

**To:** Kent Flood Risk Management Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015

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

**Subject:** Kent Resilience Forum Pan Kent Flood Group

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** To brief Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on role and responsibilities of the Kent Resilience Forum Pan Kent Flood Group

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## **1. Background**

1.1 The Kent Resilience Forum was established in April 2005 to deliver upon legal duties enshrined within the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The Forum ensures enhanced co-operation across resilience partners, including the emergency services, government agencies, local authorities and utilities. A number of working groups are operated by the Forum, with the latest to be launched being the Pan Kent Flood Group, in October 2014.

1.2 Terms of reference for the Kent Resilience Forum Pan Kent Flood Group are set out at appendix 1 of this report. The Group is chaired by the Environment Agency with Kent County Council in the vice chair role.

## **2. Work Programme**

2.1 The Group has been meeting on a monthly basis to implement all outstanding actions arising from the Kent Resilience Forum winter 2013/14 severe weather debrief action plan.

2.2 The Group also organised a successful multi-agency flooding exercise (Exercise Wade) on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014, which saw significant KCC engagement, including participation by Corporate Director for Growth Environment and Transport Barbara Cooper, and other senior KCC managers.

2.3 Training activity has been another key area of activity, including an innovative programme of flood warden training, underpinned by an agreed mechanism for alerting wardens and governance of the scheme.

## **3. Next Steps**

3.1 The focus of the Kent Resilience Forum Pan Kent Flood Group is evolving from a focus upon actions arising from the winter 2013/14 flooding, towards enhancing planning and preparedness across the range of flood risk. A final progress report to ‘draw a line’ under the actions arising from the winter 2013/14 flooding is currently being compiled by the Group. It was agreed at the February meeting to prioritise planning for east coast tidal surge risk, and to this end a workshop is to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, with subsequent recommendations addressed by task and finish group meetings on the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

3.2 Members will continue to be updated on the activities of this Group.

#### **4. Recommendations**

##### **4.1 That Members:**

- Note the establishment of the Kent Resilience Forum Pan Kent Flood Group; and
- Contribute any additional matters arising from debate by the Committee.

Tony Harwood, Resilience and Emergencies Manager, Growth Environment and Transport 07850 907286 / [tony.harwood@kent.gov.uk](mailto:tony.harwood@kent.gov.uk)

*Background documents: None*

**Purpose of the Group:**

To ensure that Kent has appropriate emergency plans in place to deal with the range of flood emergencies set out in the Kent Community Risk Register and to ensure that there are the requisite multi-agency capabilities to respond to and recover from any such emergency. To identify and act upon lessons learned from recent tidal, fluvial, pluvial, ground and surface water flooding events in Kent and agree a structured prevention, response and recovery action plan.

**Aim of the group:**

Through effective partnership working between Category 1 and 2 responder agencies to ensure common understanding and execution of Emergency Planning, training and exercising responsibilities in order to achieve an integrated response and recovery process to any flooding emergency in Kent.

**Objectives:**

1. Ensure connectivity between the multi agencies within the group by supporting and assisting in the development of a bespoke Flood action plan to ensure gaps in capabilities are identified and mitigated against.
2. To collate, disseminate and understand recommendations from all agency flood reports and debriefs.
3. Produce an overarching action plan that seeks to resolve the recommendations and identifies any gaps / risks that may need further work.
4. Review / update the KRF Pan Kent Flood plan and District flood plans to incorporate recommendations as appropriate and highlight any risks through the KRF Executive Group.
5. To formulate Task and Finish groups as appropriate with a fixed end date to deliver a defined outcome to the group and make recommendations to the Executive Group as required.
6. Engage the KRF membership on key resource provision to assist in the delivery of the action plan.
7. To ensure timely highlight reports are presented to the Executive Group.
8. To ensure, once approved, the action plan and updated plans are entered and monitored on the KRF Register of Plans and Capabilities.

**Priorities:**

1. Delivery of debrief recommendations
2. Ongoing work from gap analysis

**Membership:** Chair: Environment Agency – Rob Wise  
Vice Chair: Kent County Council – Tony Harwood  
*Appropriate representatives from Category 1 and 2 responders and DCLG (RED)*

**Frequency:** As required (at least quarterly)

**Links with:** Kent Resilience Forum Risk Assessment Group  
Kent Resilience Forum Training and Exercise Group  
Kent Resilience Forum Public Warning and Informing group

**Reports to:** Kent Resilience Forum Executive Group

**Secretariat:** KRT

**Date agreed:** 07 January 2015

