

Kent County Council

# Local flood risk management strategy



## Executive Summary

Kent County Council was recently made lead local flood authority for Kent, with a role to oversee local flooding. Local flooding is defined as flooding that is caused by the following sources:

- **surface water,**
- **groundwater,**
- **ordinary Watercourses.**

Kent is the most at risk lead local flood authority in England with approximately 76,000 properties estimated to be at risk of surface water flooding. Local flooding has a significant impact on the people and economy of Kent and it is predicted to increase due to climate change, increasing development and changing land use practices that affect the way the land is able to naturally respond to rainfall.

This Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Kent (the local strategy) sets out a countywide strategy for managing the risks of local flooding. The aims of the local strategy are:

- to coordinate the work of the management authorities to improve the understanding of these risks
- to ensure that we work together to aim to provide effective solutions to problems
- to improve the public's understanding of the risks in Kent and how everyone can play a part in reducing them.

This local strategy will help to ensure that Kent County Council (KCC), the Environment Agency, local authorities, water companies, internal drainage boards and other partners work together to help protect the people and economy of Kent from flooding, whilst ensuring all other relevant considerations are taken into account.

Objectives of the Local Strategy are:

1. Improving the understanding of the risks of flooding from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses in Kent.
2. Reducing the risk of flooding for people and businesses in Kent.
3. Ensuring that development in Kent takes account of flood risk issues and plans to effectively manage any impacts.
4. Providing clear information and guidance on the role of the public sector, private sector and individuals in flood risk management in Kent, how those roles will be delivered and how authorities will work together to manage flood risk.
5. Ensuring that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents in Kent are effective, and that communities understand the risks and their role in an emergency.

The local strategy includes a summary of the actions that KCC and the risk management authorities in Kent will be undertaking over the next year and beyond to deliver the objectives of the local strategy. The action plan contains a range of different actions that include:

- broad scale strategic policies that are required to provide better management and/or coordination of flood risk information in the county;
- more geographically specific actions such as a surface water management plan in one of the policy areas to provide more information; or
- very localised actions that will provide a specific scheme to manage flood risk.

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# 1 Introduction

This strategy sets out a countywide framework for managing the risk of local flooding. It will help risk management authorities and communities understand their different roles and responsibilities and how they can work together to manage local flooding. It addresses local flooding which the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 defines as flooding from:

- **surface water,**
- **groundwater,**
- **ordinary Watercourses.**

Many authorities have a role to play in the management of these flood risks in Kent. They include Kent County Council (KCC), the Environment Agency, District and Borough Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and Water Companies.

The flooding from these sources is generally more localised than flooding from rivers and the sea, but cooperation and integrated planning is required from these agencies to understand where the risks are and to manage it effectively.

## The aim of the local strategy

- **to coordinate the work of the management authorities to improve the understanding of local flood risks**
- **to ensure that we work together to provide effective solutions to local flood risks where we can**
- **to improve the public's understanding of local flood risks in Kent and how everyone can play a part in reducing them.**

## 1.1 Why has a local strategy been produced?

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (the Act) makes county and unitary authorities lead local flood authorities with a strategic overview role for local flooding in their area. A Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is a requirement for all lead local flood authorities to set out how local flood risks will be managed in the county, who will deliver them and how they will be funded.

The Act also gives the Environment Agency a national strategic overview role for flood risk management. The Environment Agency has produced a National Strategy for Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (the National Strategy) as part of their national strategic role.

The Local Strategy must be consistent with the National Strategy, which sets out how all flood risks and coastal erosion will be managed in England. The national Strategy can be found here: <https://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/skeleton/publications/SearchResults.aspx?name=GEHO0711BTZE-E-E>

The local strategy has been produced by KCC through consultation with the Flood Risk Management Committee, which is a committee of KCC and district, borough and Internal Drainage Board members, and the Kent Flood Partnership, which is a partnership of all the risk management authorities in Kent (*more details are provided in Section 3.2.2*).

## 1.2 What is local flood risk management?

Managing local flood risk involves:

- knowing where flooding may occur and what circumstances may cause such flooding
- taking reasonable steps to reduce the likelihood of this flooding happening
- adapting to the risks and acting to reduce the risk to life, damage and disruption caused by flooding.

Local flooding is difficult to predict as it can be caused by storms that are currently hard to forecast or blockages and poor maintenance. Local flood risk management must rely on adaptation and preparedness in advance of an event rather than mobilisation prior to flood events.

Examples of the features that can be used to reduce the likelihood of local floods include: green infrastructure, landscaped features that hold or direct water away from properties, and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). A number of features may be used together to manage the risk in a particular area, working in combination within a risk management system.

Examples of the steps that may be taken to reduce the damage and disruption when floods do happen include: controlling inappropriate development to avoid increasing risk, adapting buildings to minimise damage and making sure that a proper emergency response plan is in place and can be operated when needed as set out in the Local Multi-Agency Flood Plans.

Other steps that may be taken to manage risk include:

- transferring risk to other areas where the consequences are low, for example by allowing land to flood and containing floodwater to prevent flooding elsewhere
- tolerating a residual level of risk. For example by accepting that a flood may cause some disruption, so to make sure we are prepared if and when it occurs.

The local strategy will set out a framework for managing local flood risks in Kent, which will involve the following steps:

- investigating the areas at risk of local flooding in Kent
- prioritising which of these areas needs further investigation to develop flood risk management solutions
- prioritising which flood risk management solutions need to be invested in.

### 1.3 What does the local strategy cover?

The local strategy provides a framework for delivering local flood risk management in Kent. The relationship of the local strategy to other flood plans and strategic planning documents produced locally, regionally and nationally is shown in Diagram 1, along with the authorities responsible for producing them. The local strategy is informed by regional and national flood strategies, including the national strategy, catchment flood management plans and shoreline management plans. In turn the local strategy will inform the delivery of flood risk management in Kent and local planning policies.

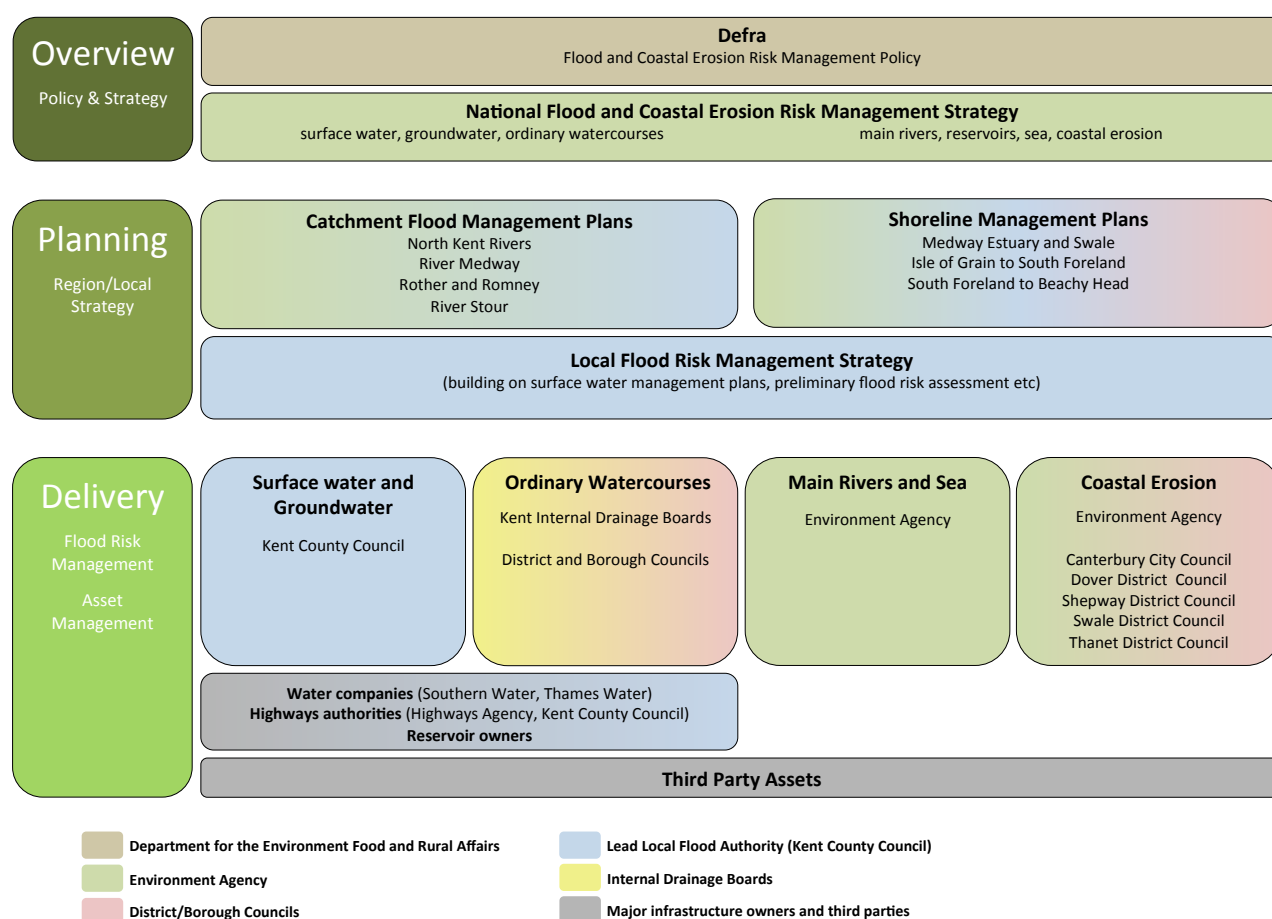


Diagram 1 Flood risk management overview

Given the large area of Kent, the local strategy cannot specify what individual local flood risks are and what measures will be employed to manage them in each local area. The strategy will set objectives for local flood risk management in the county to achieve the aims. Specific local actions to manage local flooding will be delivered and managed through surface water management plans, which are assessments of local flood risks in a defined area. The local strategy uses the information gathered from surface water management plans to prioritise further work.



The local strategy is not a strategy for all flooding in Kent, only for local flooding. The Environment Agency prepares the strategies for river flooding, called catchment flood management plans. The Environment Agency and coastal districts and boroughs coordinate to prepare strategies for coastal flooding and coastal erosion, called shoreline management plans. More detail about these other plans and strategies can be found in Section 2.

These other flood risks can have an effect on local flooding and in such cases the local strategy will be relevant. Additionally, the strategy sets out some broad policies about information sharing, cooperation and sustainable development that apply to all risk management authorities in Kent irrespective of what flood risks they manage. This local strategy will be of interest to all the flood risk management authorities that operate in Kent. The geographical areas that these organisations cover in Kent is shown in Figure 1 and their main functions are set out in Section 3.

It will also be relevant to organisations with flood risk management roles. For instance town and parish councils, Natural England, the National Farmers Union communities and businesses at risk of flooding and the general public.

## 1.4 How long will the local strategy be relevant?

As a lead local flood authority, KCC must always have a local strategy and it should be monitored and reviewed regularly to ensure that the objectives are being delivered and they are still relevant.

