

**To:** Kent Flood Risk Management Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**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

---

**Summary:** To update Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on Environment Agency and Met Office Alerts and Warnings, and flood response activity since the last meeting of the Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Members are requested to note this report.

---

## **1. Background**

1.1 KCC Resilience and Emergencies Unit and Contact Point receive Environment Agency Flood Alerts and Warnings and Met Office Severe Weather Alerts and Warnings by e-mail on a 24 hour basis. Potential impacts upon communities, infrastructure and the wider environment are then assessed and a response mobilised as required.

1.2 Some 70,000 properties in Kent are located within areas identified as potentially at risk of fluvial (river) 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 vulnerable to surface and ground water flooding. Early warning of flood risk to communities (including areas outside of floodplains) is delivered through Flood Guidance Statements, Severe Weather Warnings and mobilisation of the Kent Resilience Forum Severe Weather Advisory Group (SWAG) meetings.

## **2. Latest situation**

2.1 June 2016 saw the highest rainfall totals for this month since at least 1997. An average of more than 90mm of rain fell in Kent between 1<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June, double the average for the month.

2.2 Local responders, including KCC and Kent Districts, participated in 3 SWAG meetings during June and KCC also took part in 2 London SWAG meetings to ensure enhanced cross border and mutual aid planning. The Capital being especially hard hit by surface water flooding on EU Referendum day, 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

2.3 Rainfall across Kent was especially intense on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June, with localised surface water and fluvial flooding impacts resulting. North Kent was hardest hit on the 17<sup>th</sup> and west Kent on the 25<sup>th</sup> June. Sevenoaks District bore the brunt of the June storms with more than 44 homes and businesses affected, alongside disruption to local road and rail infrastructure. Across Kent more than 149 residential and commercial properties were affected by surface flooding during June. A breakdown of these impacts by Local Authority is appended to this report<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> please see appendix 1

2.4 Since the last meeting of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016, a total of 31 flood alerts and 1 warning have been issued by the Environment Agency<sup>2</sup>. This contrasts with 5 flood alerts and no warnings for the same period in 2015.

2.5 A total of 11 yellow and 2 amber Met Office Severe Weather Alerts and Warnings have also been issued since the last meeting<sup>3</sup>. This exceeds the 5 yellow alerts and 1 warning issued during the corresponding period last year.

2.6 The Thames Barrier has been closed on 4 occasions for test purposes since the last meeting of the Committee in March.

### **3. Next Steps**

3.1 Members will continue to be regularly updated on flood alerts, severe weather warnings, operational response, and ongoing Kent Resilience Forum planning for flood preparedness and response in the county.

### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 That Members:

- Note the level of alerts and warnings received since the last meeting of the Committee; and
- Contribute any additional matters arising from debate by the Committee.

Tony Harwood, Resilience and Emergencies Manager, Growth Environment and Transport tel. 03000 413 386 e-mail [tony.harwood@kent.gov.uk](mailto:tony.harwood@kent.gov.uk)

*Background documents: None*

---

<sup>2</sup> please see appendix 2

<sup>3</sup> please see appendix 3

**Appendix 1: June 2016 - premises flooded or requiring agency interventions**

(Sources: Kent Fire &amp; Rescue Service, Kent County Council, Ashford BC, Dover DC, Tonbridge and Malling BC)

Local Authority Area	Premises flooded or requiring agency interventions
Ashford Borough Council	12
Canterbury City Council	14
Dartford Borough Council	>11
Dover District Council	2
Gravesham Borough Council	>4
Medway Council	>18
Maidstone Borough Council	6
Sevenoaks District Council	>44
Shepway District Council	2
Swale Borough Council	2
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	>22
Thanet District Council	>13
<b>Total</b>	<b>&gt;149</b>

**Appendix 2: Environment Agency Flood Alerts issued since 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Flood Zone	Date issued	Status
River Rother and its tributaries	09/03/2016	Alert
Rivers Eden, Eden Brook and Kent Ditch	09/03/2016	Alert
Upper River Medway Area	09/03/2016	Alert
River Bourne Area	09/03/2016	Alert
Lower River Medway Area	09/03/2016	Alert
River Beult Area	09/03/2016	Alert
Rivers on the Isle of Sheppey	27/03/2016	Alert
Plenty, Swalecliffe and West Brooks Area	27/03/2016	Alert
Upper River Medway Area	28/03/2016	Alert
Rivers Eden and Eden Brook Area	28/03/2016	Alert
Lower River Medway Area	28/03/2016	Alert
River Teise Area	28/03/2016	Alert
River Beult Area	28/03/2016	Alert
River Bourne Area	28/03/2016	Alert
Middle River Medway Area	28/03/2016	Alert
Rivers Eden and Eden Brook Area	30/03/2016	Alert
Plenty, Swalecliffe and West Brooks Area	17/06/2016	Alert
The Pent Stream Catchment	17/06/2016	Alert
Rivers on the Isle of Sheppey	22/06/2016	Alert
The Pent Stream Catchment	22/06/2016	Alert
Rivers Eden and Eden Brook Area	22/06/2016	Alert
Darent Catchment	22/06/2016	Alert
Upper River Medway	22/06/2016	Alert
River Teise Area	22/06/2016	Alert
River Bourne Area	22/06/2016	Alert
River Rother Area	22/06/2016	Alert
Shuttle and Cray Catchments	22/06/2016	Alert
Plenty, Swalecliffe and West Brooks Area	22/06/2016	Alert
River Darent Catchment	25/06/2016	Alert
River Darent Catchment	25/06/2016	Warning
Shuttle and Cray Catchments	25/06/2016	Alert
River Bourne Area	25/06/2016	Alert

**Appendix 3: Met Office Severe Weather Warnings issued since 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

<b>Met Office Alerts and Warnings</b>	<b>Date issued</b>	<b>Status</b>
Yellow Warning of Fog for London & South East England	11/03/2016	Warning
Yellow Warning of Wind for London and South East England	27/03/2016	Warning
Yellow Warning of Rain for London and South East England	14/04/2016	Warning
Yellow Warning of Rain for London and South East England	15/04/2016	Warning
Yellow Warning of Rain for London and South East England	10/05/2016	Warning
Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England	11/05/2016	Warning
Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England	06/06/2016	Warning
Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England	16/06/2016	Warning
Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England	21/06/2016	Warning
Amber Warning of Rain for London & South East England	22/06/2016	Warning
Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England	22/06/2016	Warning
Amber Warning of Rain for London & South East England	23/06/2016	Warning
Yellow Warning of Rain for London & South East England	26/06/2016	Warning