

To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

From: Max Tant – Flood and Water Manager

Subject: Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Sewerage undertakers are preparing Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMPs) to provide long-term plans for drainage and wastewater infrastructure.

Recommendation: Members are invited to note and comment on the report and accompanying presentation.

1. Sewerage undertakers are responsible for providing foul and surface water drainage disposal and for managing the assets that provide this service. Water companies have traditionally planned for investment in these assets through their five-yearly business planning process, regulated by OfWat and the Environment Agency. Following the 21st Century Drainage project, which looked at performance issues of the sewerage undertakers, it was recommended that the planning for drainage and wastewater planning be undertaken on a longer-term and more nationally consistent basis, through Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMPs).
2. A DWMP steering group was established to prepare the guidance for sewerage undertakers to use to write their plans. The steering group included all the sewerage undertakers in the UK as well as other interest groups, including the Environment Agency, DEFRA, the National Infrastructure Commission, Consumer Council for Water, ADEPT, Blueprint for Water (an association of environmental NGOs).
3. The DWMP framework was published in May 2019. The framework can be found here: <https://www.water.org.uk/policy-topics/managing-sewage-and-drainage/drainage-and-wastewater-management-plans/>
4. The framework establishes a technical process to review the provision of drainage and wastewater and identify pressures that need to be planned for, these include pollution, capacity, flooding and growth. Any catchment that meets the criteria on any of these factors is investigated in more detail. The framework is intended to be collaborative, as many of the issues that are included are not wholly within the remit of sewerage undertakers.
5. Following the publication of the DWMP framework, the steering group recognised that the technical guidance does not provide a useful entry point to the DWMP process for organisations outside the sewerage industry. To address this the steering group has prepared an introductory guide to DWMPs, which can also be found here: <https://www.water.org.uk/policy-topics/managing-sewage-and-drainage/drainage-and-wastewater-management-plans/>.
6. Max Tant will provide a presentation on DWMPs to the committee.

Contact Officer: Max Tant, Flood and Water Manager, 03000 413466
max.tant@kent.gov.uk