

# **KENT ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**Year 1 activity monitoring report**

**December 2017**

## **Introduction**

This report summarises the progress that has been made during the first year of the Kent Environment Strategy Implementation Plan. Each chapter gives an overview of the key achievements and emerging risks for each theme, and then describes the progress that has been made under each activity in the implementation plan. The report also highlights the activities being undertaken by district and borough councils in Kent.

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## Theme 1: Building the foundations for delivery

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### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Theme 1 activities are focused on providing an evidence-based understanding of our environmental risks and opportunities, and developing the mechanisms that will enable delivery of actions on the ground. The activities seek to address gaps in our understanding, influence local, national and EU policies, and plan to manage and build resources, capabilities and change behaviours across all sectors.

Our understanding of the value the natural and historic environment has to our residents and economy continues to grow. Partnership working between health and environmental professionals is strengthening our understanding of how to prescribe greenspace to meet environmental and health outcomes. Recommendations are being developed to integrate green infrastructure into planning and investment decisions, and opportunities to ensure that sustainable water management is embedded in local plans have been identified and are beginning to be implemented.

There have been significant achievements in identifying and supporting sustainable economic growth sectors across Kent. In particular, the Water Task Group has played a strategic role in the establishment of a Water Efficiency Technology (WET) centre at NIAB East Malling Research. This is an important development for establishing Kent and Medway as a global centre of excellence for water efficiency technology and practices in horticulture and agriculture. European Union funding has been secured to support the growth of the offshore wind supply chain sector, wood fuels and wider low carbon environmental goods and services sectors, which have been identified as sustainable growth opportunity areas for the county.

There have however, been some commonly reported risks and issues which are having an impact on the delivery of activities. Firstly, there is uncertainty on future funding and political commitment, particularly in light of Brexit, as many projects and achievements are currently reliant on EU funding. Risks and issues have also been identified in relation to staffing resource, funding and specialist skill availability. The impacts have resulted in some activities being delayed or postponed until adequate resources or political support has been identified.

### ACTION RAG RATING (rating in relation to delivery of the activity described in the 2017 Implementation Plan)

<b>2 RED</b> Activity on hold or significantly behind schedule with a risk of non-delivery	<b>9 AMBER</b> Activity changed and/or timeline revised, but on track for delivery within life of KES	<b>14 GREEN</b> Activity on track or completed
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## OVERALL PROGRESS

### Priority 1: Bridging gaps in understanding our risks and opportunities to identify actions

#### BF1.1: Strengthen our understanding of the health, social and economic value of our natural and historical assets

Activity	Progress	RAG
Improved understanding of the value of Kent's natural environment through a Natural Capital Assessment, identifying opportunities for investment and supporting decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A full Natural Capital Assessment for Kent and Medway is on hold whilst resources to undertake this are being identified. However smaller, illustrative natural capital accounts will be undertaken for specific ecosystem services e.g. woodland.</li> <li><a href="#">Strategic priorities</a> for the Kent Nature Partnership (KNP) have been revised and include "Embedding Natural Capital into planning and decision making". Actions to deliver this are in development but will include communicating the value and benefits of natural capital through best practice and embedding this into planning.</li> </ul> <p><b>RISK:</b> The resources required to undertake a full natural capital account for Kent and Medway are unlikely to be found locally in the medium term. This is a skilled assessment and these skills are not available within the existing KNP. It is suggested that this output and the investment plans are re-scoped in order to be more achievable.</p>	RED
Working with health and social care professionals identify and promote where the natural environment can support healthy lifestyles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A needs assessment relating to the provision of natural greenspace in areas with low levels of physical activity has been completed. The assessment has been used to prioritise areas for future action and investment.</li> <li>Collaboration between Kent Nature Partnership Health Wellbeing (KNP HW) subgroup partners and healthcare professionals have achieved the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social prescription pilot: in collaboration with the Kent High Weald Partnership, an online directory of natural environment projects was produced, which healthcare professionals can sign-post clients to.</li> <li>GP Physical Activity Champions: encouraging GPs to have conversations about being more physically active with patients.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Strategic priorities for the KNP have been revised and include "Taking forward the health and nature agenda". Actions to deliver this are in development and will be aligned with Public Health priorities and objectives to maximise resources for partnership working and delivery.</li> <li>In Tunbridge Wells, the Kent High Weald Partnership evaluate their activity days for improvements in mental health. They run a 'Men's Shed' project, integrated with green space improvements aimed at addressing social exclusion and troubled families.</li> </ul>	GREEN

Activity	Progress	RAG
Identify the health, social and economic opportunities that Kent's heritage provides and integrate into district wide Heritage strategies and specific project development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A draft Heritage and Health case study has been produced as part of Shepway District Council's Heritage Strategy. This will be finalised at the end of 2017 with an action plan and adoption through the Local Plan in 2018.</li> <li>Other district planning authorities are being encouraged to include heritage and health outcomes in their Heritage Strategies. This has already been completed by Dover District Council.</li> </ul>	GREEN

**BF1.2: Continue to assess the economic, health and social impacts of climate change on our businesses, services and residents and take action as appropriate**

Activity	Progress	RAG
Refresh the Kent Climate Change Risk Assessment and identify priority adaptation and mitigation actions.	This activity will now be completed in mid-2018 to align with changing national policy and priorities including a revised National Adaptation Programme.	AMBER
Review and update the sustainability assessment of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to ensure that commissioning decisions are sustainable.	This activity has been superseded. Work is now underway to ensure sustainability is incorporated into the new public health systems-based commissioning process, and linked to the health and wellbeing strategy. The KES implementation plan will be updated to reflect these changes and new measures and outputs agreed accordingly.	AMBER
Evidence of the impacts of severe weather on public services will continue to be assessed and used to inform service delivery and decision making.	SWIMS remains an active tool, and resources should be in place by early 2018 to expand the number of users and services that it supports.	AMBER

**BF1.3: Identify economic sectors with significant opportunities in relation to environmental change**

Activity	Progress	RAG
Identify sectors with significant growth potential in relation to environmental change and identify support mechanism as appropriate	Supply chain opportunities have been identified for the wood fuels and offshore wind sectors. Wood fuels is one of the sectors that the LoCASE project is supporting, whilst Inn2POWER is focused on the offshore wind sector. These projects have secured EU funding until 2019 and 2020 respectively.	GREEN

Activity	Progress	RAG
Support improvement in water efficiency and availability to Kent's horticultural and agricultural sectors through delivery of the Kent Rural Board Water Task Group Programme	<p>The current 2016-2018 programme is on schedule. Completed activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raising with district and county wide partners of the importance of irrigation reservoirs for resilient water supplies; this includes production of a planning guide.</li> <li>• Establishment of a Water Efficient Technologies (WET) centre at NIAB EMR, becoming a global centre of excellence in irrigation technology. The Water Task Group is a strategic partner in its establishment. The WET centre was officially opened in July 2017.</li> </ul>	GREEN
Through Kent's Growth and Infrastructure Framework (GIF) establish a county wide <i>framework for green infrastructure</i> and identify opportunities for delivery and investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review has been completed on understanding how Kent local planning authorities plan for and deliver green infrastructure (GI). Recommendations from the report are being used to review appropriateness and scope of a strategic GI Framework for Kent and actions to deliver that, with delivery commencing 2018.</li> <li>• GI and functionality mapping will commence in the last quarter of 2017 based on methodology developed by East Sussex Council; initial mapping will be completed summer 2018.</li> </ul>	GREEN