This is the first local strategy that KCC has produced since the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and since being made a lead local flood authority. As such there are a number of new roles that have to be undertaken in order for KCC to meet its new legislative requirements. These are set out in Section 5, and are important for the strategic delivery of local flood risk management. Therefore, this first local strategy will be reviewed in three years time to assess the establishment of this new role. Future local strategies will have longer review periods, according to the measures identified in each.

The flood risk management actions identified to be delivered will be reviewed annually and new actions that have been identified will be added to the action plan. This means newly identified actions can be delivered according to their relative priority, without having to wait until the next version of the local strategy. This is set out in Section 9.

## 2 Flood risks in Kent

Kent suffers from all forms of flooding. This section describes the various forms of flooding that are experienced in Kent, and provides pointers to further information about these risks and how they are being managed by the relevant risk management authorities.

Whilst the responsibilities for flooding are divided between different risk management authorities, it is important to understand that there is interaction between the different systems within a catchment that can lead to flooding. A rainstorm may bring rainfall to a catchment, which will soak into the soil and eventually may replenish groundwater. If the soil is saturated or the land is covered by impermeable surfaces, it will flow to local watercourses through land drains or sewers. The local watercourses will flow to the rivers, collecting rain from more drains and sewers on the way. The river will flow towards the sea, collecting water from more local watercourses on the way or from groundwater if the water table is high enough. A diagram of a catchment is shown in Diagram 2.

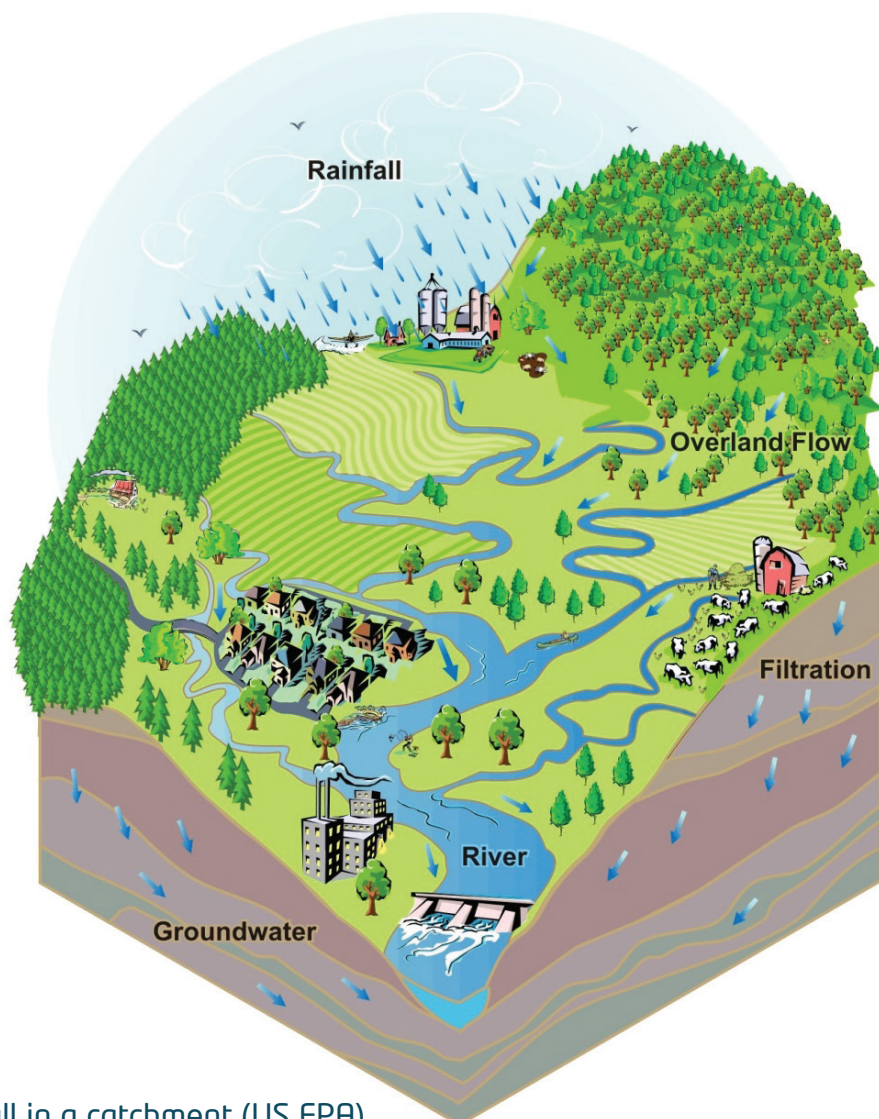


Diagram 2 Rainfall in a catchment (US EPA)

A flood could occur at any point in this system. If the amount of water collected by this system exceeds the capacity of the system at any point, flooding will occur. This could be caused by extremely heavy rainfall that creates a flow of water greater than the capacity of the system at a particular point or because the system is blocked, which reduces the capacity of the system. If the area of impermeable surfacing increases, for instance through new development, the land will not be able to absorb as much rain, more rainfall will runoff and more flow will be created which may cause flooding there or downstream. The way in which the land and drainage assets in this system are managed and maintained is important for flood risk management.

Different risk management authorities have powers and duties for the various forms for flooding that can occur. The different types of flooding are described below, along with the appropriate risk management authorities. Due to the interaction of different forms of flooding, the solution to many flooding problems may be very complex and involve many forms of flooding and several risk management authorities.

## 2.1 Current flood risks

The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment that Kent undertook in September 2011 found that surface water flooding is estimated to affect 76,000 properties in Kent, of which approximately 60,000 are residential properties. This makes Kent the most at risk Lead Local Flood Risk Authority in England from local flooding.

The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment is discussed in Section 2.1.3.

The Environment Agency produces maps of river and coastal areas that can be used to estimate risk. As these forms of flooding tend to interact, as high tides influence flood levels on rivers and high river flows influence water levels in tidal areas, there is no way to accurately separate these risks. Kent is currently estimated to have approximately 64,000 properties at risk of river and coastal flooding, of which approximately 46,000 are residential properties (some of these properties will also be at risk of surface water flooding, this number should not be added to the surface water figure to give a total).

Accurate information for the whole of Kent is not available for other forms of flooding so the risks from these cannot be quantified.

### 2.1.1 River flooding

River flooding (sometimes known as fluvial flooding) is caused when rivers do not have enough capacity in their natural channel to contain the water flowing in them. Periods of heavy rainfall can cause river levels to increase and rivers can overtop and flood low-lying areas around them. River flooding can also occur if a river gets blocked by obstructions such as fallen trees or rubbish which reduce the capacity of the river.

Rivers are divided into two categories: main rivers and ordinary watercourses. The Environment Agency has permissive powers to manage flood risk from main rivers, which are rivers that can cause significant disruption if they flood and need special management to reduce the risks of flooding. Main rivers are identified on the

Environment Agency Flood Map, which is available on their website: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk). Ordinary watercourses are discussed in Section 2.1.5.

The management of flood risk from main rivers is set out in Catchment Flood Management Plans produced by the Environment Agency. These plans give an overview of the flood risk in each river catchment and recommend high-level policies for managing those risks now and over the next 50-100 years.

There are four Catchment Flood Management Plans in Kent:

- **North Kent Rivers**
- **River Medway**
- **Rother and Romney**
- **River Stour**

The plans provide a long-term policy framework, for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers in Kent. They do not determine how that policy will be delivered, the delivery mechanism is determined by specific flood management strategies. They also provide background information on local flood risks.

This local strategy does not include any specific measures to manage flooding from main rivers. However, main river flooding will impact on local forms of flooding and these will be addressed by the local strategy.

## 2.1.2 Coastal flooding and erosion

Coastal flooding is caused by extreme weather conditions combined with high tides, that can cause sea levels to rise forcing sea water on to the land. High tides and increased sea levels can also impede rivers and drains that flow into the sea, which can cause inland flooding. Coastal processes, tides and waves can also cause coastal erosion, where the shoreline is worn away causing a loss of land and threatening properties. The Environment Agency manages flood risk from the sea. District and borough councils are responsible for managing coastal erosion, which is overseen by the Environment Agency. Coastal flooding and erosion management is coordinated through coastal groups.

The management of coastal flooding and coastal erosion risks is set out in Shoreline Management Plans produced by the Environment Agency and coastal districts working in partnership in the coastal group.

There are four Shoreline Management Plans that cover the coastline of Kent:

- **Medway Estuary and Swale**
- **Isle of Grain to South Foreland**
- **South Foreland to Beachy Head**
- **Thames Estuary 2100**

The purpose of these plans is to provide a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and a policy framework to reduce these risks, both to people and the environment, in a sustainable way over the next

100 years. Whilst the Shoreline Management Plan provides a long-term policy framework, it does not determine how that policy will be delivered. A coastal strategy is developed from a strategic assessment that presents the defence options for a specific management unit of the coastline.

This local strategy does not include any specific measures to manage flooding from the coast. However, coastal flooding will impact on local forms of flooding and these will be addressed by the local strategy.

### 2.1.3 Surface water

Surface water flooding occurs when heavy rainfall exceeds the capacity of the ground and local drainage network to absorb it. This can lead to water flowing across the ground and ponding in low-lying areas, which may be a long way downstream and it may not be obvious that one area is contributing to flooding elsewhere. This sort of flooding is typically caused by short, intense rainfall.

KCC published the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment in September 2011, which used surface water mapping data provided by the Environment Agency to assess the risks in Kent and where further investigations should be prioritised. The areas affected by surface water, according to the surface water mapping available, are shown in Figure 2.

The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment also found that the data currently available to assess surface water flood risk, including the data used in Figure 2, is not always consistent with other data and may overestimate the risk of flooding from this source.

To improve our understanding of surface water flood risks (and other local sources of flooding) surface water management plans have been undertaken in areas identified as high risk in the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. Surface water management plans are studies into the local flood risks of an area which tell us what risks the area faces and provide a plan for managing any significant risks. The areas covered by surface water management plans are regularly updated, they can be found on our website:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/flooding/how\\_we\\_manage\\_flood\\_risk/surface\\_water\\_management.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/flooding/how_we_manage_flood_risk/surface_water_management.aspx)

This local strategy will identify areas where further surface water management plans are needed and how the risks that are identified will be managed.

### 2.1.4 Groundwater

Groundwater flooding occurs as a result of water rising up from the underlying aquifer, or from water flowing from springs. This tends to occur after long periods of sustained high rainfall, and the areas at most risk are often low-lying where the water table is more likely to be at a shallow depth. Groundwater flooding is known to occur in areas underlain by major aquifers, although it is also associated with more localised floodplain sands and gravels.



Groundwater flooding is very complex and is poorly understood. It is very difficult to assess the location, likelihood and volume of groundwater flooding. Consequently it is difficult to quantify the risk of groundwater flooding to Kent. The presence of major aquifers in Kent, the chalk of the North Downs and the sandstone of the High Weald, mean that there is a risk of groundwater flooding in some parts of Kent.

