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| Report to: | Scrutiny Committee for Economy, Transport and Environment |
| Date: | 20 November 2012 |
| Report By: | Director of Economy, Transport and Environment |
| Title of Report | A Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for East Sussex |
| Purpose of Report: | To inform Scrutiny Committee of the progress made in preparing draft (statutory) Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for the County. |

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to

- (1) note the proposal to publish the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for consultation for a 12 week period from December; and**
 - (2) consider the draft Strategy and provide any views.**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 This report provides an update of proposals to publish a draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for East Sussex. This has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's role as Lead Local Flood Authority and its statutory duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

1.2 This draft Strategy will serve as the framework for local flood risk management in East Sussex and as such comprise part of the service provided by the County's Flood Risk Management Team. Flood Risk Management is supported by a government grant and the priorities expressed in the draft strategy have been developed in light of their affordability. They will not commit the Council to expenditure above and beyond what is proposed as part of the revenue budget setting process. Existing budgets will be used to finance the consultation and engagement with key stakeholders.

2. Background

2.1 The Flood and Water Management Act (2010) designated the County Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and as a Risk Management Authority (RMA) in its Highway Authority role. The focus of this new responsibility is on localised flooding (i.e. surface water, ground water and ordinary watercourse flooding). The Act conferred a number of duties upon the County Council amongst which the development and adoption of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) is one.

2.2 The strategy's development has been overseen by a senior officer group (the East Sussex Flood Partnership) representing the RMAs operating in East Sussex (ESCC, the Environment Agency, Southern Water, the Internal Drainage Boards, the districts and boroughs and, although not a RMA, the South Downs National Park Authority). The involvement of the RMAs is essential as they (with the specific exception of the water companies) must act in a manner consistent with the strategy.

2.3 Whilst the focus of the draft strategy should be local flood risk (as its name suggests) the East Sussex Flood Partnership decided that this strategy should aim to integrate all flood risk in the County - local, main river and coastal (including erosion) flood risk. The strategy represents the first step towards this objective, but makes it clear that plans and strategies governing main river and coastal flood risk are the responsibility of the Environment Agency and the coastal districts and boroughs.

2.4 The Strategy will be reviewed every three years and its supporting action plan will be reviewed annually.

3. Key Issues

3.1 Scrutiny Committee considered on 19 June a report on the Lead Local Flood Authority role as well as the objectives for the Strategy. It was noted that a stakeholder event would be held on 4 July.

3.2 Scrutiny Committee resolved to note progress on the preparation of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and endorsed the proposed delivery of the service with emphasis on County and Borough/District Council Members being encouraged to help provide a 'sense check' of the proposals by means of a pan East Sussex Member awareness event.

3.3 The Stakeholder event on 4 July was well attended, with all the key agencies and local authorities represented along with community led flood fora, Action in Rural Sussex and the National Farmers Union to name but a few. The outputs of the discussions were fed into the development of the strategy which took place over the summer and early autumn

3.4 The strategy can be characterised as having the following elements:

- The Strategy's pro active approach is based upon **partnership working** as a means of identifying issues, developing solutions and funding implementation;
- The longstanding neglect of data and skills compels the strategy to focus on establishing our **skills base** and put in place the working arrangements within ESCC and between partner organisations;
- **Prioritisation and proportionality** are necessary to ensure that efforts are focussed on areas of greatest need and where we can secure the greatest benefit for every pound spent; and,
- In recognition of the fact that **rural flood risk** could be overshadowed by the demands of the County's urban areas, the County Council will need to rely on the Risk Management Authorities to bring issues to our attention.

3.5 Lead Member for Transport and Environment will consider a report at the 12 November meeting seeking authorisation to publish the draft strategy (set out at appendix 1) and its technical appendices (available in the Members' Room) for consultation starting in December 2012 for 12 weeks. The programme envisages the Strategy being formally adopted in the summer of 2013.

3.6 Officers are in the process of finalising consultation arrangements, but the outline consultation programme will include meetings with the local flood fora in the County, and a pan East Sussex Member awareness raising event as requested by this Committee, which will be used to feed directly into the consultation process.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 This draft Strategy marks a significant but early step towards delivering our role as a Lead Local Flood Authority and establishing a framework within which our Risk Management Authority partners will operate. The strategy's development has been characterised by active stakeholder engagement and it will be a living document subject to frequent review. Scrutiny Committee is therefore requested to note this milestone in the development of the County Council's role as a Lead Local Flood Authority and provide any views.

