



# Kent Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

2024 – 2034

**Final Draft**

**June 2024**

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# 1 Introduction

**Kent County Council (KCC) is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Kent. As the LLFA, we have an overview role for local flooding, which is flooding that arises from these sources:**

- **Surface runoff**
- **Ordinary watercourses**
- **Groundwater**

One of our duties as the LLFA is to develop, maintain, apply, and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) that sets out how we will propose to manage these flood risks.

Local flooding is generally more localised than flooding from rivers and the sea, and managing it often relies on several systems working together effectively; especially drainage networks, sewers, and ordinary watercourses. These systems are often managed by different authorities, so cooperation and integrated planning are required from these authorities to manage local flooding effectively, which this Local Strategy aims to support.

This is the third Local Strategy that KCC has adopted, it will build upon the lessons we have learned from past Local Strategies (see Section 5). It has been developed in partnership with the other risk management authorities in Kent and other stakeholders to help us to work together and continue to reduce local flood risks, to develop our understanding of flood risk and to further improve our working relationships with partners and communities. It also reflects the Environment Agency's [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England](#).

The Local Strategy sets out the flood risk in the county, the roles and responsibilities of risk management authorities operating in the county, the aims and objectives of the strategy, progress and ongoing challenges since the previous Local Strategy, and how we will deliver and monitor it.

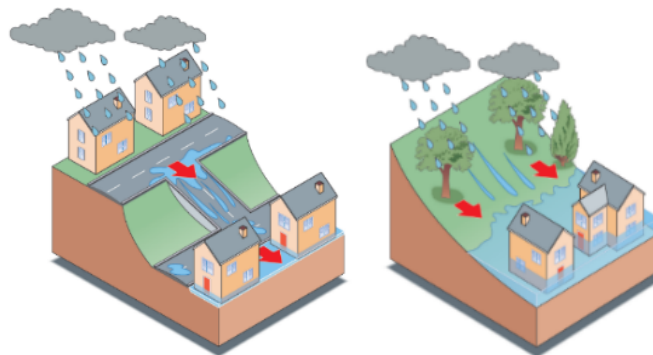
# 2 Flood Risk

## 2.1 Sources of flood risk

All sources of flood risk are described below. Please note that the Local Strategy focuses on local flooding, flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

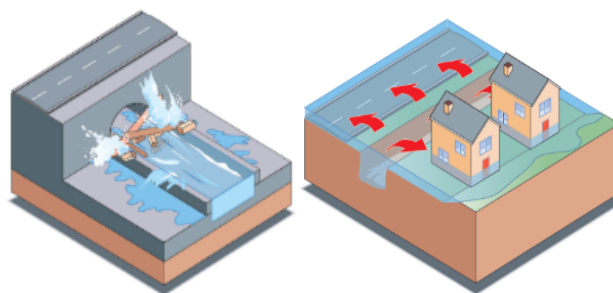
### Surface water

Flooding occurs when the rate of rainfall is higher than the rate at which water can drain into the ground or enter a drainage system, creating runoff, running downhill, and pooling in low points.



### Main river and ordinary watercourses (fluvial)

There are two categories of watercourse: main rivers (those that present the greatest risk to life and property) and ordinary watercourses (which covers all other watercourses, such as streams and ditches). Floods occur when the water flowing in a watercourse (which may be culverted), exceeds the capacity of the channel and goes over its banks. The capacity of the watercourse may be reduced by blockages and debris in the channel.



### Sewers (including foul sewers)

Floods occur when the sewerage system fails due to blockages or is overwhelmed by surface water.



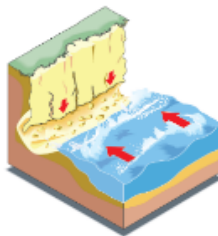
## Groundwater

Floods may occur when water stored in the ground rises to the surface. This is most likely in areas with porous underlying rock (such as, chalk).



## Coastal erosion

Flooding can occur when the coastline is eroded by the action of the sea, leading to land loss. Whilst coastal protection works are not the same as coastal flood defences, they can contribute to the effectiveness of flood defence along a shoreline.