Due to the complexities and uncertainties of predicting and mapping groundwater flooding it is not proposed that this strategy will improve our understanding of this form of flooding. Our resources are better used to monitor events and build a picture of areas prone to groundwater flooding and promote resistance and resilience measures in these areas. This will be reviewed in the next local strategy.

### 2.1.5 Ordinary watercourses

Ordinary watercourses are small watercourses that are not designated as main rivers (see Section 2.1.1). The powers to manage ordinary watercourses lie either with district or borough councils, or with Internal Drainage Boards where they operate. Enforcement powers for ordinary watercourses lie either with the lead local flood authority or with Internal Drainage Boards where they operate.

The flooding mechanism for ordinary watercourses is similar to flooding from rivers, but the small nature of these watercourses means that the flooding is often on a local scale. However, Internal Drainage Boards often cover areas with a high concentration of ordinary watercourses, where drainage is difficult and one rainfall event can cause flooding on several ordinary watercourses simultaneously. Ordinary watercourse flooding is also often affected by water levels in nearby main rivers which the ordinary watercourses would otherwise discharge into.

Ordinary watercourses are generally low-risk systems that do not pose a flood risk on the same scale as main rivers; however they still pose a local flood risk. There is not very much data about the risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses and as such it is not possible to quantify the risk for the whole of Kent. Due to the small nature of ordinary watercourses and the sometimes complex drainage mechanisms they may have (such as sluice gates, weirs and pumps), the risk can be expensive to assess.

The local strategy will identify where ordinary watercourse flooding may be a risk that needs further investigation, and how this will be prioritised.

### 2.1.6 Sewer flooding

Sewer flooding is caused when the volume of surface water entering the sewer network exceeds its capacity. The nature of the sewer network means that the flooding may occur away from the source of the surface water. This type of flooding is particularly severe when a combined sewer (a sewer that carries both surface water and foul water) floods as it causes effluent to be discharged that can have health and environmental consequences.

Sewer flooding is the responsibility of the sewerage undertaker. They have statutory responsibilities to address internal flooding to properties that are monitored by Ofwat.

## 2.2 Future flood risks

Flood risk in Kent will change in the future as a result of the changing environment. It is important that any flood risk management measures make allowances for future changes to ensure that they deliver long-term protection.

Climate change is an obvious cause of changes to flood risk. Current projections predict more intense storms, which is the sort of rainfall that leads to local flooding. The latest UK climate projections (UKCP09) are that by the 2080s there could be around three times as many days in winter with heavy rainfall and it is plausible that the amount of rain in extreme storms could increase locally by 40%. We have recently experienced wet summers, which may be more common with climate change. These sorts of increases need to be taken into account when designing drains and flood management infrastructure.

Other changes also have a significant impact on flooding in the short to medium term. New development and the increasing density of our settlements could increase flooding, as there may be fewer areas available to absorb rainfall and store flood water. These factors are particularly important for local flooding. Planning policies already require new development to manage runoff sustainably. However, this does not mitigate all the effects of new development on runoff and they do not necessarily apply to permitted developments, which can increase the density of existing urban areas and increase the burden on local drainage infrastructure.

Ensuring that local flooding and future changes are considered in planning policies, development design and understood by landowners as they improve their property is essential to help manage local flooding.

## 3 Flood risk management roles in Kent

The management of flood risk is shared by many different risk management authorities in Kent, each with different responsibilities, powers and duties. To adequately address the issues of flood risk management in times of austerity, and where we face pressures from an increasing population and climate change, it is essential that we work together, coordinating activities and pooling resources.

This section explains who the main risk management authorities and partners in Kent are and summarises the functions they may exercise. It also gives an overview of partnerships that some or all risk management authorities are involved in, working together to deliver flood risk management functions. The areas that these organisations cover in Kent are shown in Figure 1.

### 3.1 Risk management authorities

Flood risk management authorities are defined by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as they have responsibilities for flood risk management. These authorities are required to act in accordance with this local strategy when undertaking activities that affect local flood risk management, and the National Strategy when undertaking activities that affect all forms of flooding. The risk management authorities in Kent are described below; a fuller description of their role is given in Annex A.

#### 3.1.1 Kent County Council

Kent County Council is the lead local flood authority for Kent. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 gives lead local flood authorities powers and duties for the strategic overview of local flooding and for some flood-risk management functions.

These include:

- duty to investigate flooding
- duty to maintain a register of significant structures and features
- Powers to regulate ordinary watercourses
- role to promote sustainable drainage.

How these powers and duties are exercised, and other functions we consider important to deliver our role as lead local flood authority, are set out in Section 5.

As a highways authority, KCC has lead responsibility for providing and managing highway drainage under the Highways Act 1980.

KCC is a Category 1 Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and is responsible for the preparation of contingency plans that detail how all emergency responders will respond to a disaster or major incident in Kent, including flooding. As part of this role, KCC coordinates the preparation of multi-agency flood plans for each district and borough in Kent, which provide details of how to manage flooding incidents.

KCC is the planning authority for minerals and waste and for schools, roads, libraries and other developments that KCC is promoting. KCC has a duty to ensure that flood risk is taken into account when planning these. KCC also has responsibilities for some aspects of social services, education and health care provision. The impact of flooding should be considered in designing these services and opportunities to lessen the impacts explored.

### 3.1.2 District and borough councils

District and borough councils have responsibility as a local planning authority for public open space. They have powers to adopt and maintain ordinary watercourses within their district.

Districts may also have responsibility for managing the risk of coastal erosion, if they have a coastline. As a coastal authority they have a responsibility for planning coastal erosion risk management schemes, and contributing to shoreline management plans.

Kent has 12 district and borough councils:

- Ashford Borough Council
- Canterbury City Council
- Dartford Borough Council
- Dover District Council
- Gravesham Borough Council
- Maidstone Borough Council
- Sevenoaks District Council
- Shepway District Council
- Swale Borough Council
- Thanet District Council
- Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
- Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

As a unitary authority Medway Council is also a lead local flood authority and is responsible for preparing a local strategy for the Medway Council area.

### 3.1.3 Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has a responsibility for main river and coastal flooding. It manages the assets on these waterbodies that reduce the risk of flooding. Its functions include bringing forward flood defence schemes, and it will work with lead local flood authorities and local communities to shape schemes which respond to local priorities.

The Environment Agency provides flood warnings for fluvial and coastal flooding and responds to flood incidents from main rivers and coastal flooding.

It is also a statutory consultee for the flood risk implications of planning applications and is the regulatory authority for reservoirs.

### 3.1.4 Internal Drainage Boards

Internal Drainage Boards are independent local public bodies, with members appointed by district councils and elected by land drainage ratepayers. Internal Drainage Boards have permissive powers to undertake works within their drainage districts, which are areas of special drainage need and high flood risk.

Internal Drainage Boards carry out a number of functions, including the routine maintenance of adopted ordinary watercourses, management of water levels by the maintenance and operation of structures, the consenting of in-channel works, the enforcement of the free flow of watercourses, and providing advice on planning applications. These activities are carried out in order to reduce the risk of local flooding, to provide appropriate land drainage and to protect and enhance local biodiversity.

There are four independent internal drainage boards in Kent:

- Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board
- Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board
- River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board
- Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board.

There are also two internal drainage districts that are managed by the Environment Agency:

- East of Gravesend Internal Drainage Board, and
- West of Gravesend Internal Drainage Board.

### 3.1.5 Sewerage Undertakers

Sewerage Undertakers (but not water supply companies) are responsible for the public sewer system and as such are responsible for managing the risks of flooding from surface water, foul or combined sewer systems.

There are two such risk management authorities in Kent:

- Southern Water
- Thames Water.



## 3.2 Partners

These groups and organisations are not designated as risk management authorities in Kent, although they still have a role to play in the management of flood risk. Some of these functions are duties, for instance the maintenance of assets, or they may perform functions that help to manage flood risks.

### 3.2.1 Parish councils

Parish councils are involved in managing local issues that may include local flooding problems. They can be a source of local information about flood risks and know which areas are prone to flooding, particularly local flooding incidents that may not be recorded by other authorities.

Parish councils also have a consultation role in local planning applications and can influence how local developments are delivered.

### 3.2.2 Private individuals and land owners

Private property maybe in areas at risk of flooding or it may include flood defences or watercourses, which the owner may have a responsibility for maintaining. Members of the public have a responsibility to make themselves aware of flood risks they may face and to protect themselves from flooding and undertake any maintenance that maybe required.

Landowners should also be aware of the potential impact on flooding when undertaking works of their own, as construction in the floodplain or a watercourse may increase flood risk. Paving of areas that were previously permeable may increase runoff and lead to local drainage problems or altering a ditch or watercourse near their land may impair its ability to drain effectively. Planning permission or land drainage consent may be required for works.

Large areas of Kent are farmed, meaning the management of agricultural land has a significant impact on the runoff from rain storm events. It is important that farmers understand how agricultural practice can affect flooding and waterbodies downstream.

Information for owners of land adjoining a watercourse can be found in the Environment Agency's guide [\*Living on the Edge\*](#).

### 3.2.3 Neighbouring lead local flood authorities

Kent borders with other lead local flood authorities. Medway Council, the London Borough of Bexley, the London Borough of Bromley, Surrey County Council, and East Sussex County Council are all lead local flood authorities that share a border with Kent. Along these borders flood risks may arise from land that is in another authority. KCC will work with these authorities to coordinate flood risk management across our borders. Partnership working groups

### 3.3 Partnership working groups

There are a number of partnerships in Kent and the South East as a whole where risk management authorities and other agencies work together to deliver risk management functions.

#### 3.3.1 Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

The Flood Risk Management Committee was established by KCC in 2009 following a recommendation of the KCC flooding select committee into the floods of 2009. Since the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 has been passed, the committee has expanded to include members from the districts and boroughs and the Internal Drainage Boards of Kent. This provides a broad overview and countywide perspective of risk management as the county delivers its requirements under the Act.

The committee provides a forum for the members to understand the flood risks in Kent, discuss the implications of the Act, and communicate the issues at a local level. The committee also performs the role of scrutiny body for flood risk management in Kent, as required under the act.

#### 3.3.2 Kent Flood Partnership

The Kent Flood Partnership was established in 2010 following the passing of the act to provide a forum for officers from risk management authorities to discuss the delivery of flood risk management in Kent. The officers represent all of the authorities in Kent with risk management functions: the district and borough councils (3 members), the Internal Drainage Boards (1 member), the Environment Agency (1 member), the Sewerage Undertakers (1 member) and KCC (3 members, from Flood Risk Management, Emergency Planning and Highways and Transportation, and 1 chairman).

The partnership discusses the operational aspects of delivering flood risk management in Kent, the implementation of the Act and how authorities can work together to tackle the challenges of flood risk in Kent.

#### 3.3.3 Kent Resilience Forum

The Kent Resilience Forum was established in 2004 in response to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and is aligned to the local police district. The aim of the forum is to ensure that relevant agencies and organisations plan and work together to ensure a co-ordinated response to emergencies that could have a significant impact on communities in Kent.

