

To: Kent Flood Risk & Water Management Committee – Wednesday
10th June 2026

From: Rebecca Spore, Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and
Corporate Services

Subject: KCC severe weather response activity.

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To update Kent Flood Risk & Water Management Committee on the severe weather alerts and warnings received from the Met Office and Environment Agency, and corresponding KCC response activity since the last meeting of the Committee on 4th March 2026.

1. Background

1.1 This report provides the latest update to the Committee on the water-related alerts received by Kent County Council and the corresponding incident response activity led by the Resilience & Emergency Planning Service through the role of the Duty Emergency Planning Officer (DEPO). It outlines recent severe weather events, and the operational actions taken to mitigate associated risks.

1.2 The Environment Agency (EA) and Met Office send 24/7 regular alerts and warnings regarding severe weather to a list of recipients including the KCC Duty Emergency Planning Officer (DEPO), KCC Highways Senior Duty Officer and the Contact Point. The DEPO is also alerted to site-specific severe weather impacts by the emergency services and other resilience partners, with reports from the public received by Contact Point. KCC further initiates reporting using Severe Weather Impacts System (SWIMS) to capture multi-agency resources and costs arising from severe weather incidents.

1.3 Across the county, 85,500 residential and commercial addresses are recognised to be in areas at risk from fluvial (river) or tidal (coastal) flooding. Where possible, flood vulnerable properties are offered a Flood Warning Service by the EA. An early warning of flood risk to communities (including areas outside of floodplains) is delivered by Flood Guidance Statements, Severe Weather Warnings and the activation of a multi-agency Severe Weather Advisory Group (SWAG) by the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum (KMRF).

2. Kent water situation and weather statistics in Kent

2.1 Alerts

2.1.1 Flood alerts:

There were 75 alerts raised between January and March 2026, including 68 flood alerts, 5 flood warnings and 2 flood guidance statements. A table highlighting areas and number of alert per area can be viewed in **Appendix 1**.

A full list of flood alerts and warnings comparison to previous quarters and years can be found in **Appendix 2**. A visual representation of the flooding areas and comparison to the same quarter last year can be found in **Appendix 4**.

2.1.2 Weather alerts:

Between January and March there were a total of 9 yellow weather alerts. The Yellow alerts were divided in the following categories:

- Rain alert - 3 alerts
- Ice warning – 3 alert
- Wind warning – 1 alert
- Snow warning – 2 alert

2.1.3 Thames Barrier:

The Thames Barrier was closed on four different occasions for testing and operational purposes on:

- 08/01
- 18/02
- 02/03
- 09/03

More details on weather warnings, Thames Barrier closures and comparison with previous quarters can be found in **Appendix 3**. A full comparison with graphs of type of alerts received, and flood alert areas can be found in **Appendix 5**.

3. Recent Incident Response

3.1 Actions taken in response to incidents:

During this quarter, the DEPO was involved in the response to minor incidents, and the actions taken were:

- Monitoring the situation
- Liaising with other partner agencies
- Provide additional resources as a result from weather events and water outages
- Set-up and activate SWAG meetings

3.2 Incidents worth of note:

- There was a significant water outage between 6th January 2026 and 19th January 2026 affecting multiple districts across the county including Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Canterbury, and Tonbridge and Malling.
 - On 6th January, water disruption occurred in Tunbridge Wells, prompting the formation of Tactical and Strategic Coordinating Groups led by the Borough Council; KCC attended with other agencies.
 - On 10th January, issues with Southern Water infrastructure caused outages to spread county-wide. With more districts impacted, KCC declared a Major Incident, taking the lead on response and establishing a Media and Comms Cell and a Vulnerable People and Communities Cells.

- Care and education settings were affected, along with social care clients in their own homes.
- Disruption, including loss of supply and low pressure continued until 19th January, requiring sustained multi-agency coordination and response.
- Several KCC services including Resilience and Emergency Planning, Education, Public Health, Social Care, Infrastructure, Communications and Highways were involved in the incident response.
- An outage took place on the 27th January affecting properties on the border between Medway and Kent. Areas affected included the Isle of Grain and Higham.
 - This notably affected a school in Higham, and led to the school being closed throughout the outage.
 - Kent County Council (KCC) worked closely with responding agencies to monitor impacts and support mitigation measures.
- Additionally an outage took place on the 17th February affecting up to 3000 properties in the Staplehurst and Cranbrook areas.
 - Kent County Council (KCC) worked closely with responding agencies to monitor any impacts and support mitigation measures.

