

To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

From: Katie Stewart, Director of Environment Planning and Enforcement

Subject: Recent Kent Resilience Forum Activity

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To update Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on recent activity by Kent Resilience Forum.

1. Background

1.1 The Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) Business Plan 2017-19 includes core activities such as local risk assessments, emergency plan reviews, training and multi-agency exercises, all of which improve the county's capability to respond to severe weather events, including flooding.

1.2 As outlined in this Business Plan, KRF's current priorities include activities which respond to the lessons identified during Exercise Surge in September 2016, which have previously been reported to the Flood Risk Management Committee.

1.3 This activity continues to respond to the threat of East Coast flooding, which remains the highest risk on the Kent Community Risk Register following a review of the Register in 2017 in line with the publication of the National Risk Register.

2. Key KRF activities since July 2017

2.1 Since July 2017, there have been several activities either undertaken or planned which specifically respond to the risk of flooding.

2.2 The local risk assessments for coastal, fluvial and surface water flooding have been reviewed and updated by KRF Partners, and the capabilities to respond to such events have been identified as being in place. This includes the review and update of the KRF Pan- Kent Flood Plans and Local Multi-Agency Flood Plans.

2.3 The KRF Human Aspects in an Emergency Group has been established and is chaired by KCC. This group will further develop Welfare Centre Guidelines and the KRF Evacuation and Shelter Plan, as recommended during Exercise Surge.

2.4 The KRF Business Continuity Group has developed a range of tools and templates to support KRF organisations and Kent businesses in preparing for and recovering from flood events.

2.5 The KRF Media and Communications Group met in October to share key winter resilience messages to ensure that organisations are directing customers to the best available advice to increase community resilience to severe weather events.

2.6 There will be a KRF Recovery Table Top Exercise on 27 November, which will focus on the long-term consequences to communities that must be managed following a catastrophic event. Whilst the scenario tested by the exercise has shifted from

flooding to a high rise residential fire following the fire at Grenfell Tower in London, it will test the capabilities that are required to support communities in the recovery phase regardless of the cause of a large scale incident, including flooding.

2.7 In terms of longer term planning for the impacts of flooding, the KRF Strategic Group will receive a report on 15 November that will look at the long term risks that are likely to impact on the County and highlight future areas of focus to continue to improve organisational and community resilience. This work used baseline data from the Kent & Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework, and identifies the impact of climate change on the County, its economy and emergency responders. This long term risk assessment will be used to enable more effective planning and response to incidents in future.

2.8 The threat of an East Coast Surge was considered by partners on the 4th 5th October this year during the recent series of Alerts providing an opportunity to refer to the recently updated Severe Weather Advisory Group Framework. Although the triggers for Flood Warnings were not reached partners communicated and collaborated in the anticipation of the Surge breaching existing defences in key areas and plans were put into place to deploy the EA Rapid Flood Defence Barrier. This included a limited/focused PWI campaign for affected residents and businesses.

2.9 Finally, the KRF Pan-Kent Flood Group continues to meet 3 times a year and Kent Resilience Team is represented at the national East Coast Flooding Group.

3. Key engagement activity since July 2017

3.1 KRF has continued to deliver a full training programme this year including:

- Flood Warden Workshop – Saturday 7th October
- Met Office Responder Training day – 11th October
- Duty Officer Development Day (Winter Preparedness workshop) - 21st September
- KRF Seminar (KRT Stand on Winter Preparedness) – 19th October

3.2 Elected Members will continue to be regularly updated on the KRF activity to support communities in preparing for, responding to and recovering from severe weather events.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That Members:

- Note the reported KRF activity since the last meeting of the Committee; and
- Contribute any additional matters arising from debate by the Committee.

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Background documents: None