Kent Resilience Forum partners maintain a suite of generic and incident-specific emergency plans and undertake regular training and exercising to ensure effective emergency responses. A 24 hour, 7 day a week, 365 day a year response capability is maintained across the emergency responders operating in Kent for all emergencies, including flooding. One of the key aims of the forum is to engage greater community resilience through initiatives such as flood response emergency planning across the county, which the forum delivers through workshops and regular liaison with local communities.

### 3.3.4 Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

Regional Flood and Coastal Committees are committees that approve the work of the Environment Agency in their region. It is also a forum to share the work and progress of the Environment Agency in the region with local partners and ensure that local needs are met by the Environment Agency. All lead local flood authorities in the region have representation on the committee, which is proportionate to the number of Band D properties in their district.

Kent is in the Southern Region Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, which stretches along the south coast from Hampshire to Kent. KCC has three members on the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, from a total membership of 14. There are also eight technical appointees on the committee, who do not have voting rights. Kent County Councils three Regional Flood and Coastal Committee members also sit on the KCC Flood Risk Management Committee.

The committee is also responsible for administering the local levy, which is a fund paid into by each authority in the region according to the number of Band D properties in the authority. The local levy is described in Section 7.3.

### 3.3.5 Southeast Coastal Group

The South East Coastal Group is the Regional Coastal Group for South East England, it was formed in 2008 when the South Downs Coastal Group combined with the South East Coastal Group to create an expanded South East Coastal Group.

The group brings together coastal managers and planners from coastal local authorities, the Environment Agency and other maritime operating organisations to deliver co-ordinated strategic management of the shoreline between the Isle of Grain and Selsey Bill. The South East Coastal Group coordinates the preparation of the shoreline management plans for this stretch of coast.

## 4 Local flood risk management objectives

The risks of local flooding in Kent are significant, many are not well understood and there are many risk management authorities to manage them. It is important to have clear objectives to manage local flooding in order that the risks can be understood, they can be managed in a coordinated way and it is clear who is responsible. This will ensure that the available resources are directed towards the most effective solutions and we can prevent flood risk from being exacerbated.

This section sets out the local flood risk management objectives and explains the supporting principles from relevant documents that help to shape them.

### 4.1 Objectives

The following objectives have been developed for the local strategy. They have been developed to be consistent with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management strategy and the Vision for Kent as discussed in Section 4.2, and to address the needs of local flood risk in Kent.

All risk management authorities are required by the Flood and Water Management Act to work together to help to deliver these. How this will be achieved is set out in Section 6. The proposed actions that emerge from these objectives are set out in Section 9.

#### 1. Improving the understanding of the risks of flooding from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses in Kent.

In order to plan, local flooding information needs to be gathered to assess the risks, which can then be used by the risk management authorities to identify the areas most at risk, to target responses and investigate what options may be available to manage them.

The information currently available about local flooding is inconsistent, unavailable or unreliable. Data on historic local flooding may not be available in some parts of the county, or is only available for some not all local flooding risks (for instance ordinary watercourse data is available but not surface water flooding). There is very little data about predicted risk of local flooding from models.

This reflects the focus on the more life threatening flood risk from rivers and the sea that have been the focus of flood risk management in the past two decades and of the fragmented responsibilities for local flooding amongst several risk management authorities.

In order to be able to make robust plans for local flood risks and allocate flood risk management resources effectively, better data needs to be gathered about the history of flooding and the predicted risks that is consistent, reliable and available to all risk management authorities.

#### 2. Reducing the risk of flooding on people and businesses in Kent.

Flooding causes damage, disruption, uncertainty and loss of business. The ultimate objective of flood risk management should be to reduce the risk of flooding wherever possible.

This does not always mean constructing formal flood defence schemes. Maintenance of existing assets can be a very cost effective way to manage flood risk. Where an enhancement is required, the most sustainable way to manage flood risk may be a simple intervention that achieves a significant reduction in the likelihood or consequences of a flood, but may not remove the risk altogether.

Coordinating maintenance and flood risk management activities between risk management authorities within catchments, along with a shared understanding of the levels of risk each authority attributes to the catchment or sub-catchment, is important to ensure that flood risk is being managed in a holistic and cost-effective way.

Flood risk management should focus on the highest risk areas, be cost-effective, sensitive of the needs of the local community and seek multiple benefits. However, simple cost-effective solutions to lower risk flooding problems should also be considered. Local communities should be involved in the development of flood mitigation actions and encouraged to help fund them.

### **3. Ensuring that development in Kent takes account of flood risk issues and plans to effectively manage any impacts.**

The best way to prevent flood risk from increasing is to build new developments in a flood sensitive way, which includes avoiding areas of existing flood risk where possible and managing runoff sustainably.

Development in areas at risk of flooding cannot always be avoided, especially as many towns and cities in Kent are at risk of flooding and it is appropriate to develop and regenerate these areas. Such development should be justified and sensitive to the risk of flooding as required by planning policy.

Sustainable development helps to provide homes and communities that are pleasant places to where flood risk is well managed and enhance the surrounding communities and environments.

### **4. Providing clear information and guidance on the role of the public sector, private sector and individuals in flood risk management in Kent and how those roles will be delivered and how authorities will work together to manage flood risk.**

Given the number of authorities that exercise flood risk management functions and recent changes to these, it is important that clear, effective information is provided about how, when and where risk management functions will be exercised. This will help to improve the awareness of the public that risk management functions are being undertaken and will help to identify opportunities to coordinate risk management functions.

The need for this was identified in the Pitt Review 2007, which states:

*“we firmly believe that the public interest is best served by closer cooperation and a presumption that information will be shared. We must be open, honest and direct about risk, including with the public. We must move from a culture of ‘need to know’ to one of ‘need to share’”.*

Sharing information and cooperation go hand-in-hand, only by knowing what roles and how we plan to deliver them can we work effectively together.



Everybody has a role to play in managing flood risk, by understanding our roles and how each of us will deliver them we can work together to effectively manage the risks.

## **5. Ensuring that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents in Kent are effective and that communities understand the risks and their role in an emergency.**

Flooding cannot be prevented entirely. It is important to recognise and plan for eventualities that cannot be mitigated. Even with the collation of data and mapping of flood risk, some risks are too expensive or technically unfeasible to remove the risk entirely. Even in cases where the flood risk can be managed there will remain a residual risk that the mitigation measure may fail. In all these cases, the flood risks that remain must be managed through appropriate emergency responses.

These responses should use the best available information and be clear about what has to be done to respond to an emergency for all stakeholders including the public.

## **4.2 Supporting documents**

The following documents set out guiding principles that have been used to develop the objectives for this strategy and determine how they will be delivered.

### **4.2.1 Vision for Kent**

The Vision for Kent sets out three countywide ambitions that will guide the direction of public services in Kent for the next ten years, and will also be ambitions of the local strategy. The three ambitions are shown below along with an explanation of how the local strategy can help to achieve them.

#### **To grow the economy**

Flooding causes disruption, damage and uncertainty. It can impact business and recovery from flooding has an impact on the economy. Even local flooding, which may not flood properties, can effect transport infrastructure and close roads impacting on the local economy. Reducing local flooding through this strategy can reduce this impact.

#### **To put the citizen in control**

Flooding affects the citizens of Kent, who can often feel powerless to prevent it. Providing a clear plan for flooding risk management, identifying the bodies responsible for flood risk management and telling them how they can protect themselves. They can help citizens to understand what is happening in their community to manage flooding and how to identify who can help them tackle flooding issues. Giving the communities of Kent the opportunity to contribute to flood risk management schemes will allow them to have a say in how they are undertaken.

## To tackle disadvantage

Flooding causes disadvantage and disproportionately effects disadvantaged areas. Reducing flood risk and prioritising flood management in disadvantaged areas will help people in Kent to feel more optimistic and secure about their communities and futures.

### 4.2.2 National strategy

The National Strategy sets out six guiding principles. These are also used as the guiding principles of the local strategy in Kent to ensure consistency between the two. These guiding principles provide guidance on how flood risk management should be delivered to ensure that all aspects of schemes are considered. As such they influence the objectives and also how the objectives will be delivered, which is considered primarily in Sections 5, 6 and 8.

#### The six guiding principles are:

##### Community focus and partnership working

Risk management authorities need to engage with communities to help them understand the risks, and encourage them to have direct involvement in decision-making and risk management actions. Working in partnership to develop and implement local strategies will enable better sharing of information and expertise, and the identification of efficiencies in managing risk.

##### A catchment and coastal 'cell' based approach

In understanding and managing risk, it is essential to consider the impacts on other parts of the catchment or coast. Activities must seek to avoid passing risk on to others within the catchment or along the coast without prior agreement.

##### Sustainability

We should aim to support communities by managing risks in ways that take account of all impacts of flooding (for instance on people, properties, cultural heritage, infrastructure and the local economy) and the whole-life costs of investment in risk management. Where possible, opportunities should be taken to enhance the environment and work with natural processes. Risk management measures should also be forward looking, taking account of potential risks that may arise in the future and being adaptable to climate change. Government guidance has been developed to set out the link between sustainable development and risk management to support the implementation of the strategy, which can be found here: [www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13640-sdg-guidance.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13640-sdg-guidance.pdf)

##### Proportionate, risk-based approaches

It is not technically, economically or environmentally feasible to prevent all flooding and coastal erosion altogether. A risk-based management approach targets resources to those areas where they have greatest effect. All aspects of risk management, including the preparation and implementation of local strategies, should be carried out in a

proportionate way that reflects the size and complexity of risk. The assessment of risk should identify where the highest risks are and therefore the priorities for taking action.

### **Multiple benefits**

As well as reducing the risks to people and property flood risk management can bring significant economic, environmental and social benefits. In developing and implementing flood risk management plans we should help deliver broader benefits by working with natural processes where possible and seeking to provide environmental benefit as required by the Habitats, Birds and Water Framework Directive. Measures such as the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) to manage risk should be considered as they can also deliver benefits for amenity, recreation, pollution reduction and water quality.

### **Beneficiaries should be allowed and encouraged to invest in local risk management**

The benefits achieved when flood and coastal erosion risks are managed can be both localised and private, through the protection of specific individuals, communities and businesses. In developing flood risk management plans, opportunities to seek alternative sources of funding, rather than relying on Government funds, should be considered. This will enable more risk management activity to take place overall.

## 5 Strategic overview of local flood risk management

National policy for flood risk management is set by Defra. The strategy for the management of all sources of flooding is given by the National Strategy for Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (the National Strategy), which is prepared by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency also has a strategic overview role for all forms of flooding and coastal erosion risk management.

As lead local flood authority Kent County Council has a strategic overview of the management of local flooding in Kent and is responsible for preparing this Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

This section sets out how KCC will exercise the powers and duties that we have under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and how we will undertake risk management activities that will help to deliver the objectives of this strategy and perform the role of providing a strategic overview of local flooding.

### 5.1 Definition of significant flooding

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 gives lead local flood authorities and other risk management authorities various duties where the risk of a flood is considered significant. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 defines a flood as:

*“any case where land not normally covered by water becomes covered by water.”*

According to this definition a puddle could be considered a flood. In order to provide some consistency and clarity as to how and when these duties will be exercised KCC has developed a definition of a significant flood in consultation with other risk management authorities in Kent.