## Coastlines

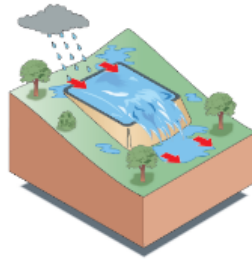
Flooding occurs when the coastline and/or coastal flood defences are either overwhelmed or breached by high tides or a storm surge.



## Reservoirs

Reservoir flooding is extremely unlikely. When the amount of water entering the reservoir is greater than the amount being discharged, water may overtop the reservoir and flow downstream (some reservoirs are designed to manage excess

flows in this way). Occasionally, a poorly designed reservoir structure can fail, releasing water.



## 2.2 Flood risk in Kent

**Kent has a resident population of over 1.5 million (2021 census).**

The county has a land area of 1,368 square miles and approximately 350 miles of coastline. Nine of Kent's districts and boroughs have a higher proportion of land within National Flood Zone 3<sup>1</sup> than the national average<sup>2</sup>. This presents unique flood risk management challenges.

Over 20,000 properties in Kent are estimated to be at risk of flooding from **surface water runoff**. Kent has one of the highest risks of surface water runoff of LLFAs in England. All areas in Kent are at some risk of surface water flooding, but risks tend to be concentrated in urban areas.

**Ordinary watercourses** (from small ditches to small rivers) are a significant source of flood risk in Kent. However, at present there is no national estimate of the risk from this source.

In Kent, there are many areas with numerous ordinary watercourses within a concentrated area. This is often because the watercourses play an important role in land drainage and for flood risk management in flat impermeable areas. Ordinary watercourses in locations with steep topography can also present significant flood risk to towns and villages.

**Groundwater** also presents a significant source of flooding in parts of Kent, due to large areas of permeable bedrock, such as the chalk aquifers of the North Downs (most notably along the Elham Valley, where the Nailbourne chalk stream flows when groundwater is high).

There are over 60,000 properties estimated to be at risk of flooding from **coastal and fluvial flooding** in Kent. Romney Marshes, Dartford, and Gravesend are at particular high risk of coastal and tidal flooding. To reduce this risk, the Environment Agency operate and manage flood defences in many coastal and tidal areas.

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<sup>1</sup> National Flood Zone 3 is defined by the Environment Agency as land having a 1 in 100 greater annual probability of river flooding or land having a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of sea flooding.

<sup>2</sup> [Land Use in Kent](#)

Further information about flood risk in Kent is available in the draft [Flood Risk to Communities](#) documents.

## 2.3 Development planning applications

New developments, such as housing, have the potential to increase flood risk. Guidance for new developments is set out in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) and local policy documents (such as, Local Plans), that may include more localised planning guidance on flood risk. Planning applications should set out how this is assessed and describe how any risks are mitigated.

As the LLFA, KCC is consulted on the surface water drainage aspects of all major planning<sup>3</sup> applications in the county. Our Drainage and Planning Policy can be obtained by emailing [suds.gov.uk](mailto:suds.gov.uk).

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<sup>3</sup> Major development is defined within Part 1, Article 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015 ([‘major development’ definition](#)).

### 3 Roles and Responsibilities

Managing local flooding often relies on several systems working effectively, especially drainage networks, sewers, and ordinary watercourses, which may be managed by different authorities. Bodies with flood risk management roles are known as risk management authorities, these include KCC, Environment Agency (EA), district and borough councils, internal drainage boards, water companies and sewerage companies. Cooperation and integrated planning are required from these authorities to manage local flooding effectively. A summary of the responsibilities of the different risk management authorities in Kent is set out in Table 1.

It is important to note that whilst risk management authorities manage flood risk, there is no duty on any of them to prevent flooding. Flooding is recognised as a natural phenomenon that cannot always be prevented. Risk management authorities exercise permissive powers to undertake flood risk management works, and they have access to funding to investigate and deliver flood risk management activities. In spending these funds, their work has to be cost effective and value to the taxpayer, they do not have an obligation to prevent all floods.