Throughout all water supply incidents, KCC's Duty Emergency Planning Officer (DEPO) and relevant services were fully engaged in the response. Command and control strictures were established where appropriate to manage the response, ensuring that risks to vulnerable residents and critical services were identified, monitored, and managed effectively.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Members to make note of the warnings received since the last meeting of the Committee; contribute to further planning, and comply with response policy and practice through oversight and debate.

7. Contact Details

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Appendix 1: Flood Alerts and Warnings per Area

There were 68 flooding alerts and 5 flood warnings identified for this quarter.

Warning area	Flood alerts Jan - Mar 2026	Flood warnings Jan - Mar 2026	Flood alerts & warnings previous year Jan- Mar 2025
Upper River Stour	4	0	1
Lower River Stour	3	0	1
Tidal River Stour	1	0	1 1 warning
River Darent	2	0	3
River Cray & Shuttle	0	0	0
River Rother	4	0	3
Tidal Rother	0	0	1
River Beult	9	2	3
River Teise and Lesser Teise	8	1	2 1 warning
River Bourne	3	0	2
Rivers Eden and Eden Brook	7	0	3 1 warning
Tidal Medway, Medway estuary	1	0	2
Lower River Medway	8	0	5
Upper River Medway	9	1	2 1 warning
Middle River Medway	4	0	3
River Medway, Teise & Beult at Yalding	0	0	1 warning
Little Venice Country Park and Marina	0	1	0
Tidal Thames (From Dartford Creek to Thames Barrier)	0	0	0
Rivers of the Isle of Sheppey	0	0	0
Pent stream	0	0	0
Kent	1	0	3
TOT	64	5	35 5 warnings

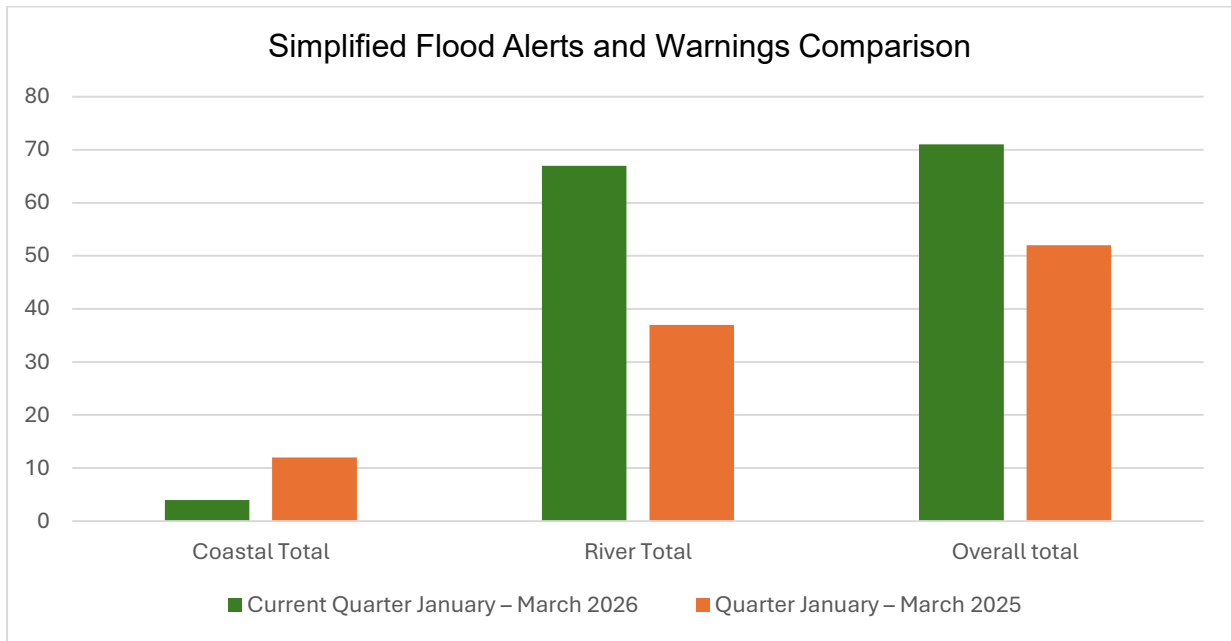
Warning area	Flood alerts Jan - Mar 2026	Flood warnings Jan - Mar 2026	Flood alerts & warnings previous year Jan- Mar 2025
Isle of Sheppey and Coast from Kemsley to Seasalter	2	0	3
Coast from Ramsgate to Kingsdown	0	0	1
Coast from St Margaret's at Cliffe to Sandgate	0	0	1 1 warning
Coast from Dartford to Allhallows	1	0	2
Coast from Whitstable to Margate	1	0	2
Coast from Sandgate to Dungeness	0	0	1
Coast from Fairlight to Dungeness (including tidal Rother)	0	0	1
Coast from Littlestone Golf Course to Dungeness	0	0	0
TOT	4	0	11 1 warning