#### BF1.4: Improve our understanding of risks and opportunities related to specific resource constraints such as water and energy and land

Activity	Progress	RAG
Build energy security across Kent and Medway through delivering recommendations from the KCC Energy Security Select Committee.	Recommendations from the Energy Security Select Committee have been incorporated into the KES implementation plan. The recommendations will also be used to support the development of the Kent Low Emissions Strategy.	GREEN
Undertake a Water for Sustainable Growth Study to inform and support planning decisions.	This study has been completed and the recommendations are being reviewed by Local Planning Authorities for integration into decision making. The evidence is being used in water company drought plans and water management plans. Evidence of the recommendations being used in local authority water cycle strategies will be sought in 2018.	GREEN

**BF1.5: Build on our understanding of local air and noise pollution and associated health outcomes to determine targeted actions**

Activity	Progress	RAG
Develop a low emissions strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A working group of the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership, KCC and Public Health are collaborating on two key activities:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A county wide emissions strategy that will coordinate activities in Local Air Quality Action Plans. A draft plan is due early 2018.</li> <li>○ Work to further develop, improve and raise awareness of evidence to decision makers, on the health impacts of poor air quality.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A number of council air quality strategies are in the process of being refreshed.</li> </ul>	GREEN
Raise awareness of the health impacts of air pollution, and actions that can be taken to reduce emissions and personal exposure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual district authorities have been actively engaged with National Clean Air Day (Medway and Thanet District Councils), and Cycle to Work Day and Zero Emissions Day (Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council).</li> <li>• Medway Council will complete an air quality communications strategy by March 2018.</li> <li>• No joint activity is currently underway or planned.</li> <li>• Further information on air quality in Kent and Medway is available at <a href="http://www.kentair.org.uk/">http://www.kentair.org.uk/</a> and <a href="#">Care for KentAir</a>.</li> </ul>	AMBER
Review of the environmental and health implications of aircraft noise on communities in Kent and Medway, and identify levels of risk and recommendations for further actions as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope for this work is pending the findings of the Gatwick Independent Arrivals Review (GIAR), which includes a review into aviation noise effects and incorporates West Kent. There are also a number of existing reports into the impacts of aviation noise on health, namely from the Civil Aviation Authority and World Health Organisation, these will also be used to inform that scope and resulting reviews.</li> <li>• A Noise Management Board is overseeing the GIAR, which is being undertaken by the University of Southampton. The Board is a partnership represented by Gatwick Airport, Local Authorities (including KCC) and Community Groups.</li> </ul>	AMBER

## Priority 2: Influencing Strategy and Policy

### BF2.1: To support decision makers, work with partners to establish a central evidence base addressing Kent Environment Strategy priorities

Activity	Progress	RAG
Establish a central data and information hub for KES priorities to support and inform decision makers.	Outline scope for this activity has been presented to the KESSG and KECG. However, due to resource changes, a full scope will not be developed until 2018. Part of the scoping study will include alignment and sharing of resources with the Growth and Infrastructure Framework's (GIF) online platform, Digi-GIF. The hub will focus initially on energy and emissions data.	AMBER

### BF2.2: Use our evidence to influence local, national and EU strategy and policy as appropriate

Activity	Progress	RAG
Develop targeted policy briefings based on evidence and data hub established under Priority 2.1.	This is an ongoing activity with briefings developed as evidence/priorities require. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent updates to an unconventional gas briefing have been made, circulated to the KECG, KESSG and available through the Climate Change Network (CCN).</li> <li>A KCC Member briefing on air quality (pollutant status, policy and partnership activities) is currently in a review phase, this will be made available to district partners.</li> </ul>	GREEN
Support commissioners to incorporate, where appropriate, KES priorities into the delivery and acquisition of services and products.	All KCC services now have an environmental specification identifying the environmental outputs the service is to deliver. This includes relevant KES priorities with detail of service level action and responsible lead officer. Specifications will be included in all DMT and CMT progress reporting.	GREEN

### BF2.3: Review national and local strategic priorities to identify local policy gaps and implications on delivery of our priorities

Activity	Progress	RAG
Establish a biannual review of national and local strategic priorities, identifying gaps and implications, and developing policy briefings as appropriate.	This is an ongoing activity and will be informed through reviews of the KES and implementation plan, and the Kent State of the Environment report.	GREEN



### Priority 3: Building resources, capabilities and changing behaviour

#### BF3.1: Develop knowledge networks, sharing best practice and training to build capacity for informed decision making

Activity	Progress	RAG
Identify training and development needs in relation to delivery of Kent Environment Strategy priorities and establish recommendations for skills and knowledge development.	The Climate Change Network has establish a robust format and approach for a skills and knowledge audit. The audit template will be tested with one KES delivery lead before wider role out. Audit findings and recommendations are to be made by summer 2018.	AMBER
Identify options and/or establish opportunities for volunteering, placements and apprenticeships to build skills and support sustainable economic growth for delivery Kent Environment Strategy.	A formal review on the use of volunteers in the parks has been undertaken. A list of environmental placements and work experience opportunities is available at <a href="http://kent.gov.uk/jobs/starting-your-career/environmental-placements">kent.gov.uk/jobs/starting-your-career/environmental-placements</a> . However there is currently no resource to maintain this list.  <b>RISK:</b> Further activity is on hold whilst appropriate resources are identified to take this action forward. The scope of this activity will be reviewed in early 2018 in light of the resource issues.	RED
Provide support guidance to decision makers to champion and promote Kent Environment Strategy priorities at local and national level.	This is an ongoing activity. Support and guidance is provided as priorities require to KES Governance groups, district and wider KES partners.	GREEN

#### BF3.2: Establish a coordinated approach to identifying and maximising funding opportunities, establishing mechanisms for co-delivery as appropriate

Activity	Progress	RAG
Establish a central mechanism for identifying and applying for partnership funding opportunities.	Due to national political changes, particularly in light of Brexit, current and future funding opportunities are being reviewed. This activity and approach to delivery will be updated accordingly at the end of 2017.	AMBER

**BF3.3: Develop an environmental communications and engagement strategy, improving awareness of priorities and supporting behaviour change**

Activity	Progress	RAG
Develop a targeted environmental communications and engagement strategy and plan	<p>A communications strategy was developed in 2017 to enable partners to highlight their achievements towards KES activities, and to raise awareness with politicians, decision makers and the public. A number of resources have been developed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KES 'Stamp' to help partners show support for the KES.</li> <li>• E-newsletter template.</li> <li>• Online 'public friendly' version of the KES priorities on Explore Kent.</li> <li>• Video case studies (due December 2017).</li> </ul> <p>An event highlighting the achievements from the year will be held in December 2017.</p>	GREEN

**Priority 4: Monitoring and Evaluation**

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**BF4.1: Establish and monitor key performance indicators**