Table 1: Kent’s Risk Management Authorities and a summary of their responsibilities.

Risk Management Authority	Responsibilities
<b>Kent County Council: Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic overview of local flooding from ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater.</li> <li>• Investigate significant flood events within Kent in Section 19 reports, where five or more properties are internally flooded, critical infrastructure is affected, or the flood mechanism is complex.</li> <li>• Permissive powers to implement the Land Drainage Act (1991) and consent for works on ordinary watercourses.</li> <li>• Maintain an asset register.</li> <li>• Develop and maintain a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.</li> <li>• Statutory consultee role to provide technical advice and guidance on surface water drainage strategies, designs and maintenance arrangements put forward by developers for any new major development.</li> </ul>
<b>Kent County Council: Highway Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Maintenance of highway drainage systems.</a></li> <li>• Emergency responders during flood events on the highway.</li> </ul>
<b>Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A local public authority that manages water levels, flood risk and land drainage within areas of special drainage need.</li> </ul>



<b>Risk Management Authority</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permissive powers to implement the Land Drainage Act (1991) and consent for works on ordinary watercourses.</li> <li>• Under their Byelaws they are also able to consent new surface and treated foul discharges into any ordinary watercourse within their Internal Drainage District as well as consent works within 8 metres of any ordinary watercourse designated as 'Adopted' by the Board.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment Agency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing flood risk from main rivers, seas, and reservoirs.</li> <li>• Strategic overview of all forms of flooding.</li> <li>• Provides a flood warning service.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Companies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing and processing wastewater.</li> <li>• Manage leaks from clean water supplies and manage flooding from sewers.</li> </ul>
<b>District and Borough Councils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead on coastal erosion (where they have a coastline).</li> <li>• Carry out works on ordinary watercourses.</li> <li>• Apply flood risk guidance in determining planning applications.</li> </ul>

# 4 Aim and Objectives

## 4.1 Aim

Through this Local Strategy for Kent, our aim is:

- to improve the safety and wellbeing of Kent's residents and the economy of Kent through appropriate local flood risk management.

To do this we will:

- work effectively with communities and partners, incorporate climate adaptation, and utilise natural processes to provide multiple benefits, where possible.

## 4.2 Objectives

Our objectives for local flood risk management are: 'understanding flood risk', 'reduce the risk of flooding', 'resilient planning', and 'resilient communities'. Actions supporting the delivery of each objective were also identified from the review.

### Objective 1: Understanding of Flood Risk

Improve Risk Management Authorities' understanding of local flood risk mechanisms in Kent including the risks resulting from climate change, and to share this understanding with partners to create an evidence base for flood risk and climate adaptation.

To achieve this we will...

- improve communication and data sharing between risk management authorities following flood events
- continue to undertake Section 19 investigations of significant floods in Kent
- support the next round of water company Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans
- include climate change assessments in flood risk investigations

### Objective 2: Reduce the Risk of Flooding

Protect the people and businesses of Kent from flooding through the delivery of flood risk management projects and programmes using new or innovative techniques where appropriate.

To achieve this we will...

- deliver more schemes to reduce the risk of local flooding
- work with partners to co-deliver schemes
- support Southern Water's Clean Rivers and Seas Taskforce
- ensure multiple benefits are included in flood risk management schemes
- continue to provide advice on land drainage and riparian responsibilities
- Support IDB expansion

### Objective 3: Resilient Planning

Development and infrastructure delivery in Kent takes an active role in flood risk management, taking opportunities to manage on-site and off-site flood risk.

**To achieve this we will...**

- continue to encourage and support planning applications to appropriately consider the delivery of Sustainable Drainage Systems and reduce flood risk where possible
- implement Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- work with local planning authorities to ensure local flood risk is considered in local plan making and opportunities to proactively reduce flood risk are included

**Objective 4: Resilient Communities**

Residents and businesses of Kent are able to better prepare, understand and manage their own flood risk as appropriate, by having access to relevant flood risk information and support from risk management authorities. Communities and individuals are empowered to act to protect themselves from flooding through individual efforts, partnerships and joint working.

