

To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee – 17th November 2014

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

Subject: Southern Water response to Winter 2013/14 floods

Classification: Unrestricted

1. Background

1.1 Following the flooding in Winter 2013/14 Cabinet requested a paper to explore the issues that arose and identify areas for improvement. The paper that was produced included 17 recommendations, it was tabled at Cabinet on 7th July 2014 and formally approved. This paper was reported to Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on 21st July 2014.

1.2 Recommendation 13 of the report was for “EA / Southern Water to respond to queries / concerns regarding the perceived lack of / effectiveness of their rivers & flood management systems / assets”. Paul Crick, Director of Environment, Planning and Enforcement, wrote to Matthew Wright, Chief Executive, Southern Water, to ask him to explain what Southern Water had done in response to the flooding. His response is included in Appendix 1 of this report.

1.3 The Environment Agency is due to publish a report into the winter flooding.

2. Recommendations

That Members:

- Note the Southern Water letter (Appendix 1); and
- Consider any matters arising from the letter.

Michael Harrison, Chairman of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

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Background documents: Report to Cabinet on the Christmas / New Year 2013/14 Storms and Floods (7th July 2014)