Activity	Progress	RAG
KES Key performance indicators (KPI's) will be reviewed, updated and developed where required.	This is currently in progress through a review and update of the 2015 Kent State of the Environment Report. Based on the findings of that review, indicators will be revised or new ones developed and implemented by early 2018.	AMBER

**BF4.2: Evaluate progress and identify future risks, opportunities and actions aligned to the Kent Environment Strategy priorities, informing current and future actions**

Activity	Progress	RAG
To ensure that the Kent Environment Strategy is delivering priorities and remains fit for purpose, annual monitoring and reporting will be undertaken.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is currently in progress through this monitoring report, informed also by a review and update of the 2015 Kent State of the Environment Report.</li> <li>• The 2017 Impact Report will be published in December 2017.</li> </ul>	GREEN

## Theme 2: Making best use of existing resources, avoiding or minimising negative impacts

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### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS:

Theme 2 activities are focused on ensuring that all sectors are aware of their impact on the environment and know how to take action to avoid or reduce this, such as using resources more efficiently and reducing waste. The emphasis is on existing infrastructure, assets and resources across the public, private and domestic sectors, and ensuring that these are managed efficiently and deliver net benefits, building resilience and providing best value for our organisations and residents.

The risks and issues reported by partners for Theme 2 are similar to those for Theme 1, and include risks relating to political uncertainty and resourcing issues. Similarly, these have resulted in some activities being delayed or postponed until adequate resources or political support has been identified.

However, there have also been some important achievements and progress continues to be made. For instance, Heritage Lottery Funding has been secured to deliver habitat improvement and connectivity projects in Old Chalk New Downs and Romney Marsh, with new areas being considered for future work. There has also been progress in integrating Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) into spatial planning, including Defra funding to undertake three planning demonstration projects in Kent.

A number of key strategies and action plans have been finalised and are now in implementation phases, including fuel poverty, active travel and waste management. These are key partnership documents that are improving resource efficiency and health outcomes for Kent residents. Businesses are also being supported in delivering efficiencies and maximising opportunities from a growing low carbon sector through the LoCASE Programme. This is a European Funded programme being delivered by partners across the southeast, supporting our transition to a low carbon economy.

### ACTION RAG RATING (rating in relation to delivery of the activity described in the 2017 Implementation Plan)

<b>2 RED</b> Activity on hold or significantly behind schedule with a risk of non-delivery	<b>8 AMBER</b> Activity changed and/or timeline revised, but on track for delivery within life of KES	<b>15 GREEN</b> Activity on track or completed
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## Priority 5 Conserve and enhance the quality and supply of the county of Kent's natural and historical resources and assets

### MR5.1: Establish a consistent approach for local planning authorities to incorporate landscape and seascape character into decision making

Activity	Progress	RAG
Commission new landscape and seascape character assessments, incorporating specific landscape and seascape features and the services they provide.	The Kent Downs AONB Unit has commissioned a landscape character assessment of the AONB which takes into account forces for change and condition, and District and Borough level assessments. This work will provide a revision of the existing assessment.	RED
Undertake a landscape character trend analysis, identifying areas in declining condition and implementing actions as appropriate.	<b>RISK:</b> Both actions are on hold whilst KES landscape partners review resources and identify a dedicated delivery lead. If necessary, the scope of this activity will be revised in early 2018 in line with available resources.	

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been refreshing their local plan, part of which includes inclusion of new approaches to incorporating landscape characteristics; examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Dover District Council	As part of its local plan review, Dover District Council is developing a new approach to landscape character assessment.
Gravesham Borough Council	Gravesham Borough Council commissioned a Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study, which will be published later in the year, to support the Council's consultation on its Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Document.
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has produced a new Borough-wide Landscape Character Assessment and Historic Landscape Characterisation study.

**MR5.2: Improve and increase functional habitat networks and ensure that planning decisions enhance and protect our natural and historic environment**

Activity	Progress	RAG
<p>Establish viable and appropriate large scale habitat connectivity across Kent and Medway focusing on Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA) in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old Chalk New Downs (Central North Downs, Medway Gap &amp; North Kent Downs, Greensand Heaths and Commons)</li> <li>• Romney Marsh (Romney Marsh and Rye Harbour)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Lottery Funding has been secured for the next four years to deliver landscape scale habit enhancement and connectivity projects for Old Chalk New Downs and Fifth Continent (Romney Marsh) areas. Respective leads are Kent County Council and Kent Wildlife Trust; delivery will include community engagement and volunteering opportunities.</li> <li>• The Kent Nature Partnership is currently identifying priority areas for new landscape scale projects. This review will be completed end of 2017 with new project(s) anticipated for 2018 onwards.</li> </ul>	GREEN
<p>To support planners and decision makers facilitate delivery of the Kent Biodiversity Strategy and targets, Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA) will be integrated into local plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training sessions have been delivered to nine local planning authorities on integration of BOAs into spatial plans, and use of Kent Nature Partnership (KNP) planning protocols.</li> <li>• A detailed review is currently in progress of the KNP's impact on planning decisions in the county. Recommendations from the review will be used to revise the partnership's planning protocol and guidance, due May 2018.</li> <li>• Defra funding (£4000) has been secured to deliver three planning demonstration projects by March 2018. The projects will be delivered in Tunbridge Wells, Swale and Dover planning authority areas, and will assist local plans to contribute to Kent Biodiversity 2020 targets and integrate BOA. The projects will illustrate the benefits of engaging with the KNP on local planning matters.</li> </ul>	GREEN
<p>Address the decline in pollinators across the county and the impact on Kent's environment and economy through improving linear habitats and delivering Plan Bee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will be running a schools competition for both secondary and primary schools in 2018 in conjunction with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust BBCT to ensure that schools are aware of the importance of improving bee and pollinator habitat. Further activity for 2018 is being reviewed and developed with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.</li> </ul>	AMBER

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been involved with activity to improve habitat networks and biodiversity; a few examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Dover District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council is currently revising their existing Green Infrastructure Strategy which will inform the approach taken on this sub-priority.</li> <li>As part of the Up on the Downs Landscape Partnership Scheme, habitat restoration has been undertaken and 3 new nature reserves have been created. The project has improved 200ha of land for the in terms of resilience and connectivity; the work also included four Scheduled Monuments.</li> </ul>
Swale Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swale District's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been refreshed.</li> </ul>

### MR5.3: Identify and take forward opportunities for sustainable water management to improve quality and quantity of our water environment and resources