**To achieve this we will...**

- improve communities' access to appropriate data and information to understand flood risk in their area and support them to manage it
- support communities to establish and maintain Flood Action Groups
- continue to promote the voluntary role of flood warden within flood risk communities, in partnership with the Environment Agency
- encourage communities to prepare local flood plans
- engage with local communities and their flood risk representatives, when we are delivering flood risk management schemes

The Local Strategy objectives and activities will be measured against the targets and metrics found in Appendix 1. An annual review will be published in April of each year and report on the progress of the strategy for the previous year.

# 5 Progress since previous Local Strategy

## 5.1 Local Strategy 2017-2023

The 2017 Local Strategy included four objectives: 'Understanding Risk', 'Reducing the Risk of Flooding', 'Resilient Planning' and 'Resilient Communities'. We have reviewed the delivery of the previous Local Strategy under each of these objectives since 2017, to identify where we have made progress and where work is still required.

### 5.1.1 Objective 1: Understanding of flood risk

Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans have helped to improve our understanding of sewer flooding and how it is planned and invested in, which was an important gap at the time of the previous Local Strategy. These plans have shown that surface water in foul and combined sewers contributes to many issues sewerage undertakers are dealing with, including flooding and sewage discharges to the environment. This should provide opportunities to work with sewerage undertakers to jointly manage surface water, and we hope that as these plans develop, collaborative opportunities will arise from them.

Our improved understanding of the economic benefits of schemes that we deliver, and the changes made by the Environment Agency to the funding criteria, mean that we are expecting more schemes to be deliverable through partnership funding. In the previous Local Strategy, we had only developed one business case using these new criteria. This has shown that the new criteria may provide more funding for the kind of schemes we need to deliver, and we will continue to develop more business cases with them.

Overall, there is improved understanding of joint risks, however, more can still be done to improve our understanding.

### 5.1.2 Objective 2: Reducing the risk of flood

KCC has delivered more projects that reduce flood risk in the county, the projects we have delivered can be found [here](#). However, these projects have been fairly small scale to date, this is due to the availability of staff to project manage these schemes and capital to fund the delivery (see Sections 5.2.2 and 5.2.4).

The Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans and storm overflow requirements in the [Environment Act 2021](#) have increased focus on surface water management for wastewater management benefits. Sewerage undertakers are taking an increased interest in surface water management because of this Act, which has led to more significant partnership projects.

We have improved the delivery of natural flood management schemes since the last Local Strategy. Natural flood management techniques offer a relatively low-cost

option to manage flood risk in rural areas, where landowners are willing to provide land and maintain them. These schemes are usually dependent on landowners being willing to adapt the use of their land. There have been improvements to landowner incentives which seek to compensate them for land given to natural flood management. There are also more initiatives to increase landowners' understanding of the benefits of nature-based solutions; but these have only recently been introduced and it is unclear if they will incentivise landowners to employ these measure. More incentives for landowners to adopt these measures are needed to increase their uptake.

Property flood resilience is a useful way to manage flood risk where there are no effective strategic options, but the resources required to administer these measures creates barriers for wider implementation.

We need to continue to work with partners to deliver local flood risk management at an increased scale.

### **5.1.3 Objective 3: Resilient planning**

[Sustainable drainage systems](#) in new major developments are commonplace in Kent for managing surface water through KCC's role as a statutory consultee for drainage in planning. Through this role, we promote sustainable drainage techniques to prevent increases in flood risk from new developments. By promoting the drainage hierarchy we have reduced the number of developments that discharge surface water to the foul and combined sewer and, where these connections remain, we have reduced the amount of surface water that is discharged to the foul and combined sewer, which helps to reduce raw sewage discharges to the environment.

A more strategic approach to flood risk management from new developments would be beneficial, where new developments actively contribute to reducing flood risk downstream. Sometimes we are able to achieve this, however a change to planning policy is required to implement this for all developments. KCC will continue to work with planning authorities to encourage developers to consider wider flood risk management in planning and contribute to the reduction of flood risk off-site.