Appendix 2: Flood Alerts and Warnings Quarter comparison

Time period	Coastal alerts	Coastal warning	Total Coastal	River Alerts	River Warnings	River Total	Kent wide	Overall total
Current Quarter January – March 2026	4	0	4	64	5	67	0	71
Previous Quarter October – December 2025	15	0	15	14	0	14	0	29
Quarter July – September 2025	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	3
Quarter April – June 2025	0	0	0	3	0	3	2	5
Quarter January – March 2025	11	1	12	32	5	37	3	52
Quarter October 2024 – December 2024	15	0	15	29	0	29	0	44
Quarter July 2024 – September 2024	1	0	1	14	3	17	0	18
April – June 2024	18	1	19	10	1	11	0	30
Jan – March 2024	5	0	5	84	5	89	0	94
Previous year (1 st January – 31 st December 2024)	79	2	81	144	9	153	0	234
January – December	39	0	39	74	2	76	0	115

2023								
January – December 2022	41	1	42	68	11	79	0	121

Graph Comparison of Flood Alerts and Warnings January – March 2025 & 2026



Appendix 3: Weather Warnings and Thames Barrier Closures

3.1 Weather Warnings - July to September 2025 comparison with equivalent quarter previous year

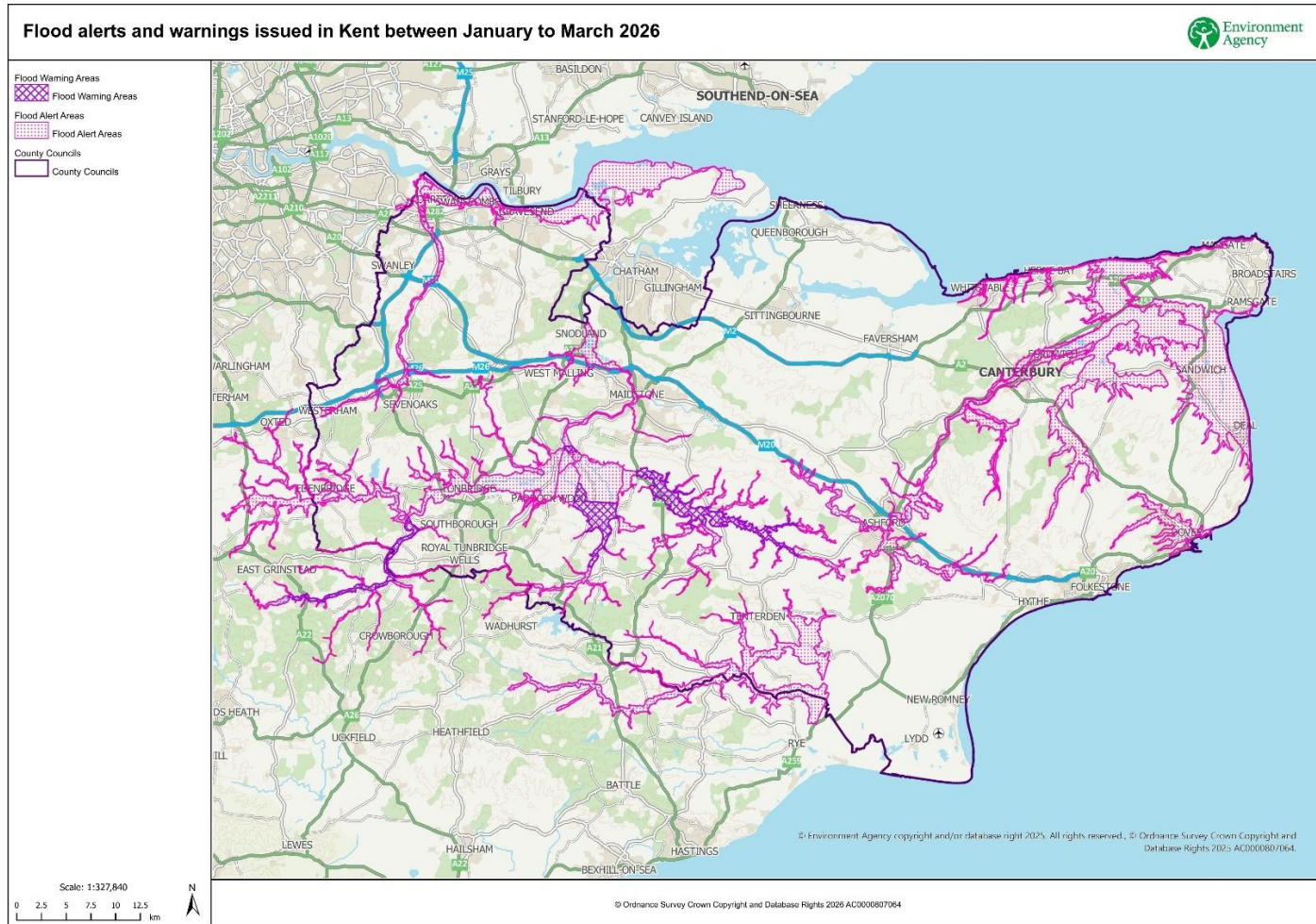
Weather	Number of warnings	Number of events	Number of warnings	Number of events
Current quarter Jan - Mar 2026			Previous year quarter Jan - Mar 2025	
Thunderstorm	0	0	0	0
Rain	3	3	3	3
Fog	0	0	1	1
Ice	3	3	4	4
Wind	1	1	3	3
Snow	2	2	0	0
Cold-health	0	0	2	2