#### Position 1

A significant flood in Kent is one that causes:

- internal flooding to one or more properties;
- external flooding of five or more properties;
- flooding of roads, rail and other transport infrastructure to an extent that they become impassable by vehicles;
- flooding of or near locally important services or infrastructure, for example health centres and electricity substations, to an extent that they cannot function normally.

This definition will be kept under review and will be adapted as required in future versions of the local strategy.

## 5.2 Register and record of structures and features

KCC has a duty to maintain a register of features and structures that in the opinion of the authority are likely to have a significant effect on a local flood risk in its area. The register must be available to the public at reasonable times. The purpose of the register is to allow for quicker identification of the responsible authority in incidences of flooding and to identify who is responsible for maintenance of assets.

KCC also has a duty to maintain a record of structures and features that will contain the ownership details of the structures and features in the register. The record does not have to be made available to the public.

The sorts of structures and features that are likely to be included in the register include trash screens, weirs, sluice gates, manmade watercourses etc., which if they were to fail might cause flooding.

The responsibility for proposing structures for the register falls to the relevant risk management authority for the water feature that the structure is part of or for the flooding that the structure would prevent. For instance a reinforced watercourse bank would be proposed by the body responsible for the watercourse, which could be the local authority, Internal Drainage Board or the Environment Agency; a drainage ditch would be proposed by the either the local authority, Internal Drainage Board or the lead local flood authority.

Risk management authorities have the power to designate third party structures and features that in the opinion of the authority perform a flood defence role. Once designated these structures and features cannot be altered or removed without the permission of the designating authority. The owners of the structure or feature will be notified that it has been designated and will have the right to appeal. The designated features will also be listed on the register.

Each risk management authority may choose which structures and features it considers are significant. However, through consultation with the risk management authorities in Kent, we have developed the following guidelines:

### Position 2

Features and structures that have a significant effect on local flood risk will be ones which, if compromised in any way, may contribute to a risk of a significant flood event, as defined in Section 5.1 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Kent.



### 5.3 Flood investigations

As lead local flood authority KCC has the power to undertake flood investigations into floods in Kent. The purpose of the investigation is to determine which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and whether those risk management authorities have exercised those functions in response to the flood. Having carried out an investigation KCC must publish the results and notify the relevant risk management authorities.

A flood investigation is only required when no risk management authority has exercised or is proposing to exercise its functions in respect of the flood. A flood investigation does not necessarily require a thorough investigation of the flood and its mechanisms, only the determination of the risk management authorities who have the relevant functions. However, we may choose to undertake a more detailed investigation into a flood incident in order to better deliver the objectives of this strategy, for instance to improve the understanding of flood risk.

KCC will undertake flood investigations in the following circumstances:

#### Position 3

Flood investigations will be undertaken where no other risk management authority is exercising or is proposing to exercise its functions in respect of the flood and where the flood is significant, as defined by Section 5.1 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Kent.

### 5.4 Regulation of ordinary watercourses

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 has transferred existing powers to regulate the proper function of ordinary watercourses to KCC. These powers consist of two parts:

- The enforcement obligations to maintain flow in a watercourse and repair watercourses, bridges and other structures in a watercourse; and
- The power to give consent for structures in the watercourse and changes to the alignment of the watercourse.

These functions only relate to ordinary watercourses that are outside of Internal Drainage Districts. Within Internal Drainage Districts it is the responsibility of the Internal Drainage Board to exercise these powers. Similarly the Environment Agency is responsible for exercising these powers in relation to main rivers.

The enforcement powers have been transferred from local authorities and the consenting powers have been transferred from the Environment Agency.

These are permissive powers, not duties, KCC can choose to exercise them.

#### Position 4

KCC will provide resources to exercise its ordinary watercourse regulation powers.

Details of how to apply for consent for works is published on our website:  
[www.kent.gov.uk/land\\_drainage\\_consent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/land_drainage_consent)

It is advised that anyone considering any works in or near a watercourse contact the relevant authority to discuss the need for consent. KCC also has powers to undertake enforcement of structures that are constructed in a watercourse but have not been given consent. KCC will consult with local risk management authorities about consent applications that we receive or enforcement action we will take for works that do not have consent.

## 5.5 Recording flood incidents

In order to improve the data regarding flooding and help to understand which areas are at risk of local flooding, as part of delivering Objective 1 of this local strategy, KCC will maintain a record of local flood incidents in Kent. Fluvial and coastal flooding events are generally well documented by the Environment Agency, however the records of local flood events is less consistent. This is partly due to the number of different authorities that have responsibility for aspects of local flooding and the difficulty sometimes in differentiating one type of local flood from another.

#### Position 5

KCC will develop a flood incident recording database and work with risk management authorities to determine the best ways to ensure that all authorities that receive notification of a flood incident can record it using this database.

It is not intended at this stage to develop a common reporting database (that is, a database to report an incident that requires a risk management response, rather than simply recording the incident as flood intelligence). This is due to the complexities in integrating different software platforms used by the various authorities. In future it may be possible for a common reporting database to be developed, this will be reviewed in future local strategies.

## 5.6 Drainage approval and adoption of SuDS

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are a means of managing rainwater using and mimicking natural processes so that the volume and flow rate of water from developments is similar to natural land. SuDS can have a significant role in preventing local flooding by managing the amount of surface water that is discharged. Additionally, they also provide water quality improvements, open space that can also be used as public amenity and they can provide wildlife habitat.

The Pitt review into the summer 2007 floods proposed that the government find a way to increase the use of SuDS as this key tool in managing local flooding was not being used as widely as it could. The lack of defined responsibility for adoption of SuDS was identified as a barrier to their development and implementation.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 proposes to give the responsibility for SuDS maintenance to lead local flood authorities. This responsibility includes the duty of approving all new drainage and ensuring the proposed drainage meets certain national standards. In exercising these duties, lead local flood authorities will be known as the drainage Approving Body (sometimes SuDS Approving Body or the SAB).

As of May 2013, the relevant parts of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 have not yet been implemented and a commencement date has not been indicated. The government has consulted on the national standards and the secondary legislation that is required for Approving Bodies to exercise their duties. Until these are published it is not possible to anticipate what is expected or how KCC will deliver this role.

### Position 6

In the interim KCC's position on SuDS is as follows:

- KCC will prepare for its role as the SAB for Kent by developing a protocol for approval and adoption to be implemented once its SAB role commences;
- After the government has published its response to the national standards consultation, KCC will publish local guidance on our SuDS requirements;
- KCC will provide advice in the interim for developments that are likely to be affected by these new requirements; and
- KCC promotes the adoption of sustainable drainage within the highway boundary.

Any local guidance that KCC offers will be in addition to and will not supersede or replace the national standards. For the latest advice on drainage approval and SuDS in Kent can be found at: [http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/flooding/how\\_we\\_manage\\_flood\\_risk/sustainable\\_drainage\\_systems.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/flooding/how_we_manage_flood_risk/sustainable_drainage_systems.aspx)

## 5.7 Local flood risk management plans

### 5.7.1 Local Flood Risk Management Policies

In order to set a direction for the management of local flood risks in Kent the county has been divided into the Local Flood Risk Policy Areas and a Local Flood Risk Management Policy has been assigned to each of these.

The policy areas are shown in Figure 3. These areas have been determined according to their potential for local flooding, as described in Annex B. The Local Flood Risk Management Policies and the Policy Areas have been developed as part of the Kent local strategy.

#### Local Flood Risk Management Policies

##### Policy 1 Areas with complex local flood problems

This policy will be applied to areas where we are aware of flood risk issues that are complex. These are the problems which are technically challenging to understand or where a number of different risk management authorities may be involved in their resolution. These areas will typically have local flood risks that affect large areas, for instance a town centre or suburb. An action plan of feasible options to manage the identified risks will be developed and delivered by the relevant risk management authorities.

##### Policy 2 Areas with moderate local flood problems

This policy will be applied to areas where there are known local flood problems which need to be investigated but are relatively straight-forward. These areas will typically have local flood risks that affect localised areas, for instance one or two roads, that require more indepth assessment and interventions than have been used in the past. These areas may not need an in depth assessment of the risks and may be dealt with by ensuring the relevant risk management authorities work together effectively to investigate the problems although in some instances these may be necessary.

##### Policy 3 Areas with low local flood risk which are being managed effectively

This policy will be applied to areas where local flooding risks are currently not significant. That does not mean that these areas are not at risk of local flooding, but the risks can be managed by each risk management authority undertaking its duties effectively.

Figure 4 shows the policies that have been assigned to the policy areas. These policies have been assigned to the policy areas based on available information. For some areas this is from previous studies that have been undertaken to collect data or assess the local flood risk, in other areas it is based on available information. The information used is given in Annex B. As more information is gathered about the local flood risks in Kent the policy areas and the policies will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary.

### Position 7a

KCC will undertake studies into the local flood risks in the Local Flood Risk Policy Areas as follows:

**Policy 1** - The flood risks in these areas will be investigated by KCC as a priority.

**Policy 2** - Opportunities will be identified to investigate and manage these issues over the medium term, three to five years, lead by the relevant risk management authority with support from KCC.

**Policy 3** - Flooding in these areas will be monitored and problems will be dealt with reactively by the appropriate risk management authority.

## 5.7.2 Surface water management plans

Where risks are identified further studies may need to be undertaken to determine the best way of managing these. These studies are known as surface water management plans (the name came before the publication of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which defined local flooding. These plans include all local flood risk sources, not just surface water flooding).

Surface water management plans are studies into the local flood risks of an area which tell us what risks the area faces and provides an action plan for managing any significant risks. It is important to understand that undertaking a surface water management plan does not mean that there is necessarily a local flood risk problem in that area, only that we need further information in these areas in order to understand the risks.

Given the size of Kent, the large number of areas that are at risk of local flooding and the time it will take to deliver the surface water management plans, it is unrealistic to record local flood risk management actions in the local strategy.

### Position 7b

Specific actions to manage local flood risk will be identified and planned through the surface water management plans.

In this way the actions that are identified can be targeted at the local area and specific to the needs of that local community rather than determined through a countywide strategy. The surface water management plans will allow more engagement with local partners and all relevant stakeholders can share in determining the local priorities and best options to resolve them.

The findings of the surface water management plans will be used to prioritise further investigations and, where appropriate, flood risk management schemes. How these schemes are prioritised is discussed in Section 5.8.

## 5.8 Local flood risk management measures

KCC will undertake the preliminary study of local flood risks in Kent, as outlined in Section 5.7, and gather data on flood risks reported to us and other risk management authorities as outlined in Section 6.1. This will identify where there are local flood risks that need to be managed. The type of flood risk management that is required in the areas identified as at risk will vary according to the specific flood risks, but they are likely to fall into one of two categories described below.

### 5.8.1 Schemes of national importance

These are likely to be large scale schemes that deliver flood risk management benefits of national significance and will be eligible for grant in aid (how grant in aid is allocated is discussed in Section 7.2).