KCC has conducted regular training workshops with developers to ensure sustainable drainage continue to be used effectively and is well-integrated into development. However, we cannot become complacent; we know further training is required for planners and developers to promote the benefits of sustainable , especially those that provide multiple benefits.

### **5.1.4 Objective 4: Resilient communities**

More communities have established Flood Action Groups, five new groups have been established, enabling local communities to engage more directly with risk management authorities. To further support Flood Action Groups, a Kent-wide group of Flood Action Groups has been established. We recognise there are still many communities and residents that have a need for an improved understanding of their local flood risk. We also acknowledge that there are gaps in residents' understanding of flood risk and drainage principles.

The voluntary [role of flood wardens](#) working alongside risk management authorities has had various levels of uptake from local communities. The EA had focused on increasing enrolment, which was met with some success. However, the main challenge is keeping flood wardens engaged over a long period of time and replacing those that leave the role.

The EA has also been working with local communities to improve the uptake of community flood plans. Many communities at risk of flooding lack a local plan that sets out who does what and who to contact in the event of a flood in their community. More work is required to encourage communities at risk of flooding to develop a community flood plan.

## 5.2 Challenges

### 5.2.1 Scale of delivery

There is a significant level of surface water flood risk in Kent, at the present scale of delivery it is not possible to set a timeframe on when this will be well managed. The schemes we deliver are useful at managing flood risk in a local context, but they usually benefit a small number of properties, typically 12 or fewer and we are only able to deliver two or three of these a year. We need to increase the scale at which we can deliver schemes to be able to make a meaningful impact on surface water flood risk at a countywide scale. This requires more resources, which is often out of our control, such as land and funding (see Section 5.2.2). However, we can use opportunities to work more effectively with partners and encourage as many parties as possible to contribute to flood risk management.

In particular, the requirements for reducing combined sewer overflows in the [Environment Act 2021](#) present an opportunity to work with water companies to manage surface water more effectively. Water companies have identified that surface water in combined sewers is a significant cause of overflows; managing surface water more sustainably presents an opportunity to deliver multiple benefits.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies and biodiversity net gain present opportunities to integrate natural flood management and sustainable drainage with measures to deliver ecological improvements. These opportunities may not realise significant improvements of delivery, but they do present a further opportunity to deliver measures like this and to increase awareness of their benefits.

### 5.2.2 Funding

The delivery of flood risk management requires resources to manage projects and funding to pay for project delivery. More funding is required for both aspects in order to increase the delivery of flood risk management mitigation. The government has changed what it pays for in Flood Defence Grant in Aid so that surface water management schemes are easier to fund, which is welcome. However, funding is still provided for on a project-by-project basis, which increases the resources required to fund it and makes small projects difficult to fund.

Improved access to funding and more resources are necessary, unfortunately these are out of our control. The recent [National Infrastructure Commission \(NIC\) report on](#)

[surface water flooding](#) highlighted similar issues and proposed solutions to improving this, which we support. In the government response to this report, they have said that they are not intending to accept the NIC's recommendation to support Lead Local Flood Authorities as "the Environment Agency is working to enable them to better access funding for relevant projects". This is likely to be revisions to the existing funding mechanisms, which will be welcome, but fall short of what we and the NIC believe will be the most effective funding mechanism.

We await any revised funding opportunities, in the meantime, we will continue to make the most of the opportunities Flood Defence Grant in Aid provides us and work with partners to maximise opportunities to manage flood risk.

### **5.2.3 Climate change**

We are already seeing evidence of more frequent and more severe weather events. This is particularly significant for surface water flooding, as it results directly from intense rainfall. Surface water flooding is becoming both more common and more severe, impacting both Kent's economy and people's mental health. Adaptation to climate change must include surface water alongside other climate risks.

At present there is no assessment of the impacts of climate change on surface water flood risk, so there is no way to quantify what the possible impacts are. The Environment Agency is producing an updated set of surface water flood maps that will include climate change scenarios, these are due to be published in 2024. We will review these when they are available.