3.2 Thames Barrier Closures - July to September 2025 comparison with equivalent quarter previous year

	Current quarter Jan - Mar 2026	Previous year for respective quarter (Jan - Mar 2025)
Operational closures	3	0
Test closures	1	3

Appendix 4: Visual Representation of flooding areas across Kent

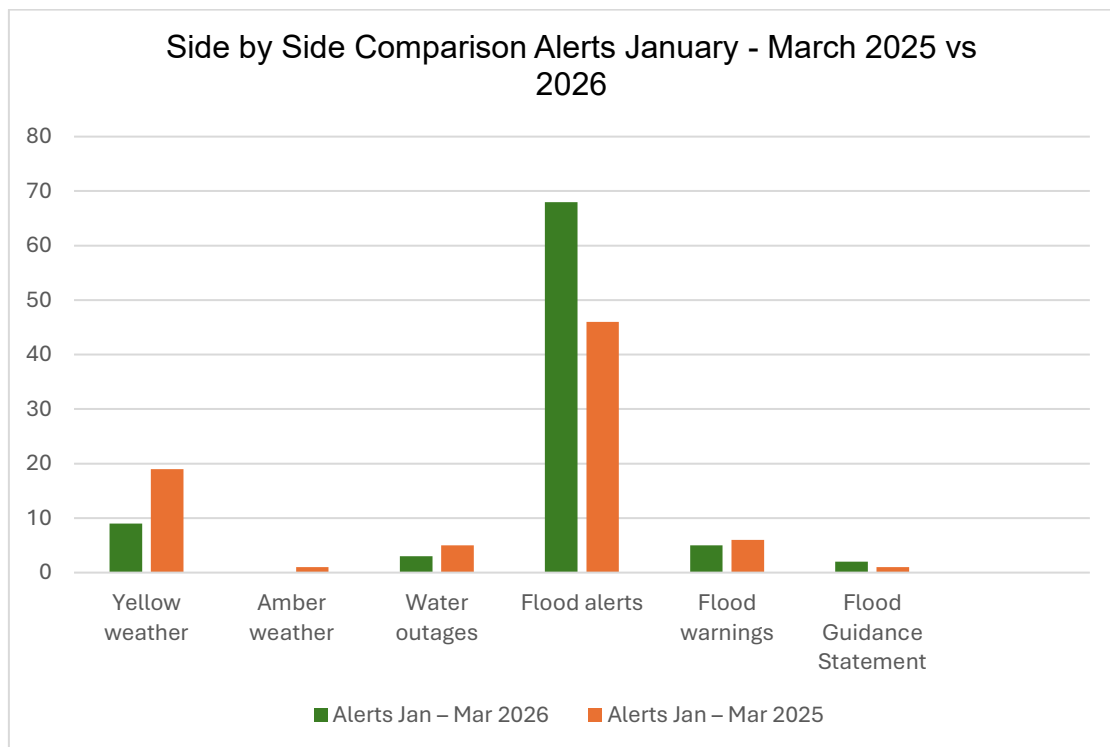
4.1 Current quarter (January - March 2026) visual map display of alerts and warnings



