

KENT FLOOD PARTNERSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Objectives

1. This Partnership has been developed to provide the Kent response to the Floods and Water Management Act, the Flood Risk Regulations and ensure that flood risk management strategy development and delivery in Kent is coordinated and integrated
2. The Partnership's primary purpose, therefore, is to ensure that effective flood risk management and resilience is built into service delivery in a manner which delivers better protection from flood risk for the County's communities and key infrastructure.
3. The Partnership's key activities will involve providing a single voice on Kent's flood risk management matters at a local, regional and national level; providing the key point of contact for local authority scrutiny; and providing strategic oversight of all flood risk and drainage matters in the County.

Aims

4. Funding and skills – to identify new funding opportunities, more cost effective methods of joint working and ensure that the core skills, competencies and resources are safeguarded;
5. Cooperation – to share data, skills and best practice within and without Kent to ensure that flood risk management delivery is feasible, proportionate and sustainable
6. Lobbying – to provide a unified voice on flood risk and drainage matters on national policy and funding matters;
7. Awareness – to ensure that the general public is aware of the flood risk responsibilities and that partner organisations are familiar with their respective roles, responsibilities and duties and that work programmes are aligned accordingly;
8. Oversight – to receive reports on and provide a strategic input and direction to the development of plans, policies and programmes of works developed to manage flood risk in the County;
9. Conflict Resolution – addressing specific issues affecting delivery or collaborative working as and when they arise;
10. Reporting - to assist in the reporting of flood risk management activity and programmes to respective Partners' Oversight and Scrutiny committees (or equivalent);
11. Delivery – to establish working groups as appropriate to deliver flood risk management measures and provide advice to Local Planning Authorities, developers and other bodies as needed. As a body representing all Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) in the area, the Partnership will identify strategic priorities and risks and opportunities for funding.
12. Communication – to promote activities engaging and educating the public on flood risk issues, including the responsibilities of landowners and tenants in flood risk management.

Membership, frequency of meetings and review

The Partnership's members will be drawn from the RMAs in Kent and neighbouring areas and be of appropriate seniority to represent the RMA on such matters (for Local Authorities this will be Assistant Director level or higher). Meetings should take place between every 4 – 6 months. These Terms of reference and the composition of the partnership will be subject to periodic review, as the partnership deems appropriate.