The limited resources available to KCC and the cost of taking schemes through the planning development process mean that KCC is unable to fund schemes from initial identification all the way through to their delivery. Where there are viable schemes identified the appropriate risk management authority (which may be KCC, but could also be another authority) will need to apply for grant aid to support the next stage of their development. KCC and the Environment Agency will assist with this application.

#### Position 8a

Beyond the preliminary study stage, KCC will promote projects that are likely to attract grant in aid funding. Where schemes will require partnership contributions, KCC will try to identify any potential sources of funding that may be available to deliver them. These schemes will be prioritised according to the flood risk and disadvantage in the area.

KCC may use the Defra grant to provide partnership contributions for schemes that require it, however this can only be done where funds are available from the flood risk management budget.

## 5.8.2 Schemes of local importance

These schemes are to manage flood risk that is more localised and require works that are small, therefore they may not be eligible for grant in aid these, but they are still locally important.

### Position 8b

KCC will work with local communities and other risk management authorities to identify minor schemes and potential sources of funding for them

Other sources of funding are discussed in Section 7. These schemes will be prioritised according to the flood risk, other factors that will be considered in prioritising schemes include:

- disadvantage in the area
- additional funding opportunities are available
- critical infrastructure at risk
- simple, cost-effective solutions are identifiable
- opportunities to work with other risk management authorities to develop an integrated flood risk management solution
- opportunities to develop or retrofit sustainable management practices
- opportunities to protect or enhance the natural or historic environment
- opportunities to improve safety and the effectiveness of emergency responses.



## 6 Working together to deliver the local flood risk management strategy

Risk management authorities have a duty to cooperate with one another in undertaking flood risk management functions. This is required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Through cooperation organisations and individuals can achieve more effective results than they could achieve through working alone. Cooperation requires trust, good communication, sharing information and resources, and an improved understanding of the mutual benefits it can bring. Cooperation respects the interests of those concerned, while at the same time promoting the wider interests of the group and its stakeholders.

This section describes how all risk management authorities will work together to achieve the objectives of this local strategy. These objectives do not relate solely to local flood risks. Other forms of flood risk and coastal erosion also need to be considered as it is important that all flooding is managed consistently as one form of flooding can cause or worsen other forms.

### 6.1 Improving the understanding of the risks of flooding from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses in Kent

#### 6.1.1 Recording flood incidents

All risk management authorities receive reports of flood incidents. It is important that all of this information is collated in a consistent way and stored so that it is easily available to all risk management authorities. KCC will develop a flood incident record for local flooding that can be accessed by all risk management authorities. All risk management authorities are encouraged to record all incidences of local flooding that they are aware of in this record, even if it is not a form of flooding they have responsibility for. Fluvial and coastal flooding should be reported to the Environment Agency.

This record will be available to all risk management authorities to assist them in identifying flood prone areas that they may need to focus on or to use in studies of flooding.

#### 6.1.2 Registering flood assets

Registering assets in the features and structures register (Section 5.2) that have a potentially significant impact on flooding is the responsibility of individual risk management authorities. KCC will maintain the register, as outlined in Section 5.2, but it is the duty of all risk management authorities to register assets in the register. KCC will provide guidance on how to do this. The register is intended to be a useful tool to identify the ownership of important flood risk management assets, it is not intended to be a regulatory burden. Risk management authorities may use the register as they see fit, there is no specific duty to register assets or a timetable to complete the register.

### 6.1.3 Surface water management plans

Surface water management plans are an important tool to understand where local flood risks are and how they may arise. KCC will undertake these plans as set out in Section 5.7. All risk management authorities in these areas are encouraged to take part in these plans to share knowledge and expertise to ensure that they deliver the best possible plan. Where appropriate these plans may assign actions to the risk management authorities to deliver. Risk management authorities will be consulted about any actions they may be assigned before the plan is published. Once the actions are agreed the risk management authorities should deliver them within the specified timeframe. These plans will be published by KCC for anyone interested in viewing them.

Risk management authorities are encouraged to undertake their own plans into flood risks that they may be responsible for. Surface water management plans do not have to be undertaken by KCC, other risk management authorities may undertake them if they consider them useful. KCC will work with risk management authorities who undertake their own flood risk investigation if they are invited. Risk management authorities are encouraged to publish any findings of plans or investigations they undertake for any interested parties to view.

## 6.2 Reducing the impact of flooding upon people and businesses in Kent

### 6.2.1 Surface water management plans

Areas at greatest risk of local flooding will be identified through the work KCC is doing to deliver surface water management plans, as described in Section 5.7. Actions to deliver flood risk benefits will be given by the management plans and agreed by the partners involved. Risk management authorities are encouraged to work together to identify mitigation opportunities and to deliver flood risk management schemes, sharing resources, expertise and maintenance.

#### 6.2.2 Asset management

Reducing the risk of flooding also includes the ongoing maintenance and management of flood risk management infrastructure. Risk management authorities are encouraged to ensure that the management of their assets is the most effective available, that it takes account of the impacts up - and downstream and that other risk management authorities affected by their assets understand how they manage them.

KCC will work with risk management authorities to develop an integrated drainage asset management strategy for the county, which will identify the key drainage assets and agree between all relevant partners how these will be managed.

### 6.2.3 Coordinated flood risk planning and delivery

Flood risk mitigation should be risk based, focussing on the areas that are at the greatest risk and most badly affected by flooding, disadvantaged areas at risk of flooding should also be prioritised in determining where to allocate resources.

Flood risk mitigation should be planned effectively for the long term and provide a clear picture of how the risks will be managed and by whom. All relevant studies and plans that relate to the flooding should be considered and relevant partners involved in the planning to ensure that all risks can be considered and planned together where feasible. In this way opportunities for multiple benefits can be identified, for instance including amenity space or providing habitat for wildlife.

Planning flood management schemes should include the local community to ensure that they understand the risks, how they can be managed and what their role will be in managing them.

Not all flood risks can be mitigated and investment should be focussed where it can make the most difference. In order to determine this, assessments of flood risk mitigation schemes will develop benefit-cost assessments that indicate the value of a scheme. More details on how flood defence projects are prioritised and funded can be found in Section 7.

### 6.2.4 Flood defence financing

Risk management authorities and local communities also have a role to play in the financing of flood management schemes, which may now only be partly financed by government grant. By contributing to flood management schemes, partnership contributors can have more say in how the risks are managed and delivered.

## 6.3 Ensuring that development in Kent takes account of flood risk issues and plans to effectively manage any impacts

### 6.3.1 Flood risk and planning

Planning authorities have to undertake Strategic Flood Risk Assessments as a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework to assess the effect of proposed developments on flood risk. These assessments should include a thorough assessment of all flood risks, however historically they have often focussed on fluvial and coastal flood risks and not adequately dealt with local flooding.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment should help to develop policies to manage flood risk from all sources that can be adopted in local plans. These policies should promote the strategic allocation of land and of buildings within the development boundary to reduce flood risk and sustainable drainage and improve water quality.

In undertaking Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, making planning policy and planning decisions, planning authorities should consult with the Environment Agency, the lead local flood authority, emergency responders and internal drainage boards as appropriate.

### 6.3.2 Development and flood risk

Development may need to be located in areas at risk of flooding. This should only occur where it is justified, having been through all the relevant tests required by the National Planning Policy Framework, supported by a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, if the flood risk can be managed safely and if it does not increase flood risk elsewhere.

Any development that is proposed in the floodplain or that would be isolated in a flood event should be considered by the emergency planners and the emergency services as they will have to respond in the event of a flood. They should be satisfied that the new development will not compromise the safety of any inhabitants of the development, the response they offer to existing properties or the safety of the responders.

Planning authorities should bear in mind that any new development constructed after January 2012 will not be considered by the government when it allocates grants for flood defences. Therefore if the area benefits from flood defences or will need flood defences in future (taking into account climate change) these new developments will not be considered in the benefit calculation (grant in aid for flood defences is discussed in Section 7.2). The potential effect of new development on the financial viability of flood defences that will be needed or need refurbishment, should be considered in strategic flood risk assessments along with any options to mitigate the impact.

### 6.3.3 Sustainable drainage and planning

New development should manage runoff in a sustainable manner, where possible using natural processes. Local plans and strategies should adopt policies that encourage new developments to use these techniques. Some planning authorities in Kent have developed specific policies and local guidance to encourage the use of SuDS that has proven to be very effective as it provides a clear picture to potential developers of what is required for all developments in the authority. KCC will work with any planning authorities that would like to develop such guidance.

KCC will issue guidance for other risk management authorities, developers and other interested parties on how it will undertake the role of drainage approving body and how to apply for drainage approval once Defra has published details of how this role will be undertaken. In the meantime KCC will provide advice to any prospective developer about how to implement sustainable drainage.

## 6.4 Providing clear information and guidance on the role of the public sector, private sector and individuals in flood risk management in Kent, how those roles will be delivered and how authorities will work together to manage flood risk

### 6.4.1 Communication

Annex A provides a summary of the main flood risk management functions each risk management authority has. Each risk management authority should make clear how they intend to carry out their functions. The information provided should include the area and features they have responsibility for, schedules for routine maintenance, records of maintenance having been undertaken, plans for improvement works, plans for new flood management measures and relevant contact details.

Members of the public are often unaware of which risk management authority is responsible for the type of flooding they are experiencing. If an inappropriate authority is contacted regarding a flood event they are encouraged to take the details to pass them on to the appropriate authority and let the customer know the details of the report that has been made. In this way members of the public need only contact one authority.

### 6.4.2 Cooperation

All risk management authorities have a duty to cooperate and share information with another risk management authority that is exercising a risk management function (as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010). Risk management authorities should refer to the Environment Agency's guidance on appropriate practice for sharing information and cooperating: "[Cooperation and requesting information in flood and coastal erosion risk management](#)" (Environment Agency, 2011). As part of this risk management, authorities must share information that is requested of them for flood risk management purposes in a timely manner. They may remove personal information but this is *not* a reason not to share the information. Risk management authorities should also make it clear how other authorities can cooperate with them to achieve risk management benefits. This can include authorising another risk management authority to undertake risk management functions on their behalf.

### 6.4.3 Private land

Members of the public and land owners often assume that the responsibility for maintaining watercourses lies exclusively with a formal risk management authority. Even if an authority does undertake maintenance on a watercourse, this is only as a permissive power not a duty. Land owners adjacent to a watercourse are responsible for the maintenance of that watercourse. This is set out in the Environment Agency's guide: [Living on the Edge](#)

It is important that members of the public understand the role they play in flood risk management and how they can protect themselves from flooding. Risk management authorities should make clear to members of the public and land owners what their obligations are to manage flood risks within the authority's area and what relevant risk management functions they perform.

## 6.5 Ensuring that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents in Kent are effective and that communities understand the risks and their role in an emergency

It is the duty of a range of agencies to plan for and respond to flood events. Emergency responders include the emergency services, Kent County Council, district councils, Highways Agency and water utility providers. The Environment Agency has a role to warn and inform of flooding from rivers and the sea. Responders coordinate their planning and responses to flood emergencies under the umbrella of the Kent Resilience Forum (see Section 3.2.3).

