts and Warnings and KCC flood response activity since last meeting.

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** To update Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on Environment Agency and Met Office Alerts and Warnings and KCC flood response activity since the last meeting of the Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014. Members are asked to note this report.

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## 1. Background

1.1 KCC Resilience and Emergencies Unit and Kent Resilience Team receive Environment Agency Flood Alerts and Warnings and Met Office Severe Weather Alerts and Warnings on a 24 hour 7 days a week basis. Impacts upon communities, infra-structure and the wider environment are assessed and a single or multi-agency response mobilised as required.

1.2 Some 70,000 properties in Kent are located within areas at risk of fluvial or tidal flooding. Where practically possible, these properties are offered a Flood Warning Service by the Environment Agency. However, other parts of the county are also potentially vulnerable to surface or ground water flooding. Early warning of flood risk to communities (including areas outside of fluvial and tidal floodplains) is delivered through Flood Guidance Statements, Severe Weather Warnings and Severe Weather Advisory Group.

## 2. Latest situation

2.1 July and August 2014 saw a number of dramatic summer storms, resulting in a number of surface water flooding and associated subsidence and sewage contamination incidents. This autumn has seen further intense short duration precipitation events, notably on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

2.2 Since 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 30 Environment Agency flood alerts and no warnings have been issued<sup>1</sup>. The figure for the same period in 2013 was 25 flood alerts and no warnings. In addition, 10 yellow Severe Weather Alerts and Warnings have been issued for heavy rain and the risk of surface water flooding<sup>2</sup>. The figure for the same period in 2013 was 9 yellow Severe Weather Alerts and Warnings for heavy rain. The most significant recent intense precipitation events struck Kent on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014, resulting

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<sup>1</sup> please see Appendix 1

<sup>2</sup> please see Appendix 2

in a number of surface water flooding, sewage contamination and subsidence incidents.

2.3 The Thames Barrier was closed on 3 occasions for test and operational purposes since the last meeting. The figure for the same period in 2013 was 2.

2.4 A total of 18 flooding related incidents were reported to the 24/7 KCC Emergency Planning Duty Officer since 21<sup>st</sup> July, encompassing surface water, subsidence and sewage pollution. The figure for the same period in 2013 was 10. A further alert was received in relation to a 'low risk' of an east Coast tidal surge during the late tides of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

### **3. Next Steps**

3.1 The autumn and winter period has historically seen an increased risk of flooding in Kent. Recent heavy rainfall, and long range weather forecasts suggest that weather conditions will remain unsettled, underlining the need for continued vigilance by Kent County Council, the wider local resilience community and residents.

3.2 Significantly, September 2015 will be the high point in the 19 year astronomical tide cycle. The greatest risk of tidal flooding is experienced between November and March, when winter storms are most likely. Key dates for such high tides are January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2015.

3.3 Members will continue to be regularly updated on flood alerts, severe weather warnings and operational response across Kent.

### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 That Members:

- Note the level of alerts and operational response since the last meeting of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee; and
- Contribute any additional matters arising from debate by the Committee.

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*Background documents: None*

## Appendix 1: Environment Agency Flood Alerts received between 21<sup>st</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014

