

**To:** Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

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

**Subject:** Flood Risk to Communities

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:**

The Kent Flood Risk Management Team has produced a document that provides an overview of all forms of flood risk for the districts of Kent, the bodies responsible for managing the flooding and what plans there are for managing flooding in that area.

These documents are intended to provide a simple overview of flood risk and provide signposts to more detailed information.

**Recommendation:**

That Members:

- Note the draft Flood Risk to Communities: Canterbury, and
- Provide comments on the document and how it can be improved.

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Flood Risk Management Team has prepared some draft documents that set out the flood risk to the boroughs and districts in county, which are have called Flood Risk to Communities.
- 1.2 The purpose of these documents is to provide a simple document that gives and overview of all forms of flooding in an area, rather than just the flood risk that a particular risk management authority may be responsible for. The documents also give an overview of who is responsible for managing flood risk and flooding emergencies. They contain links to the various strategies, plans and policies that provide more information on specific flooding issues or how they are planned to be managed.
- 1.3 The Flood Risk to Communities documents contain appendices that break the district into the county electoral wards and provide a more detailed picture of flood risk in that ward. They also include any proposed works that are planned by the risk management authorities in that area.
- 1.4 The purpose of these documents is not to provide a detailed account of flooding in an area, but to give a basic one-stop overview of flooding and act as a reference guide if the reader would like more information.
- 1.5 It is intended that these documents will remain live and be updated when significant new information is published.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The purpose of the documents is to address a number of issues that have arisen since KCC became the Lead Local Flood Authority. As Lead Local Flood Authority, KCC has a duty to publish a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which sets out how we will manage local flood risk in the county. This is understandably misinterpreted by some readers as that will detail flood risk management in their local area. Unfortunately the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy only provides some of this function.
- 2.2 During the flooding of winter 2013/14 KCC was contacted by a number of local representatives, including local councillors, who wanted to know who was responsible for what in their area and what plans they may have.
- 2.3 As there are many risk management authorities with various powers and duties there is no single document that gives an overview of all flood risks and how they are managed.
- 2.4 The Flood Risk to Communities documents are intended to fill these gaps.

## **3 Document development**

- 3.1 To date the Flood Risk Management Team has prepared three draft versions of the Flood Risk to Communities documents, for the districts of Canterbury, Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling. The Flood risk to Communities: Canterbury is attached.
- 3.2 These have been consulted on with our professional partners, including the Environment Agency, the district councils concerned, the internal drainage boards and Southern Water. To date only comments for the Canterbury document have been received from all partners. They hope to receive further comments soon that will enable them to publish the other two documents.
- 3.3 Public consultation has not yet been undertaken on these documents. A small public consultation will be commencing shortly. If this consultation demonstrates that there is a need for these documents and that they adequately fill it the Flood Risk Management Team will begin to prepare drafts for the other districts in Kent.

## **4 Recommendations**

That Members:

- Note the draft Flood Risk to Communities: Canterbury, and
- Provide comments on the document and how it can be improved.

Michael Harrison, Chairman of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

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