In the meantime, we must continue to ensure we embed surface water management in climate adaptation plans and prioritise these when more data is available.

### **5.2.4 Staff resources**

The flood risk management profession is a relatively niche area that requires specific technical skills and training. It is currently under-resourced with multiple vacancies across the sector in all risk management authorities, not just LLFAs. This makes increasing our capacity to deliver more activities difficult and puts pressure on us when we have vacancies. Increasing the attractiveness of the flood risk management sector is outside the scope of KCC, however we will try to broaden the appeal of our work to attract more entrants to our sector.

### **5.2.5 Sustainable drainage adoption - Schedule 3**

The government has announced that it is planning to implement [Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#), which means LLFAs must adopt and maintain sustainable drainage in new developments. The adoption and maintenance of sustainable drainage is welcome; however, this process presents challenges to LLFAs, particularly county councils who do not own public open spaces where many sustainable drainage systems are located. Many of the details of how Schedule 3 will be implemented are yet to be determined at the time of drafting this strategy, so we cannot be certain exactly what further challenges we may face. However, implementing this new requirement will be of vital importance and presents an

opportunity to promote the type of sustainable drainage we want to see in the county.

Significantly more staff resources will be required, which is a challenge in itself (see Section 5.2.4), as well as new processes and policies to manage this. We will work with the government and counterparts nationally to ensure that we are well prepared to implement this new requirement.

### **5.2.6 Land use changes**

Major developments are required to consider the impacts on flooding as part of planning policy (see Section 5.1.3) and new requirements will improve this (see Section 5.2.5), however land use changes continue to increase flood risk. Planning permission is not required for many land use changes and flood risk assessments are not required for all planning permissions, for instance minor developments.

The increased densification of urban areas, for instance through the paving of gardens, increases the risk of surface water flooding or runoff entering sewers. Diversifying land activities in rural areas, such as removing hedgerows and changing the crops that are grown can change how surface water runs off the land, affecting flood risk.

Many of these land changes are permitted and there is often no requirement to assess or mitigate any increased flood risk. Changing this is beyond the scope of this strategy. However, we will continue to work with partners to raise awareness of the potential impacts of land use changes and encourage measures that do not increase flood risk.

### **5.2.7 Integration**

Effective flood risk management will best be achieved through a more integrated approach, where only the most severe or extreme issues are dealt with through flood risk management projects. The general incorporation of flood risk management measures in all activities is a more efficient approach.

At present new developments are only required to consider how they increase flood risk and how to manage that. This often means that areas that might be useful for flood risk management to the wider area cannot be realised (notwithstanding issues of funding and land ownership). An approach that requires new developments to reduce flood risk in the local area, irrespective of their impact on it, would make flood mitigation and climate adaptation easier.

An approach like this would require a change to national policy and is out of scope for this strategy. However, we will work with partners to explore opportunities to adopt a policy that proactively manages flood risk through new developments.



# 6 Delivering the Local Strategy

**KCC is the LLFA for Kent and responsible for this Local Strategy; however, delivering this strategy will rely on working with partners and stakeholders. It will also rely on financial and staff resources.**

## 6.1 Partnerships

Kent County Council works closely with a variety of risk management authorities and partners, to manage flood risk in Kent. We work with partners to deliver flood risk management in Kent by collaborating on projects, providing resources (such as funding), and sharing information. Partnerships are particularly important in helping us understand flood risk better and share information. They are also important in supporting local communities, allowing risk management authorities to work together to provide communities with joined up information to improve resilience.

To ensure the risk management authorities have an opportunity to network and share ideas, KCC hosts a Strategic Flood Risk Management Group. This group holds regular meetings to provide updates, discuss challenges, and coordinate the allocation of resources among its members. They will have a role in overseeing the progress of the Local Strategy.

Details on the projects KCC have delivered with partners can be found on our [flood project webpage](#).