Activity	Progress	RAG
Deliver the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction programme, identifying over abstraction and taking action as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Restoring Sustainable Abstraction Programme for Kent has been completed.</li> <li>Over the next 12 months the Environment Agency will be working with water companies, through the PR19 programme, to identify future sustainable abstraction reductions.</li> </ul>	GREEN
<p>Deliver in partnership the Thames and South East River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) (2015-2021) to address Water Framework Directive objectives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and improve Drinking Water Protected Areas, Bathing Waters and Natura 2000 Sites.</li> <li>Partnership action plans to reverse any decline in water body status.</li> <li>Delivery of partnership projects identified in the RBMP supporting catchment sensitive farming, river restoration, habitat improvement and Water Company infrastructure projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EA's 2017/18 Environment Programme will deliver £1.6 million of improvements and has already enhanced 47km of river in Kent, Sussex and South London. 23 of the projects in the Programme are being delivered through the Catchment Partnerships.</li> <li>There are 29 bathing waters in Kent and all are classified as sufficient or above.</li> <li>The Environment Agency are working with water companies to improve drinking water protected areas. Protected area plans are currently being reviewed and updated.</li> <li>A new tool is currently being developed which will enable the Environment Agency to track and intervene early to address deteriorations taking place in a water body. Deteriorations that have already been identified are being addressed EA Environment Programme.</li> <li>Targeted farm visits have, and will continue to take place in water bodies with relevant 2021 objectives.</li> <li>The Catchment Improvement Groups continue to support RBMP objectives through the Catchment Based Approach (CABA).</li> </ul>	GREEN

Activity	Progress	RAG
Identify and deliver soft engineering techniques to mitigate against flood incidents, localised drainage problems or increase capacity in local sewer network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design work has been commissioned for Bell Road sustainable drainage (Sittingbourne road flood mitigation)</li> <li>Initial feasibility work has been undertaken with Southern Water to identify priority areas for improving sewer capacity in Tunbridge Wells (St. George's Park) and Margate.</li> </ul>	AMBER

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been involved with activity to improve sustainable water management; examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Swale Borough Council	Planning applications now require sustainable drainage schemes to be considered.

#### MR5.4: Establish land-use management approaches that create, preserve and enhance healthy, viable soils and respect landscape character

Activity	Progress	RAG
Engaging in discussion over CAP reforms, ensuring best outcomes for Kent's agricultural sector, biodiversity, landscape and soil.	<p>This activity is currently under review by the Kent Nature Partnership.</p> <p><b>RISK:</b> Once a lead has been identified, the scope of this activity will be redefined in line with available resource.</p>	RED

#### MR5.5: Develop heritage strategies to improve understanding and management of the historic environment

Activity	Progress	RAG
Promote the use of Kent Farmsteads Guidance by developers and land managers, and integrate within local plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kent district and borough authorities are currently reviewing integration of the guidance into their planning processes with the recommendation of adoption from the KCC Heritage Group. Currently Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has adopted the guidance.</li> </ul>	GREEN

Activity	Progress	RAG
Assess heritage crime in the county and develop watch schemes as appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kent Heritage Watch Steering Committee was established in 2016 comprising: Kent Police, Historic England, Kent County Council Heritage Conservation, Leeds Castle and wider stakeholder.</li> <li>Kent Heitage Watch was launched in February 2017.</li> <li>Two pilot heritage crime parish assessments are underway or planned respectively at Hollingbourne and Swanscombe and Greenhithe.</li> </ul>	GREEN
Develop a long-term solution to the Kent archaeological archives storage and access problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deepstore in Cheshire is being assessed as a long-term storage solution for East Kent Access archaeological archives. Final assessment is due end of 2017 with potential implementation in 2018.</li> <li>A condition assessment of HS1 archaeological archive and a review long term storage options will be commissioned in November 2017.</li> </ul>	GREEN

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been involved with activity to develop and update local heritage strategies; examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Dover District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council has adopted a Heritage Strategy, which was developed with KCC.</li> </ul>

## Priority 6 Improve our resource efficiency such as energy, water and land

### MR6.1: Reduce negative impacts and maximise the resource efficiency of public sector services, setting out our public commitments for energy, waste and water use reduction

Activity	Progress	RAG
Update and widely communicate public commitments for energy, waste and water use reduction across local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kent Climate Local targets for energy, waste and water use reduction will be reviewed and revised in 2018 by the Climate Change Network.</li> <li>Existing commitments are included within the KES page on Explore Kent and reported in the 2017 Impact report and State of the Environment Report.</li> </ul>	AMBER



Activity	Progress	RAG
Identify and implement renewable energy opportunities across public sector estates, partnering with communities and businesses as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The renewable energy action plan review has been completed and we are developing a low emission and energy strategy that will look at renewable energy.</li> <li>The renewable energy plan has been updated.</li> <li>KCC continues to provide support to Sheppey Community Energy Trust.</li> </ul>	AMBER

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been involved with activity to maximise opportunities for resource efficiency on their estates and assets; a few examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Dover District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new Leisure Centre under construction at Whitfield is on target to achieve a BREAAAM Very Good rating. The centre includes a thermally efficient building envelope, reduced energy and water consumption, energy monitoring, effective management and recycling of construction waste, energy efficient lighting, indoor air quality and Solar PV.</li> </ul>
Dartford Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Test battery storage projects are being run on 11 of the local authority's properties. The project will provide information on the practicalities of battery storage and will inform the new EU funded Triple A project.</li> </ul>

#### MR6.2: Improve the resource efficiency of our homes, reducing costs, tackling fuel poverty and improving health outcomes

Activity	Progress	RAG
Develop a Waste Disposal Strategy for Kent County Council (as the Waste Disposal Authority) working in partnership through the Kent Resource Partnership (KRP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Waste Disposal Strategy has been developed and adopted by Kent County Council, setting out their direction as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) up to 2035. Development of the strategy has been informed by engagement with the Kent Resource Partnership, KCC and district partners.</li> <li>An implementation plan is currently in development with delivery of activity taking place 2018/2019.</li> </ul>	GREEN
Refresh the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KJMWMS).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The KJMWMS is currently undergoing a refresh by the Kent Resource Partnership (KRP). The overarching aim is to provide KRP Members and Officers with a refreshed KJMWMS for final approval in July 2018. Each Kent council will then have the opportunity to formally adopt the refreshed KJMWMS via their respective decision-making bodies as appropriate.</li> </ul>	AMBER

Activity	Progress	RAG
Develop and deliver a Fuel Poverty Strategy for Kent and Medway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership (KEEP) have developed in consultation with wider stakeholders “Delivering Affordable Warmth, A Fuel Poverty Strategy for Kent. The Strategy sets out the key priorities for Kent driven by national policy and also by local strategies and identification of need.</li> <li>• An action plan has been drafted and currently in review. Additional partners and stakeholders will be engaged with in delivery including: Fuel Poor Network Scheme partner with Southern Gas Networks; Kent Fire &amp; Rescue Service and Kent Pharmacies.</li> <li>• To support delivery and better targeting of actions, Kent Public Health and University of Essex will be linking datasets to analyse the impact of energy efficiency interventions on residents’ health.</li> </ul>	GREEN
Deliver a coordinated retrofit programme across Kent and Medway such as the Warm Homes Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Warm Homes Programme has continued to assist residents in making energy improvements to their homes. Since its launch in 2013 the initiative has utilized over £1.6 million of ECO funding and over £1.3 million public health and wider government funding.</li> <li>• Warm Homes benefits from KMSEPs retrofitting framework of contractors which is also being used to undertake retrofit works in the social housing sector; over the last reporting this period has been used to contract services for homes in Medway to the value of £100,000 per annum.</li> <li>• Over the next reporting period work will continue to promote the retrofitting framework to wider partners. Identification of opportunities to expand the offer of the Warm Homes programme will also be explored e.g. provision of debt relief advice and signposting to grants.</li> <li>• KCC in partnership with KMSEP are an observer partner in a four year project to trial new technologies (solar PV linked to battery storage) in 10 homes within Kent.</li> </ul>	GREEN