Planning and response to flood emergencies is informed by Multi-Agency Flood Plans, Rapid Response Catchment Emergency Plans and relevant generic and specific contingency plans, maintained by Kent Resilience Forum partners. It is important that these plans continue to use the latest flood information available and are updated as new information becomes available.

KCC will share the outputs of the surface water management with the Kent Resilience Forum partners to be used in planning emergency responses. The other risk management authorities are recommended to provide any data on flood risks, including local flood risks, to the Kent Resilience Forum. Close inter-agency working, sharing data and resources is vital for the emergency responders in Kent to maintain and continue to build resilience to local flooding and other flood risks within the county.

## 7 Flood risk management planning and resources

The way that flood risk management schemes are funded has recently changed. Government grants will not fully fund all schemes, local contributions will have to be found for many schemes to proceed. This change provides an opportunity for local communities to have more influence on how flood defences are delivered in their communities. However it also means that local communities may have to find funds to contribute to flood risk management schemes.

This section explains how government grants for flood defences are allocated and how flood defence projects are prioritised.

### 7.1 Defra grant

In order to support the delivery of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Defra provides a grant to lead local flood authorities for the duration of the current spending review period (2011/12-2014/15). Kent County Council received £260,000 in 2011/12 and will receive £750,000 for the further three years of the spending review period (2012/13-2014/15).

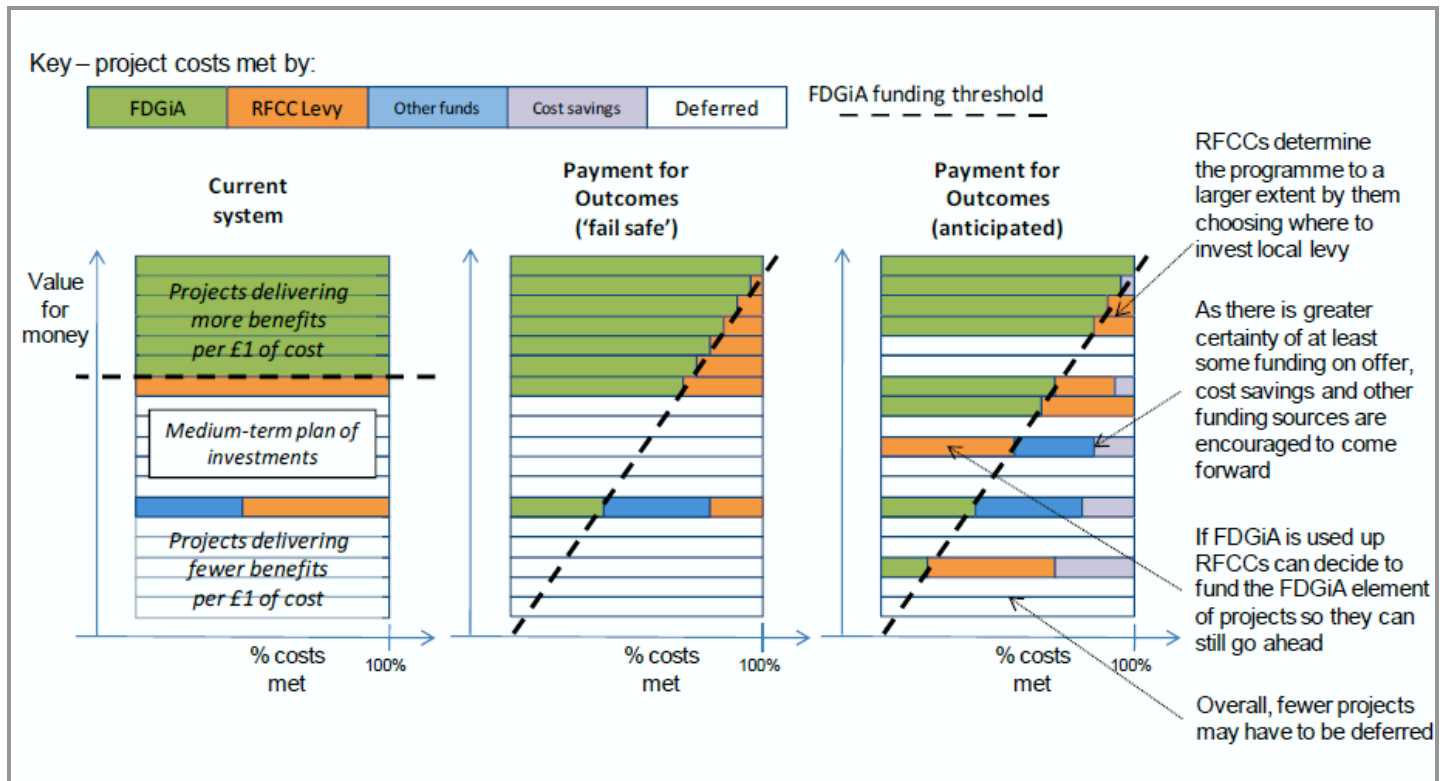
This money will be used by KCC to fund the new responsibilities we have under the Act, as outlined in Section 5. This includes hiring staff to undertake these new responsibilities and financing investigations into local flooding. Where possible KCC will seek to find savings in how these duties and powers are undertaken. We already work in partnership with other neighbouring lead local flood authorities on a number of areas, including the delivery of the drainage approving role and we are working the Environment Agency on a number surface water management plans where they are undertaking other related assessments.

### 7.2 Flood defence grant in aid

Flood defences and coastal erosion risk management schemes are funded from a government grant called Flood Defence Grant in Aid (grant in aid) which is administered by the Environment Agency on behalf of Defra. Until recently schemes would receive full grant in aid funding if they met a certain cost-benefit ratio, while schemes that did not achieve this ratio would receive no grant. Under this mechanism many schemes never achieved the required cost-benefit ratio and could never be delivered.

Defra has changed the way grant in aid will work from April 2012. The new partnership funding approach determines what proportion of the cost of a scheme can be funded by grant in aid. Some schemes will be fully funded, others only partly funded, according to how much public benefit they will give, for example by reducing flood risk to homes and vital infrastructure, (e.g. power stations and water treatment works). Any shortfall in the amount of grant in aid required to construct the scheme will need to be found from elsewhere. This could be from local levy funding from the local levy, from local businesses or other parties who will benefit from the scheme. Diagram 1 illustrates how the scheme will work compared to the previous mechanism.





**Diagram 3 Comparison of old and new grant in aid funding mechanisms**

In this way all schemes can receive some grant in aid so long as they can find the necessary partnership funds to cover the costs of the scheme. This means that a scheme that may not have received any grant in aid under the old mechanism may now receive some with the addition of local funds. By requiring local contributions for many schemes there will be more local involvement in determining how the schemes are developed.

To assess the value for money, the 'Outcome Measure' of a scheme is used to calculate the benefits (according to specific criteria) and divided by the cost of the scheme. Any scheme with an outcome measure above 100% represents value for money. However, in the financial year 2012/13 due to the competition for grant in aid the threshold to qualify for government assistance was set at 120%. This means that even schemes whose outcome measure score is below this threshold must secure partnership funding that gives a score above 120% in order to receive grant in aid. The lower the score, the larger the proportion of partnership funding that is required. In order to qualify for any grant in aid funds under this mechanism any necessary partnership funding must be secure before an application can be made. The threshold score changes every year, according to the competition for grant in aid.

In deprived areas, Defra will pay higher amounts of grant in aid, up to 225% more in the 20% most deprived areas. This means that flood risk management measures in disadvantaged areas are prioritised.

This new funding mechanism applies to schemes that refurbish existing defences as well as constructing new ones. Further, the grant in aid benefit calculation will not take account of any benefit to properties built since January 2012, as the government does not want to increase the number of properties at risk, even if the risk is residual. This will include properties built in areas that already benefit from flood defences, even if they replace existing stock. Therefore the construction of new homes in place of existing ones on a defended flood plain may make existing flood defences financially non-viable, as the new properties will not be used in calculating the outcome measure in the way the old ones would have been.

More details about the grant in aid scheme can be found on the Environment Agency's website:  
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/134732.aspx>

### 7.3 Local levy

The local levy is administered by the Southern Region Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC). The Southern Region local levy is currently approximately £1.177m, which is one of the lowest in the country. KCC currently makes the largest contribution to the southern region local levy, approximately £330k annually. The local levy can be distributed to flood defence schemes at the discretion of the RFCC. It is often used to fund locally important schemes which would otherwise not receive funding or to provide partnership contributions for grant in aid funding.

### 7.4 Water company planning

Water company investment in infrastructure they manage has to be agreed by the water company regulator, Ofwat. This is done on a five-year cycle called an Asset Management Plan (AMP). We are currently in the fifth AMP period, AMP5, which runs from 2010 to 2015. AMP6 will begin in 2016. The work that water companies undertake in each AMP period is determined by plans they submit to Ofwat prior to each AMP period, this is called the 'Periodic Review'. The next periodic review submissions will be made in 2014.

In order to ensure sewerage improvement works can be carried out they must be identified in time to be included in the periodic review.

KCC does not have a responsibility to oversee the management of water company assets or the performance of sewerage undertakers. Similarly sewerage undertakers only have a duty to manage their assets and ensure they perform to the appropriate criteria. They do not have a duty to manage or prevent other flooding. However, there are clearly common areas of concern for many risk management authorities and sewerage undertakers where a joint approach may be mutually beneficial.

KCC will work with the sewerage undertakers in Kent to identify any opportunities to jointly fund projects, using all available funding sources, to be put forward into the appropriate periodic review.

## 7.5 Other sources of funding

Due to the nature of the grant in aid scheme, any source of funding can be used as the partnership contribution. Flood risk management schemes may have many benefits, including helping to protect property, providing amenity space, wildlife habitat and more. These other benefits may provide sources of funding through local investment funds, new developments, habitat grants and local landowners that can contribute to the costs of flood risk management.

## 7.6 Planning flood risk management schemes

There are a number of steps that have to be taken to deliver a flood management scheme from identifying the need for a scheme, through designing it and construction/delivery. Table 7.1 shows an outline of the steps that can be taken to deliver a flood risk management project.

**Table 7.1 Stages in the development of a flood management scheme**

<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Preliminary study</b>	Assessment of flood risks
<b>Initial assessment</b>	Study to scope potential flood defence options
<b>Business case</b>	Feasibility study of preferred flood defence option(s)
<b>Detailed design and contract award</b>	Detailed design of flood mitigation scheme
<b>Project implementation</b>	Delivery of flood mitigation scheme

Each step in this process generally requires more funds as more detailed investigations are required. Not all stages are always required and some stages can be combined, for instance the initial assessment could be combined with the business case, especially for smaller schemes. The identification of a flood risk does not inevitably lead to a flood defence scheme being delivered, as the mitigation options identified may not be feasible for a number of reasons (including cost, availability of land, effectiveness of the available solutions and negative consequences that outweigh the benefits).

All of these stages can receive support from grant in aid, but the potential benefits of the investment must be justified at each stage and each stage will require a separate request for grant in aid, which will be measured against national priorities.