## 6.2 Flood risk management priorities

There are areas of Kent that we recognise as needing further investigation or intervention to manage flood risk. In the previous strategy, we identified priority areas for focus, and we made progress in these areas to varying degrees. These areas are still places we will continue to focus on; however, other areas were brought to our attention during the delivery of the previous strategy, and we have since directed resources to these areas too. This reflects the high level of flood risk in the county, with our priorities for flood risk management changing alongside our increased understanding of the risks and opportunities. The priorities of partners also influence our priorities for flood risk management. Given the length of time this Local Strategy spans, and the likelihood that new information and priorities will arise within this time, we have not identified specific areas to focus on.

This section sets out how we assess and prioritise flood risk management opportunities in the county:

### 6.2.1 Section 19 investigations

Section 19 investigations are one of the main ways we identify new areas for further investigation. Under [Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#), Lead local flood authorities have a duty to undertake investigations for some incidents of flooding in their area. The purpose of a Section 19 investigation is to determine which Risk Management Authorities are responsible for managing the flood in

question and whether they have fulfilled those responsibilities. [KCC's Section 19 investigations reports](#) also set out the facts of the flood event and provide some background to the drainage in the area; a report of the findings is then published. They do not include modelling or assessments of options to manage flood risk, though they may highlight opportunities for further investigation.

### **6.2.2 Flood risk studies**

[Surface Water Management Plans](#) and other flood studies are undertaken over relatively large areas to assess flood risks where we are aware of flood risk management issues and wish to understand these in more detail. They may be used to provide an overview of flooding in a large area (for instance, a district or borough) to identify areas for further investigation or may be more localised (for instance, a town) to identify more specific flood risk management options. These plans are ultimately used to devise an action plan for reducing flood risk in the defined area as well as providing useful information for our planning consultee role.

More detailed investigations and assessments are required to understand flood risk management at a local level. These investigations are required to develop and deliver flood risk management schemes with multiple benefits.

These studies will use the latest relevant data on flood risk and climate change.

### **6.2.3 Partners**

Partner priorities may differ from KCC's, though this may still represent an important opportunity to realise our flood risk management objectives. KCC will continue to work with partners on flood risk management projects to help support the delivery of this Local Strategy.

## **6.3 Statutory roles**

### **6.3.1 Planning consultee**

As a statutory consultee for major planning applications in the county, we provide advice to planning authorities on the surface water management aspects of major planning applications. This provides us with an opportunity to influence how new development manages surface water, ensuring it does not increase flood risk downstream through the promotion of sustainable drainage. As part of this role we encourage the disconnection of surface water from the foul and combined sewer network, which helps to reduce sewer overflows. We will continue to do this, and, where possible, we will work with planning authorities in the county to promote additional reductions in surface water discharges to reduce flood risk.

### **6.3.2 Land drainage authority**

As the land drainage authority for Kent, we provide advice and guidance on land drainage issues and consent works in ordinary watercourses (outside of Internal Drainage Board areas). This gives us the opportunity to promote good land drainage advice and ensure new structures in watercourse do not increase flood risk. This role provides an opportunity to increase awareness of flood risk and how landowners and communities can help to manage it.

## 6.4 Funding

The government has a grant fund for flood risk management works, known as Flood Defence Grant in Aid. This fund will pay towards flood risk management outcomes; however, this may not be enough to cover the full costs of the project. If this is the case, additional funding from partners must be found for the project to be undertaken, this scheme is called partnership funding. Partnership funding also provides funding for multiple benefits, including health and biodiversity benefits, though the flood risk management benefits must outweigh the costs of the project to be eligible for Flood Defence Grant in Aid. A business case must be prepared to receive partnership funding contributions, which sets out how the scheme is cost beneficial and how it will be financed.

KCC has allocated funding to surface water management works annually in the capital budget. This funding is for the delivery of projects to reduce local flood risks and support adaptation to the increased risks of local flooding from climate change. It can be used to provide partnership funding contributions to schemes to unlock government contributions and to fund smaller schemes where the cost of developing a business case is too high to justify.

KCC flood risk management projects need to demonstrate how they achieve multiple environmental and social benefits for Kent communities, whilst reducing flood risk to properties and businesses. They also need to demonstrate how they will be cost beneficial.

