

**To:** Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

**From:** Max Tant, Flood and Water Manager, Kent County Council

**Subject:** Medway Estuary and Swale Strategy

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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1 The Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan was published in 2008. It sets out the policy for managing the shoreline of the Medway Estuary and Swale from the risk of flooding and coastal erosion up to 2100. The Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan can be found here: <http://www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk/medway-estuary-and-swale-2008/>

2 The shoreline is divided into units and a policy is applied to each according to the risks and benefits of the standard of protection and other considerations. The policies can be:

- Hold the Line – By maintaining or changing the standard of protection;
- Advance the Line – By building new defences on the seaward side of the original defences;
- Managed Realignment – By allowing the shoreline to move backwards and forwards with management to control or limit movement;
- No Active Intervention – Where there is no investment in coastal defences or operations.

More information about Shoreline Management Plans can be found here: <http://www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk/what-is-a-smp/>

3 Shoreline management plans are followed by Shoreline Management Strategies that set out how the policies identified in the plans will be implemented. They are also an opportunity to review the original plan policies.

4 The Environment Agency have recently been developing the Medway Estuary and Swale Strategy, which they will be consulting on soon.

5 Someone from the Environment Agency will present to the committee on the Medway Estuary and Swale Strategy.

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