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been involved with activity to improve energy and resource efficiency and reduce fuel poverty for residents; a few examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Dover District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council's Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy and Conditions have been revised, increasing the value of the Winter Warmth grant and the Urgent Home Loan. The discretionary Housing Assistance incorporates health and independence of persons with disabilities, elderly and long-term health conditions as well as wider fuel poverty aspects.</li> <li>• Properties have been purchased by the Council to increase social housing stock; refurbishment of the properties include energy efficiency and sustainable drainage measures:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Folkestone Road – Existing structure to be thermally upgraded throughout (roof, walls, basement floors), LED lighting installed throughout, SUDS paving to be installed, sound insulation upgrade throughout to increase occupant comfort levels.</li> <li>○ Norman Tailyour House – Independent living scheme of 18 units. Upgrading building envelop to include upgraded insulation to roof and walls (EWI – Rockwool based product), upgrading of windows, doors and roof lights. Energy efficient lighting with sensor controls.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Dartford Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has let a three year contract to deliver external wall insulation to 300 properties within its stock. Hard to treat properties will be targeted including steel framed and solid concrete constructed houses.</li> <li>• Dartford Borough Council have been working with Sevenoaks District Council, Darent Valley Hospital Discharge Team, the local Home Improvement Agency and Family Mosaic to jointly fund resource with the hospital discharge team. The purpose resolve home environmental issues (housing modifications/adaptation, assistive technologies) which are impacting discharge patient's health and may result in re-admission if not resolved. A new Discretionary Assistance Grant to facilitate works.</li> </ul>
Gravesham Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gravesham is continuing to deliver on carbon savings and reduction in fuel costs for their tenants from its 1090 social housing properties with solar PV panel systems.</li> <li>• A new alternate weekly collection model for residual waste in wheelie bins has been introduced that will limit the amount of residual waste that householders can dispose, supporting behaviour change in the way domestic waste is disposed of.</li> <li>• The Council has been involved in various Kent Resource Partnership projects to improve the quality of recycled waste, increase food waste disposal and providing a cleaner Kent.</li> </ul>
Swale Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council continues to signpost households and businesses to sources of funding for energy efficiency measures.</li> </ul>

**MR6.3: Work with businesses to reduce costs and negative impacts through improving compliance, efficiency, resilience and innovation in the use of resources**

Activity	Progress	RAG
Develop an integrated business support package to maximise existing support and develop appropriate public sector interventions for promoting growth in the low carbon sector across Kent and Medway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LoCASE Programme was launched in 2016, a £18.8million EU funded project being delivered through a partnership of local authorities and universities across the southeast.</li> <li>The project is supporting growth of the low carbon economy through providing support and grants to SMEs for low carbon initiatives (new businesses, carbon reduction and energy efficiency measures, products and knowledge transfer), creating new jobs in the Low Carbon, Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector, private sector investment and raising awareness of opportunities.</li> <li>Further information is available from <a href="http://locase.co.uk/">http://locase.co.uk/</a></li> </ul>	GREEN

**Priority 7 Ensure sustainable access and connectivity for businesses and communities**

**MR7.1 Develop and integrated approach to sustainable access to our countryside, heritage and coast**

Activity	Progress	RAG
Review and update the Countryside and Coastal Access and Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A revised plan is anticipated in 2018 following consultation at the end of 2017. Current work is underway on reviewing relevant research, stakeholder input and synergies with wider cross-sector strategies (e.g. health outcomes) which will inform the updates. The research aspect includes reviews of changing demographics and growth areas which will inform a spatial analysis relating to limitations, network fragmentation and linking of minor highways.</li> <li>A public survey has been completed by Lake Market Research on resident's use of the public rights of way network, issues and barriers. This work will inform the revised plan.</li> </ul>	AMBER
Promote a sustainable tourism and visitor economy for Kent maximising Kent's natural and historical assets across the county's inland, coastal and marine areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Explore Kent website has been refreshed, with a focus on quality assurance, promotion of routes, events, facilities and activities.</li> <li>The '<a href="#">We Love Walkers and Cyclists</a>' accreditation scheme is being rolled out, which highlights the facilities available for walkers and cyclists across towns and through businesses. Ramsgate became the first town to receive accreditation in Sept 2016. There are some short-term resource risks concerning future delivery.</li> </ul>	AMBER

Activity	Progress	RAG
Searchable register and promotion of activities that support the health and wellbeing of residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore Kent is working with a number of partners in delivery of this activity. Central to this is <a href="#">ExploreKent.org</a> used to campaign activity and comprises a searchable register of activities.</li> <li>• Specific partnership work with Explore Kent in delivery of this activity include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Website commissioning and branding with Kent Downs AONB</li> <li>○ Income generation marketing for Kent Country Parks</li> <li>○ Branding and web presence with Countryside Management Partnerships</li> <li>○ Stakeholder and campaigning / awareness with KES</li> <li>○ Cycling campaigning with Kent Sport and Active Travel</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	GREEN

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been involved with activity to increase use and improve accessibility to natural and historic assets; a few examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Dover District Council	<p>Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens are Grade II listed heritage parks which are undergoing restoration through the Parks for People project, a joint Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund programme.</p> <p>The project will involve restoration and enhancement of some key natural and historic aspects of the parks but also improve sustainable travel and access to, between, and within the parks. This will involve promoting greater access to the parks for pedestrians, cyclists, and those using public transport, improving pedestrian connectivity with the train station at Kearsney, traffic calming measures and increased car parking. Dover District Council aims to achieve Green Flag status for the parks by 2018.</p>
Swale Borough Council	Swale District Council is Working with Swale Community Leisure Centre to promote sport and physical activity through 'taster' experiences using Sport in the Park (festival) at Milton Creek Country Park (September 2017).

#### MR7.2 Ensure our residents, businesses and communities are well connected to services, with sustainable and active travel options

Activity	Progress	RAG
Promote the development of high quality walking, cycling and public transport routes through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, Local Transport Plan and KCC's Active Travel Strategy.	KCC's Active Travel Strategy was adopted by Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee in March 2017. The focus is on better maintaining, promoting and encouraging use of existing routes for walking and cycling. Actions include expanding bicycle recycling programmes, providing town walk and cycle maps and improving accuracy of fault reporting on the cycle network.	GREEN

Activity	Progress	RAG
Support access to superfast broadband across the county.	<p>KCC continues to work with the government's broadband agency, Broadband Delivery UK, to improve access to superfast broadband services, through the Making Kent Quicker Programme. To date, this work has already brought superfast broadband to over 127,000 homes and businesses, who would otherwise have been left with no, or slow broadband.</p> <p>This work has meant that by the end of 2017, 95% of properties across Kent and Medway will be able to access a superfast broadband service of at least 24mbps.</p>	GREEN