## 6.5 Monitoring and review

KCC will publish an annual summary progress report on the delivery of the Local Strategy. Metrics that record the progress of the Local Strategy have been developed that will be reported on annually, these are set out in Appendix 1. We will also provide an overview of other activities that we will deliver that cannot be measured with metrics, these are also set out in Appendix 1.

The activities to support the delivery of the objectives and the metrics we report on will be reviewed annually and updated as needed, to ensure they remain relevant and useful in measuring the progress of the Local Strategy. Where appropriate new activities will be added, and new metrics developed, for us to report on annually. Changes to the activities and metrics will be agreed with the Kent Strategic Flood Risk Management Group.

We will publish a five year report to review the progress of the Local Strategy. We have set targets to review and measure the metrics.

# APPENDIX 1: Reporting progress

The annual review on the progress of the Local Strategy will include the targets and metrics set out in Table A1-1, will also include a written summary of the flood risk management activities set out in Table A1-2.

Table A1-1: Targets and metrics used to measure activities of each objective within the Local Strategy.

Objective 1 Activities	Objective 1 Metrics and Targets
<b>Section 19 reports published</b>	Number of reports published Number of properties flooded in each event Number of Section 19s commented on by the local community <b>Target:</b> Consult the affected local community on all Section 19s before the report is published.
<b>Flood risk studies</b>	Number of studies completed Number of studies with climate change assessment included <b>Target:</b> To undertake 10 new flood studies within the first 5 years of the Local Strategy
Objective 2 Activities	Objective 2 Metrics and Targets
<b>Flood risk management schemes</b>	Number of flood risk management schemes delivered Number of properties better protected Scheme costs and estimated benefits Partnership funding <b>Target:</b> 100 at risk properties are better protected from flooding within the first 5 years of the Local Strategy Area disconnected from foul and combined sewer <b>Target:</b> Disconnected 2 hectares of land or roofs from the sewer network within the first 5 years of the Local Strategy
<b>Clean Rivers and Seas Taskforce schemes</b>	Number of schemes delivered Area of land better managed previously draining to foul and combined sewer
<b>Land drainage</b>	Number of land drainage consents provided with advice for betterment Number of land drainage consents amended following KCC advice
Objective 3 Activities	Objective 3 Metrics

<b>Planning application consultations</b>	Number of consultations Number of consultation responses provided in 21 days Number of sites disconnected from the foul/combined sewer Number of sites with a connection to the foul/combined sewer Reduction in discharge rate to the foul/combined sewer
<b>Objective 4 Activities</b>	<b>Objective 4 Metrics and Targets</b>
<b>Flood Action Groups</b>	Number of Flood Action Groups active in Kent Number of new Flood Action Groups established Number of flood plans across Kent <b>Target:</b> To establish four new flood action group within the first 5 years of the local strategy and support them in developing a flood action plan
<b>Flood wardens</b>	Number of flood wardens in Kent Number of communities with flood wardens Number of communities in Kent requiring flood wardens Number of communities in Kent requiring flood wardens with flood wardens Number of people attending flood warden training
<b>Community resilience/flood plans</b>	Number of communities with flood plans in Kent Number of communities with flood risk without a flood plan in Kent
<b>Flood warnings</b>	Percentage of Kent residents, in at risk areas, signing up to receive flood alerts

Table A1-2: Flood risk management activities to be reported on each year, for the Local Strategy objectives.

<b>Objective 1 Activities</b>
Work to improve communication following a flood event
<b>Objective 2 Activities</b>
Multiple benefits delivered through flood risk management schemes
Continuing to support Southern Water in the Clean Rivers and Seas Taskforce
<b>Objective 3 Activities</b>

Progress implementing Schedule 3

Continue to work with developers to ensure sustainable drainage continues to be used effectively.

#### **Objective 4 Activities**

Support the recruitment and training of flood wardens in at risk communities

Work to improve communities' access to flood risk data and information

Supporting the production of flood plans in at risk communities