Grant in aid funding is allocated to projects annually by the Environment Agency. In order to receive grant in aid, a submission to the Environment Agency must be made that provides the appropriate details. It will then be assessed against the other schemes put forward for that year and if it meets the criteria it will be placed on the medium term plan. The medium term plan outlines which projects will receive money, how much partnership funding they require and how the funding will be spread over the time span of the project (as many projects take a number of years to actually deliver).

Some schemes will not provide enough benefits to raise them high enough up the nationally prioritised list to attract grant in aid. These sorts of schemes may be local improvement works or schemes that only improve the standard of protection by a small amount. Other sources of funding will be needed to fund these.

## 8 Flood risk management delivery

Flood risk management schemes, infrastructure or improvement works used to prevent or reduce flood risk, offer opportunities to deliver more benefits than simply protection from flooding. Through careful planning there are also opportunities to enhance our communities and environment and to ensure that all local users are taken account of in developing schemes. The section sets out how the process of delivering flood risk management schemes in Kent will be managed to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved.

### 8.1 Environment, heritage and landscape

Water is an intrinsic part of the natural the environment, it is essential for life and a fundamental feature of our landscape. Through the mitigation of the potentially damaging aspects of the water cycle we may be able to use it productively to enhance our environment through the provision of habitat and amenity. However, flood mitigation measures may also change the local environment and potentially have negative impacts on other features by disturbing the natural flow of water or through construction activities. Below are areas that must be considered in delivering any flood risk management schemes in order to preserve the environment of Kent.

#### 8.1.1 Environment

Opportunities to enhance the environment and provide habitat and amenity should be sought where possible in the delivery of flood risk management schemes, especially if they could help to achieve the aims of other action plans, for instance the Kent Environment Strategy and the Kent Biodiversity Action Plan. Where environmental enhancements can be achieved they should be in keeping with the local environment and provide habitat for locally indigenous species.

Altering the flow of water may have an impact on sites downstream that rely on water. There are many designated sites in Kent and many of these are water sensitive. Any alteration to the amount of water they receive can disrupt the ecosystem. The impact of flood risk management schemes needs to be assessed thoroughly if there is any potential impact downstream. The mitigation for any such impact may be incorporated into the design of the schemes themselves.

Environmental impacts should be assessed at an early stage of the design of schemes and appropriate consultation should be undertaken with relevant stakeholders to scope any potential effects. The Kent Wildlife Trust and Natural England are principle consultees for environmental effects.

#### 8.1.2 Heritage

Flood risk management schemes may have both direct and indirect impacts on the historic environment. Direct impacts could include damage to known heritage assets - for example if a historic drainage ditch is widened and deepened as part of the scheme. Alternatively they may directly impact on unknown assets such as when a scheme affects currently unrecorded buried archaeological remains. Indirect impacts occur when the ground conditions are changed by flood risk management schemes, thereby impacting on heritage assets. For example,

using an area for water storage, or improving an area's drainage can change the moisture level in the local environment. Archaeological remains in particular are highly vulnerable to changing moisture levels which can accelerate the decay of organic remains and alter the chemical 'composition' of the soils. Historic buildings are also often more vulnerable than modern buildings to flood damage to their foundations, as are historic bridges and other historic water management structures.

When flood risk management schemes are planned it is important that the potential impact on the historic environment is fully considered and any unavoidable damage is mitigated. This is best secured by early consideration of the local historic environment following consultation with the Kent Historic Environment Record and by taking relevant expert advice. Kent County Council maintains the County Historic 'Environment' Record and can offer guidance on avoiding damage to the County's heritage.

### 8.1.3 Landscape

The local landscape character and context of the proposed site must be respected in the design of new works. The inclusion of landscape appraisal in the design process will help to conserve and enhance the distinctive characteristics and quality of the landscape.

There may be opportunities to provide local high quality open spaces with the flood risk management schemes and enhance the amenity of the space. Opportunities to deliver local targets for amenity, blue/green infrastructure and the movement of people should be sought. Consultation with the local planning authority and other stakeholders should be undertaken in the design of any scheme.

## 8.2 Equality

Flood risk management schemes must benefit everyone in the community they serve. Similarly the passive consequences of the scheme must be considered for all stakeholders that may be affected. For instance changing the height of paths to provide a flood barrier may make them less accessible.

Generally reducing flood risk helps to equalise the impact of flooding on diversity groups, as certain diversity groups, particularly the elderly and disabled, are less able to help themselves in a flood event. However, flood risk management schemes must be sensitive to the needs of all stakeholders and must be appropriate for them, for instance manual handling of flood defence apparatus may not be appropriate for some diversity groups. Additionally, where flood risk management schemes are proposed the consultation exercises undertaken must be accessible to all diversity groups. For instance, those with poor eyesight may not be able to understand plans and maps of the proposed scheme. Where this occurs alternative means of communication must be considered.

An equality impact assessment should be undertaken at an early stage in the design of any flood risk management scheme. All stakeholders should be identified and their needs considered in order that they can be designed into the scheme at an early stage. Specific consultation with any impacted diversity groups is also encouraged to ensure that their needs are properly understood.

## 9      Next steps to manage local flood risk

This section provides a summary of the actions the risk management authorities in Kent will undertake over the next year and beyond to deliver the objectives of the local strategy. This list will be updated annually with progress on previous actions noted and new actions that have been identified added.

The action plan will contain a range of different actions that are planned to achieve the objectives of the local strategy. These include broad scale strategic policies that are required to provide better management and/or coordination of flood risk information in the county. They could include more geographically specific actions such as a surface water management plan in one of the policy areas to provide more information. Or they could be very localised actions that will provide a specific scheme to manage flooding. At this stage of undertaking local flood risk management our understanding of local flood risk is at a high level and the actions tend to fall into the first two of these categories. As we develop our understanding we hope to plan for more localised schemes to deliver flood management.

The action plan is divided into three tables, Table 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3. Table 9.1 is a list of actions that will be lead by KCC to meet the objectives of the Flood and Water Management Act and the local strategy and have countywide implications, or do not have specific local effects. Table 9.2 is a list of the actions that will be undertaken by KCC to deliver local flood risk actions, in this first local strategy these are largely surface water management plans and other assessments of flood risk. As the surface water management plans and assessments are developed so further actions will be identified and be added to this list.

Table 9.3 provides a summary of the actions that other risk management authorities can undertake within their existing risk management functions to help co-operate with each other and deliver the objectives of the local strategy. KCC will monitor and support the delivery of these actions. Table 9.3 also includes which KCC lead actions (from Tables 9.1 and 9.2) link to the risk management authority measures. These may assist the risk management authorities with the delivery of the actions.



Table 9.1 Countywide flood risk management steps

No.	Action	Local strategy objective	Driver	Responsible body	Supporting bodies	Funding source	Date added	Time frame for delivery	Comments
<b>Actions for KCC to deliver</b>									
C1	Establish register of structures & features	1, 4	Flood & Water Management Act	KCC	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2013	2014	
C2	Establish a record of flood incidents	1,4	Local strategy	KCC	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2013	2014	
C3	Develop an integrated drainage asset management strategy	2, 4	Local Strategy	KCC	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2013	2014	
C4	Establish SuDS approving role	2, 3,4	Flood & Water Management Act	Defra, KCC	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2013	Dependant on Defra timeframes to be published	
C5	Produce SuDS guidance to help integrate it with new developments	2,3	Local strategy	KCC	Planning authorities	Defra grant	2013	Ongoing	
C6	Identify opportunities to retro fit SuDs into existing developments	2	Local strategy	KCC	Planning authorities	Defra grant	2013	Ongoing	
C7	Organise training of call centre staff in risk management authorities to harmonise recording of flood reports to move towards a single point of contact	4,5	Local strategy	KCC	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2013	2014	
<b>Actions for KCC to co-ordinate with other authorities</b>									
C8	Raise awareness of flood risk and local flooding issues for the public and how they can reduce the risks	1	Local strategy	KCC, EA, SW	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2013	Ongoing	
C9	Hold workshops with risk management authorities to develop guidance and best practice on how authorities can work together to provide clear information to each other and the public	1,4	Local strategy	KCC, EA	All risk management authorities	Defra grant	2013	2014	
C10	Update Local Multi-Agency Flood Plans with the latest data	5	Local strategy	KCC	Environment Agency	Emerg - ency Planning	2013	Ongoing	
C11	Support and monitor risk management authorities in delivering the local strategy, Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and other flood risk management duties	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Local strategy	KCC	Planning authorities	Defra grant	2013	On going	

Table 9.2 Local flood risk management steps (to be completed)

No.	Action	Local strategy objective	Driver	Responsible body	Supporting bodies	Funding source	Date added	Time-frame for delivery	Comments
L1	Canterbury City Centre SWMP	1	Canterbury Stage 1 SWMP	KCC	CCC, EA; Southern Water	Defra grant	2013	2014	
L2	Paddock Wood FAS Initial Assessment	1; 2	Paddock Wood SWMP	EA, KCC	TWBC; EA	FDGiA/ Defra grant	2013	2014	
L3	Deal Town FAS	1; 2	Deal SWMP	KCC	DCC; EA; Southern Water	FDGiA/ Defra grant	2013	2014	
L4	Folkestone SWMP	1; 2	Folkestone and Hythe SWMP	EA; KCC	ShDC; EA, Southern Water	Defra grant	2013	2014	
L5	Dartford SWM	1	Thameside SWM	KCC	DBC, EA, Thames Water	Defra grant	2013	2014	
L6	Margate SWMP	1	Thanet SWMP	KCC	TDC, EA, Southern Water	Defra grant	2013	2014	
L7	Ramsgate SWMP	1	Thanet SWMP	KCC	TDC, EA, Southern Water	Defra grant	2013	2014	
L8	Isle of Sheppey pilot asset management plan	1	Swale SWMP	KCC	SBC, EA, Southern Water	Defra grant	2013	2014	

Table 9.3 Measures for all risk management authorities in Kent

no.	Action	Local strategy objective	KCC Linked Measures
R1	Registering flood assets, as defined in Section 5.2	1	C1
R2	Reporting all local flooding incidents they are aware of to Kent County Council	1	C2
R3	Assist with development and implementation of integrated asset management strategy	2, 4	C3
R4	Provide local knowledge to the SAB regarding developments in their area	2,3	C4
R5	Encourage the use of SuDS through policy and use in own projects	3	C5
R6	Take details of all flood events from members of the public and pass them on to the appropriate authority, giving the customer the details of the report that has been logged	4	C8
R7	Provide clear, publicly accessible information about risk management functions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the area and features they have responsibility for</li> <li>schedules for routine maintenance and records of maintenance having been undertaken</li> <li>plans for improvement works</li> <li>plans for new flood management measures and</li> <li>relevant contact detail</li> </ul>	4	C9
R8	Ensure Strategic Flood Risk Assessments consider the impact of new development on the finances of flood defences in light of the new way of allocating grant in aid for flood defences	3	C11
R9	Assist with development and delivery of flood investigations and surface water management plans where appropriate	1	All local measures
R10	Provide flood risk information in a timely manner	1,2,3,4	All local measures

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Kent County Council

# Local Flood risk management strategy