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been involved with activity to ensure residents, business and communities are connected to services; a few examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Dover District Council	Charging points are being installed in new developments at St James, Dover, Dover District Leisure Centre, Lidl (Whitfield Business Park).
Gravesham Borough Council	As part of Virgin Media's Project Lightning superfast broadband access is in development in the inner urban wards of Gravesend and Northfleet.
Swale Borough Council	The Green Grid Strategy has been refreshed. The strategy is a joined approach to land management with a focus on the relationship between greenspaces and the communities they serve. It aims to create a network of multi-functional greenspaces providing sustainable access within urban centres and development zones, as well as urban fringe and rural areas where the two influence each other.
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	<p>Tunbridge Wells Borough Council adopted a cycling strategy in 2016 and is now seeking to improve routes on the A26 between Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells town centres ( funded through £1.2m Local Growth Fund) and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Way between Tunbridge Wells town centre and North Farm Estate (funded through Section 106 developer contributions).</p> <p>They have also worked with Highways England and KCC to deliver a high quality, non-motorised user route alongside the duelling of the A21 between Pembury and Tonbridge and have bid for funding to link the route.</p> <p>Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has successfully bid for Department for Transport funding to prepare a Local Walking and Cycling Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Under the Broadband Delivery UK contract phase, the council have worked with KCC to secure additional funding for the deployment of superfast broadband to areas of 6, previously out of scope communities.</p>

### MR7.3 Promote smarter working practices to improve efficiency and deliver health and economic benefits through reduced travel

Activity	Progress	RAG
Support SME's in enhancing their digital capabilities.	The LoCASE Programme is directly supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors, this includes supporting SMEs within that sector enhance their digital capabilities. As of September 2017 LoCASE has provided £49,000 in supporting 22 SMEs enhance their digital capabilities.	GREEN
Holding action for travel advice for public sector and businesses.	This activity is incorporated into activity 7.2 (Kent Active Travel Strategy) and through the support offered through the LoCASE Programme and Low Carbon Kent. This activity will be reviewed in early 2018 to see if a standalone activity relating to travel advice is required.	AMBER

## Theme 3: Toward a sustainable future

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### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS:

The focus of Theme 3 is to ensure that that Kent's communities, businesses, environment and services are resilient to future environmental change, whilst delivering wider economic and health opportunities. The evidence on risks and opportunities from Theme 1 is used to influence and develop the plans, strategies and policies in this theme.

Through a number of partnership activities, including the recommendations made by the Water for Sustainable Growth Study, there is now a better understanding of the fresh and waste water requirements needed to support growth. As part of this learning, the Growth and Infrastructure Framework is being updated and requirements are starting to inform planning decisions such as Ebbsfleet Garden City and Otterpool Park developments. There has also been progress with the Environment Agency's capital programme to reduce the risk of flooding to properties, the promotion of sustainable drainage schemes through local planning, and our energy security requirements are being integrated into the Growth and Infrastructure Framework..

Several European Union funded projects have started in 2017, which will increase the capacity of our communities and decision makers to adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly from flooding, whilst resilient practices are also being integrated into business support programmes through Low Carbon Kent. These projects are fully funded for the length of the project (regardless of the Brexit date), with many of the outputs expected in the coming years. There has also been national recognition of the Kent Tree Strategy, which is now being used as best practice by the Tree Council and Woodland Trust.

Kent's local produce and low carbon sectors continue to be supported through European Union funded projects such as LEADER and LoCASE, which provide support to the rural sector and wider low carbon businesses. High growth areas supporting the transition to a low carbon economy have been identified through Theme 1 and are being supported through these projects and others, such as Inn2POWER, a European Union funded project focused on Kent's offshore wind supply chain sector.

Like themes 1 and 2, the key risks to delivery relate to political uncertainty or policy changes and resourcing issues. Similarly, these have resulted in some activities being delayed or postponed until adequate resources or political support has been identified.

### **ACTION RAG RATING** (rating in relation to delivery of the activity described in the 2017 Implementation Plan)

<p><b>5 RED</b> Activity on hold or significantly behind schedule with a risk of non-delivery</p>	<p><b>2 AMBER</b> Activity changed and/or timeline revised, but on track for delivery within life of KES</p>	<p><b>18 GREEN</b> Activity on track or completed</p>
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## Priority 8: Influence future sustainable growth for the county of Kent

### SF8.1: Ensure that key environmental risks such as flooding, water scarcity and heat are informing policy decisions and development

Activity	Progress	RAG
Review and refresh the Local Flood Risk Strategy.	A revised Local Strategy has been drafted and consultation has now closed; adoption is anticipated November 2017.	GREEN
Water infrastructure capacity is informing planned developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recommendations from the Water for Sustainable Growth study are being used to inform planned developments; see activity BF1.4 for update.</li> <li>• Wider partnership activity includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inclusion of water and wastewater requirements in the Growth and Infrastructure Framework.</li> <li>○ Dover District Council, KCC and Southern Water are developing a broader, improved approach to aligning growth and wastewater infrastructure capacity.</li> <li>○ Planning for the Ebbsfleet Garden City and Otterpool Park developments are including detailed consideration of water infrastructure constraints and requirements.</li> <li>○ KCC and local authorities are working with the water industry to influence their planning.</li> <li>○ Water Cycle studies are being updated by local planning authorities to take into account water infrastructure issues and opportunities to support Local Plans.</li> <li>○ KCC Utilities Engagement Sub-Committee has set objectives for improved water infrastructure provision in collaboration with the water industry and local authorities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	GREEN
Ensure outputs of the Kent Climate Change Risk Assessment are integrated into policy and planning.	The Kent Climate Change Risk Assessment will be updated in 2018 (see activity BF1.2) and the recommendations from that will then be communicated to relevant partner policy leads.	AMBER

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been involved with activity to integrate environmental risks and opportunities into local plans and policy; a few examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Dover District Council	The local plan is currently being reviewed and will be informed by a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
Gravesham Borough Council	As part of planning for the Ebbsfleet Garden City developments are including detailed consideration of water infrastructure constraints and requirements.
Swale District Council	The local plan has been revised and was adopted in July 2017. It includes domestic water use limits which are lower than those stipulated in building regulations.