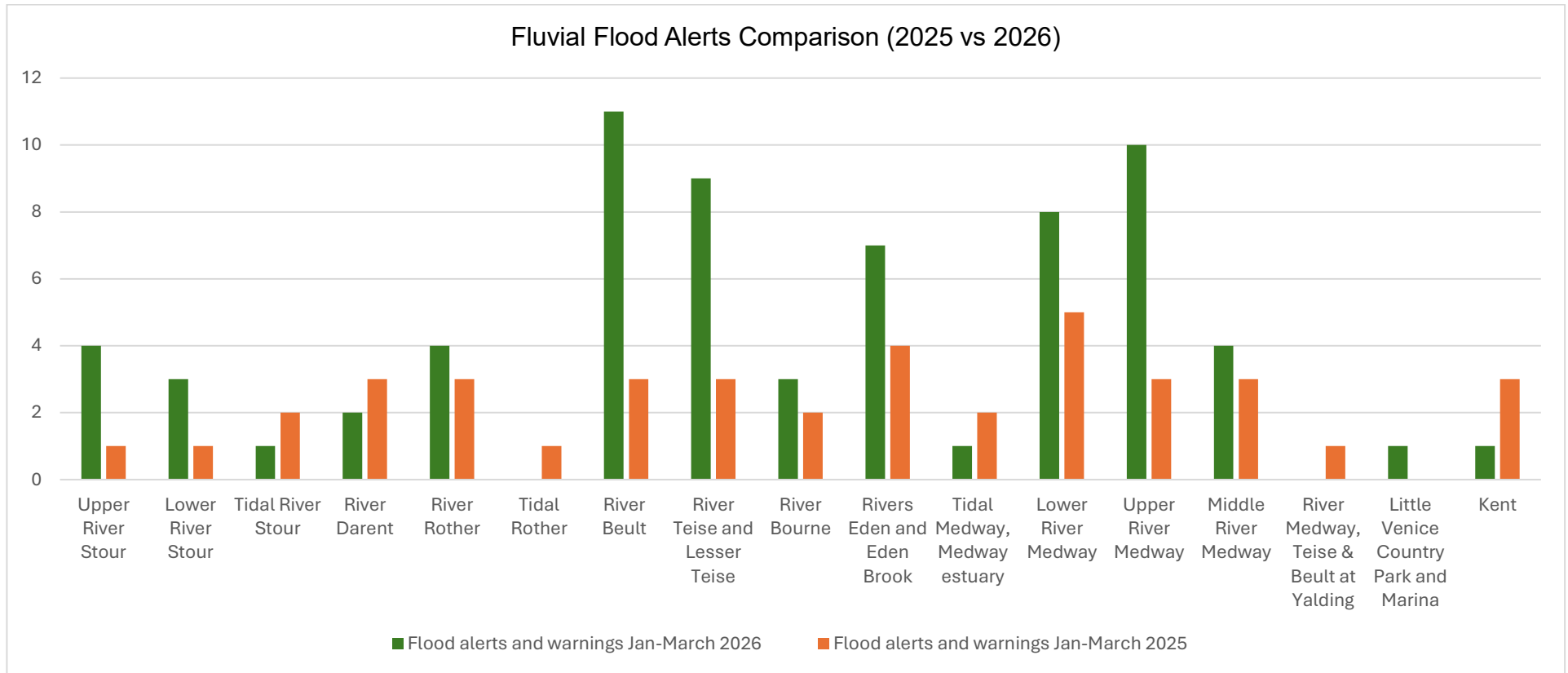
Appendix 5: Type and number of alerts received between the current quarter (January to March 2026), and previous year equivalent quarter (January to March 2025)

Alert type	Alerts Jan – Mar 2026	Received from	Alerts previous year Jan – Mar 2025
Yellow weather	9	Met Office	19
Amber weather	0	Met Office	1
Red weather	0	Met Office	0
Alert type	Alerts Jan – Mar 2026	Received from	Alerts previous year Jan – Mar 2025
Water outages	3		5
Flood alerts	68	Environment Agency	46
Flood warnings	5	Environment Agency	6
Severe flood warnings	0	Environment Agency	0
Flood Guidance Statement	2	Flood Forecasting Centre	1

Graph Comparison of Type of Alerts Received



Graph Illustrating Flood Alerts Areas: Fluvial



Coastal