REGISTER OF ALERTS - 2014							<a href="#">Click here</a> for instructions			
Serial No:	Area	Day received	Date received	Time received	Date issued (if different)	Alert?	Warning?	Severe Warning?	Date All Clear	Staff Involved
461	Coast from Sandgate to Dungeness	Saturday	09/08/2014	14:08		X			14/08/2014	TH, GS
462	Coast from Fairlight to Dungeness including the Tidal Rother	Saturday	09/08/2014	14:02		X			14/08/2014	TH, GS
465	Coast from Pegwell Bay to Deal including the Tidal Stour	Wednesday	13/08/2014	09:43		X			13/08/2014	GS
467	Tidal Medway, Medway Estuary and Isle of Grain	Wednesday	13/08/2014	10:29		X			14/08/2014	TH
468	Isle of Sheppey and Coast from Kemsley to Seasalter	Wednesday	13/08/2014	10:36		X			14/08/2014	TH
469	Coast from Dartford to Allhallows	Wednesday	13/08/2014	10:43		X			14/08/2014	TH
470	Coast from Whitstable to Margate	Wednesday	13/08/2014	10:56		X			14/08/2014	TH
471	Coast from Pegwell Bay to Deal including the Tidal Stour	Thursday	14/08/2014	09:43		X			14/08/2014	TH
473	Shuttle and Cray Catchments	Thursday	14/08/2014	14:47		X			14/08/2014	TH
477	Great Stour from Charing Heath to A2070	Tuesday	26/08/2014	10:36		X			27/08/2014	FG
490	Isle of Sheppey and Coast from Kemsley to Seasalter	Tuesday	09/09/2014	16:32		X			11/09/2014	RW
492	Coast and tidal areas from Fairlight to Dungeness	Wednesday	10/09/2014	09:30		X			11/09/2014	RW
496	Coast from Fairlight to Dungeness including the Tidal Rother	Wednesday	08/10/2014	15:30		X			10/10/2014	TH, FG
497	Coast from Sandgate to Dungeness	Wednesday	08/10/2014	15:31		X			10/10/2014	TH, FG
498	River Rother Area	Friday	10/10/2014	21:01		X			10/10/2014	FG
521	Upper River Stour Area	Saturday	11/10/2014	09:15		X			14/10/2014	FG
524	Darent Catchment	Monday	13/10/2014	06:16		X			15/10/2014	TH
525	Rivers Eden & Eden Brook Area	Monday	13/10/2014	09:18		X			15/10/2014	TH
526	Upper River Medway Area	Monday	13/10/2014	09:44		X			14/10/2014	TH
527	River Bourne Area	Monday	13/10/2014	09:57		X			14/10/2014	TH
537	Rivers on the Isle of Sheppey	Monday	13/10/2014	15:15		X			14/10/2014	TH
552	Isle of Sheppey and Coast from Kemsley to Seasalter	Tuesday	21/10/2014	16:49		X			22/10/2014	TH
553	Tidal Medway, Medway Estuary and Isle of Grain	Tuesday	21/10/2014	16:49		X			22/10/2014	TH
554	Coast from Dartford to Allhallows	Tuesday	21/10/2014	16:49		X			22/10/2014	TH
555	Coast from Whitstable to Margate	Tuesday	21/10/2014	16:49		X			22/10/2014	TH
556	Coast from Pegwell Bay to Deal including the Tidal Stour	Tuesday	21/10/2014	16:49		X			22/10/2014	TH
564	Upper River Medway Area	Sunday	02/11/2014	20:28		X			04/11/2014	TH/SS
565	Upper River Stour Area	Monday	03/11/2014	13:34		X			04/11/2014	SS
566	Upper River Stour Area	Wednesday	04/11/2014	20:40		X				SS
567	Swalecliffe Brook	Wednesday	04/11/2014	20:52		X				SS

## Appendix 2: Met Office Warnings and Alerts received between 21<sup>st</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014

REGISTER OF ALERTS - 2014					
Serial No:	Day received	Date received	Date issued (if different)	Staff Involved	Description
446	Friday	25/07/2014		TH	Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England: valid from 1200 Fri 25 Jul to 2100 Fri 25 Jul
447	Monday	28/07/2014		TH	Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England: valid from 0310 Mon 28 Jul to 2345 Mon 28 Jul
453	Wednesday	06/07/2014		TH	Yellow Alert of Rain for London & South East England: valid from 1200 Fri 08 Aug to 2100 Fri 08 Aug
472	Thursday	14/08/2014		TH	Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England: valid from 1210 Thu 14 Aug to 2100 Thu 14 Aug
502	Thursday	18/09/2014		TH	Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England: valid from 0015 Fri 19 Sep to 2345 Fri 19 Sep
538	Friday	10/10/2014		TH	Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England: valid from 2045 Fri 10 Oct to 0400 Sat 11 Oct
539	Saturday	11/10/2014		TH	Yellow Warning of Fog for London & South East England: valid from 0100 Sun 12 Oct to 1100 Sun 12 Oct
540	Sunday	12/10/2014		TH	Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England: valid from 0015 Mon 13 Oct to 2300 Mon 13 Oct
541	Monday	13/10/2014		TH	Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England: valid from 1115 Mon 13 Oct to 2345 Mon 13 Oct
545	Thursday	16/10/2014		TH	Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England: valid from 2015 Thu 16 Oct to 0400 Fri 17 Oct