**SF8.2: Address the environmental challenges and ambitions identified in the Growth and Infrastructure Framework and local plans, such as sustainable and alternative transport options, green infrastructure, energy, water and flooding**

Activity	Progress	RAG
Identify energy needs for growth and how these can be met sustainably and ensuring that these are incorporated into the Growth and Infrastructure Framework (GIF) (e.g. district heating and community energy).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maidstone County Hall district heating feasibility study has been completed and work is underway to progress the recommendations into a commercialisation stage.</li> <li>• The recommendations from the energy select committee and renewable energy action plan review are been incorporated into the GIF.</li> <li>• A Kent low emissions strategy is being developed and will include a focus on energy.</li> </ul>	GREEN
Promote inclusion of environment and sustainable approaches to water management, such as sustainably managed surface water and increased capacity with sewer systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KCC have promoted pre-application discussions for applicants to review surface water management within planned development and promote inclusion of Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS) approaches.</li> <li>• Further promotion of SuDS approaches will be delivered through developer and local planning authority (LPA) workshops to improve understanding of drainage requirements and flood risk issues.</li> <li>• KCC have revised their policy for drainage of brownfield development sites requiring a 50% reduction from pre-development flow rates to sewer systems, to provide for greater sewer capacity through the reduction of surface water flows into combined sewer systems.</li> <li>• Further engagement with LPAs will take place over the next reporting period on opportunities for inclusion of drainage and flooding policies in Local Plans.</li> </ul>	GREEN

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been involved with activity to address environmental challenges and opportunities; a few examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Dover District Council	As part of the local plan review many of its existing strategies will also be reviewed including a revision to the existing Green Infrastructure Strategy and supporting open space strategies. The Council is currently preparing a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

**SF8.3: Develop guidance and support to enable sustainable growth, protecting the county of Kent’s environmental and historic assets, and supporting healthy, prosperous communities**

Activity	Progress	RAG
Provide support and guidance e.g. Kent Design to achieve sustainable growth through incorporating KES priorities.	A lead for this activity has yet to be identified.  <b>RISK:</b> Once a lead has been confirmed, the scope of this activity will be defined in line with available resource.	RED

**Priority 9: Improve the county of Kent’s environmental, social and economic resilience to environmental change**

**SF9.1: Increase awareness of the impacts of severe weather and environmental change and empower businesses and communities to build resilience**

Activity	Progress	RAG
<p>Increase the number of people across Kent registered with Floodline Warnings Direct by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging people to sign up.</li> <li>• Working with telecommunications companies to register customers at risk of flooding to Floodline Warnings Direct.</li> <li>• Developing the Flood Warning Service to increase the level of coverage, offering a service to more customers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environment Agency continues to encourage communities to sign up to flood warnings and prepare for flooding through face to face community events, such as the Christmas Fair in Tonbridge, where they supported the Flood Wardens.</li> <li>• The Environment Agency also used social and traditional media to share messages, for example through the Flood Action Campaign with the strapline of ‘Prepare, Act, Survive’.</li> <li>• Alongside the Flood Action Campaign, the Environment Agency have been engaging with their target audiences in Kent (18-34 years, young families and students), by displaying advice and information in Libraries, Leisure Centres and Children’s Centres. The Environment Agency also attended a session at Whitstable Children’s Centre to talk to parents about preparing for flooding and to help children understand the dangers of flood water.</li> <li>• Between 2016 and 2017 there has been an overall increase of 2,068 Flood Warning registrations for the County of Kent. Broken down, this equates to 276 new full registrations, and 1,792 new Extended Direct Warning registrations.</li> </ul>	GREEN

Activity	Progress	RAG
<p>Support communities at risk of flooding to be more actively involved in the management of flood risk in their area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRAMES, an EU funded project aiming on increasing resilience of areas and communities to sea level rise and increased rainfall events. The project works with the Multi-Layer Safety Concept (MLS), a policy strategy that integrates measures for: prevention, mitigation via spatial planning and emergency response. Initial spatial analysis and community risk assessments have been completed and delivery actions are being identified with stakeholders.</li> <li>• STAR2Cs: a recently initiated EU project that aims to support local authorities and regional agencies develop and implement adaption measures to flooding. This will in part be delivered through a decision making tool to identify and evaluate mechanisms to deliver adaptation tailored to local needs.</li> <li>• KCC and the National Flood Forum are engaging with five Kent communities to develop flood action groups and action plans.</li> <li>• The Environment Agency, Natural England and KCC, together with other members of the Medway Flood Partnership, are working together to develop the Medway Flood Action Plan (due Nov 17).</li> </ul>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Support businesses in understanding their risk and build resilience to environmental change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Steps to Environmental Management (STEM) programme has been updated to include resilience; this is delivered through Low Carbon Kent.</li> <li>• Information leaflets are being drafted to raise awareness of resilience for businesses; these will be promoted through business networks and events.</li> <li>• An initial study into local business' risks from environmental change has been drafted, taking information from LoCASE eligibility questionnaires.</li> </ul>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Development and implementation of a Kent Community Resilience Strategy addressing environmental change.</p>	<p>A draft strategy is being reviewed by the Kent Resilience Team who will lead on developing and implementing delivery actions.</p>	<p>AMBER</p>

**SF9.2: Ensure that public sector services have assessed key environment and severe weather risks and opportunities and are taking action accordingly**

Activity	Progress	RAG
Ensure the risks and opportunities from climate change are understood and inform delivery and commissioning of services.	The STAR2Cs EU funded project (see SF9.1) will be developing a decision support tool that will be used to inform the commissioning of services.	AMBER
Embed climate change adaptation into long term decision making for public authorities.	STAR2Cs EU funded project has just been initiated (see SF9.1), a key output of the project is to develop a decision making tool to identify and evaluate mechanisms to deliver adaptation measures tailored to local needs.	GREEN
Establish approach to build resilience within health and social care sector.	This forms part of the delivery of FRAMES EU funded project (see SF9.1). Through the project KCC and partners are working and engaging across the health and social care sector to build resilience to flooding and climate change.	GREEN

**SF9.3: Improve water management and build flood resilience, maximising opportunities to deliver multiple benefits for our environment and residents into the future**

Activity	Progress	RAG
Devise a sustainable maintenance model for SuDs (Sustainable Drainage Scheme) features.	Through the Kent Development Managers subcommittee of KPOG, KCC is promoting discussion of conditions and other mechanisms to deliver maintenance surety through the planning process. Future discussion has been tabled for December 2017 on national experience and examples of approaches to maintenance.	GREEN
Reduce the number of properties at flood risk or coastal erosion flood risk through delivery of a six year capital improvement plan.	The Environment Agency continues to deliver its six year capital improvement programme. Since April 2015, 20 schemes have been completed, reducing the flood risk to 9,534 properties. An additional 20 schemes are due to be completed by March 2018, which will reduce the risk of flooding to an additional 6,616 households.	GREEN

Activity	Progress	RAG
<p>Build resilience of catchments and ecosystems and develop integrated catchment management throughout Kent through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking opportunities to engage, promote, and support the 4 Catchment Partnership in Kent.</li> <li>• Working with Kent Planning Officers Group to raise awareness of Water Framework Directive and utilise opportunities arising through the planning process.</li> <li>• Delivery of freshwater and inter-tidal habitats across the Thames and Medway Estuaries and North Kent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catchment partners across Kent and Medway continue to build the resilience of catchments and ecosystems through the catchment based approach, and to look for joint ways of working to increase the long-term sustainability of the catchment partnerships.</li> <li>• There is ongoing work with the Rivers Trust to look at future partnership working to deliver larger and more ambitious, multi-catchment projects over a longer time period.</li> <li>• A project is being undertaken to develop the Estuary Edges Guidance. The guidance is aimed at developers in urban areas to promote the creation of saltmarsh fringes.</li> </ul>	GREEN

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been involved with activity to build flood resilience; a few examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Swale Borough Council	Sea defences have been completed at Faversham.
Gravesham Borough Council	The Ebbsfleet Learning and Action Alliance (ELAA) has been established, the aim is champion urban flood resilience through its vision of encouraging the realistic delivery of sustainable water management in the urban environment. See link below for further information: <a href="http://www.urbanfloodresilience.ac.uk/learning-and-action-alliances/ebbsfleet-laa.aspx">http://www.urbanfloodresilience.ac.uk/learning-and-action-alliances/ebbsfleet-laa.aspx</a> .

