

To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

From: Alan Turner, Water Resources Manager, Kent County Council

Subject: An overview of River Basin Management Plans and related issues covering Kent

Classification: Unrestricted

- 1 For the high-level management of the water environment, England and Wales are divided into 11 River Basin Districts (RBDs) each of which covers a major river catchment or a characteristic group of smaller catchments. These include rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuarine and coastal water bodies. The Environment Agency manages the 7 RBDs that cover England. Kent is covered by two RBDs: The catchments of the River Medway and the River Darent form part of the Thames RBD and the rest of the County is covered by the South East RBD. A map of the RBDs can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-basin-district-map>
- 2 For each RBD there is a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) that sets out the:
 - current state of the water environment
 - pressures affecting the water environment
 - environmental objectives for protecting and improving the waters
 - programme of measures, actions needed to achieve the objectives

The RBMPs cover a six-year planning period, they were last updated in 2015 and include a summary of progress since the 2009 plan. The RBMPs for Thames and South East RBDs can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015>

- 3 Kent's main river catchments, the Darent, Medway and Stour, are made up of a total of 88 'water bodies'. Only 7% of these are classified as having 'Good' or 'High' ecological status, whilst 25% are classified as 'Poor' or 'Bad'. The main reasons for water bodies not achieving Good status are categorised as:
 - Water Industry
 - Agriculture and Land Management
 - Urban and Transport

The complete data can be viewed here: <http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/>

- 4 A speaker from the EA Groundwater and Hydrology Team will present to the Committee on the RBMPs for Kent and related issues.

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