#### SF9.4: Build resilience to the impacts of environmental change, disease and invasive species on human, plant and animal health

Activity	Progress	RAG
Implement the Ash Dieback Action Plan and develop a Tree Strategy for Kent & Medway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ash Dieback Action Plan has been agreed with implementation ongoing. Regular progress reports are delivered to KCC Environment &amp; Transport Cabinet Committee and Defra Ash Dieback Health &amp; Safety Task Group.</li> <li>A Tree Strategy framework has been agreed by a task and finish group reporting to the Kent Resilience Forum Ash Dieback Strategic Co-ordinating Group. Drafting of narrative and related policies are currently underway by partners.</li> </ul>	GREEN
Share risks and learning in relation to animal and plant disease, and invasive species, mechanism will be developed to raise awareness and improve communication across public and voluntary sectors, and landowners.	<p>Individual activities are being carried out by a range of partners including Kent Resilience Forum members, Kent Countryside Management Partnerships, Kent Wildlife Trust and Natural England.</p> <p><b>RISK:</b> No lead has been identified to take this activity forward. An activity lead will be identified in 2018 and the activity outputs defined.</p>	RED

A number of local authorities across the Districts have been involved with activity to build resilience to environmental change; a few examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	The council are leading on delivery of the Kent Tree Strategy through the Task and Finish Group.
Ashford Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The council are undertaking a survey of every tree on KCC and Ashford Borough Council land, to assess the tree's health and identify any potential safety issues.</li> <li>The council are supporting the Our Stour project to manage Invasive Non-Native Species and improve the resilience of the river corridor habitat along the River Stour.</li> </ul>

## Priority 10: Supporting growth in the rural economy and low carbon and environmental services sector

### SF10.1: Support business innovation

Activity	Progress	RAG
Support businesses to build resilience to resource scarcity in delivery of products and services.	Through the LoCASE Programme, all SMEs are encouraged to build resilience to resource scarcity into the delivery of the products and services. This has been supported by using the grant funding on offer to implement these practices through a Green Audit/Needs Assessment to identify need and opportunity to integrate sustainability.	GREEN
Develop and promote high growth, low carbon sectors such as offshore wind, marine energy, building retrofit and wood biomass.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Inn2POWER Project has the objective to improve the innovation capacity of SMEs and to facilitate access to the Offshore Wind Industry (OWI) by creating the appropriate supportive conditions. It will do this by; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Connecting and strengthening the regional OWI clusters of SMEs across the North Sea Region by supporting them to enter new transnational markets and by developing transnational collaboration.</li> <li>○ Developing innovative concepts of harbour logistics and test facilities for SMEs in the OWI.</li> <li>○ Improve the workforce of SMEs in the OWI.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The LoCASE Programme directly aims to support the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors including wood fuels and building retrofit. It does this in a number of ways; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises.</li> <li>○ Investing in businesses directly involved in the low-carbon environmental goods and services (LCEGS) sector.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	GREEN

### SF10.2: Maximise opportunities for the rural sector

Activity	Progress	RAG
Develop an integrated business support package for the rural low carbon and environmental and goods and services (LCEGS) sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LoCASE Programme was launched in 2016, a £18.8million EU funded project being delivered through a partnership of local authorities and universities across the southeast.</li> <li>• The project is supporting businesses in the rural low carbon environmental goods and services, including the rural wood fuel businesses.</li> <li>• Additional support for rural business is provided by the LEADER Rural Funding Programme, which offers grants and investment to growers, foresters, farmers and other rural businesses.</li> </ul>	GREEN



Activity	Progress	RAG
Widely promote Kent's local food and drink offer to key markets and raise awareness of sustainable business opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced in Kent continues to provide business support to a wide range of SMEs in the food and drinks sector, and promote their produce and products locally, nationally and internationally. This work is undertaken in partnership with a number of organisations including Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Institute of Directors (Kent); Department of International Trade and the Better Business for All initiative (BBfA).</li> <li>• Types of activity include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential micro site for food tourism – October 2017</li> <li>○ New food and drink conference – April 2018</li> <li>○ Annual awards programme – September 2017-March 2018</li> <li>○ Annual Kent Young Chef award for 11-16 year olds</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	GREEN
Attract increasing levels of investment into the Kent agri-food sector to increase food production to meet national targets, now part of a national Government strategy in the 25 year Food Plan.	<p>A lead for this activity has yet to be identified.</p> <p><b>RISK:</b> Once a lead has been confirmed, the scope of this activity will be defined in line with available resource.</p>	RED

A number of local authorities across the Boroughs and Districts have been involved with maximising opportunities for the rural sector; a few examples of activity are highlighted below.

Local authority	Activity
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Sevenoaks District Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council promote the West Kent Leader Programme. The current programme runs from 2014 to 2020. The last LEADER programme closed at end of 2013, having awarded over £1.25m grant funding to 62 projects.
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council works with the local tourism and hospitality industry to promote local food and drink through the Visit Tunbridge Wells website and social media promotion. September 2017 was promoted as a 'food month' in Tunbridge Wells, with events including a food festival. The council also runs a farmers market with local producers twice a month.

### SF10.3: Support skills development to facilitate growth

Activity	Progress	RAG
<p>Target skills development across priority areas in the land sector, rural economy and community energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual activities to develop skills in the land sector and rural economy are being led through support programmes such as LoCASE and LEADER (see activities 10.1 and 10.2), and Kent Guilds, which was set up to address skills issues in several sectors including the land based sector.</li> <li>• In 2015/16, apprenticeships in agriculture, horticulture and animal care increased by 14.5% and by 24% in construction, planning and the build environment, compared to the previous year.</li> <li>• No lead has been identified for this action.</li> </ul> <p><b>RISK:</b> With no lead, there is a risk that activities will be carried out in isolation, and the priority gaps and issues are not identified or addressed. A lead will be identified in 2018 and the activity refined as necessary.</p>	<p>RED</p>

### SF10.4: Widely promote the county of Kent as the place for low carbon and environmental businesses

Activity	Progress	RAG
<p>Market Kent as the place for sustainable business by promoting the low carbon sector</p>	<p>The Low Carbon Kent Network delivers a number of projects that support growth of the Low Carbon Sector by stimulating demand, supporting supply and transferring knowledge. To date the projects have provided support to 1500 SMEs, created 270 new jobs in the Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector and raised awareness to 200,000+ people.</p> <p>Over the next reporting period the LCK partners and network SMEs will be involved in a number of events to directly promote and market the sector, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration building, business-to-business networking and meet-the-buyer events to aid key sector supply chain development, including promotion at national and international events and support entering transnational markets.</li> <li>• Delivery of EU funded projects LoCASE and Inn2Power which will support development and promotion of opportunities respectively for the low carbon sector as a whole and offshore wind supply chain sector.</li> </ul>	<p>GREEN</p>