RUPERT CLUBB

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

DRAFT

East Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

2013 - 2016



Working in Partnership to Deliver Change

Foreword

From Carl Maynard

Key Information to Include

'The 2007 floods were the country's largest peacetime emergency since World War II' [Pitt Review 2007](#)

'Summer 2007 saw the UK devastated by floods, causing £3 billion of damage and flooding 55,000 properties' [Pitt Review 2007](#)

'The cost of damages in England associated with local flooding are estimated to be between £1.2 billion and £2.3 billion per year and are predicted to rise due to climate change and continued building development' [Floods and Water Management Bill: Impact Assessment](#)

More recently, the weather the country has experienced over the early summer of 2012 proved to be the wettest on record, and if the same amount of rain fell over the winter months it would be amongst the ten wettest winters on record. In June 2012 the flooding which affected Bognor Regis was equivalent to a 1 in 212 year storm, going beyond the most extreme events we plan for.

DRAFT

Introduction

1. Following widespread flooding across England and Wales in 2007 the government commissioned Sir Michael Pitt to undertake an independent review to 'learn lessons' from the floods. Pitt's report called for fundamental changes to the way in which flooding was managed, outlining 92 recommendations, of which 21 were specifically related to Local Authorities and their responsibilities.

2. The report recommended that Local Authorities should play a major role in the management of local flood risk, taking the lead in tackling local flooding and co-ordinating all relevant agencies. This is not surprising considering surface-water flooded two-thirds of all affected properties during 2007.

3. In 2008 the Environment Agency carried out a National Assessment of Flood Risk which identified that 5.2 million – or one in six- residential and commercial properties were in areas liable to flooding across England. The susceptibility of properties to local flooding was again highlighted with 3.8 million, of the 5.2 million, at risk of flooding from surface-water sources.

4. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which formed part of government's response to the Pitt Review, provides a new framework for the management of flood risk.

5. The County Council, in its new role as Lead Local Flood Authority for East Sussex, now has a responsibility for flooding from local sources. That is flooding caused by:

- Surface Water - Flooding which occurs when the rate of rainfall on a surface exceeds the rate at which water can infiltrate the ground, creating runoff and pooling
- Groundwater - Flooding which occurs when water in the ground, stored in soil pore spaces or rock fractures, rises up and above the surface - and
- Ordinary Watercourses - Flooding which occurs when the water flowing in a minor watercourse, such as a stream or ditch, exceeds the capacity of the channel and overtops the banks.

6. This draft strategy has been published for public consultation, and comments are invited on it during the formal consultation period between xx December 2012 and xx February 2013.

Purpose of the Strategy

- 6 Our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been prepared as part of the County Council's new role as a Lead Local Flood Authority and it is consistent with the Environment Agency's National Strategy for flooding [environment-agency.gov.uk/research/policy/130073.aspx]. The local strategy has been prepared in partnership with a number of key stakeholders including the 'Risk Management Authorities' for East Sussex.
- 7 It is a high level, statutory document which sets out East Sussex County Council's approach to limiting the impacts of local flooding across the county. It also promotes greater partnership working arrangements between those organisations with a responsibility for managing local flood risk and provides a strategic framework to which the 'Risk Management Authorities' must work to.
- 8 This is the first Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for the County. It is a 'living document' and will be reviewed every three years. Attached to the strategy is the delivery plan outlining what activities will be progressed over the next year to address local flooding problems.

The Risk Management Authorities

East Sussex County Council will not be working alone - a range of other bodies known as 'Risk Management Authorities' also have responsibilities and duties in relation to flooding and coastal erosion.

The **Environment Agency** is responsible for managing flooding from main rivers, the sea (including coastal erosion) and reservoirs. The Agency also maintains a strategic overview role for **all** forms of flooding.

The **County Council** is the Lead Local Flood Authority for East Sussex, with a responsibility for managing flooding from local sources (surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses).

The **County Council** is also the Highway Authority for East Sussex, with a responsibility for managing flooding on the highway. The **Highways Agency** is responsible for managing flooding on motorways and trunk roads

Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) operate in some low lying areas to manage water levels and provide routine maintenance. IDBs continue to deal with flooding and drainage issues within their districts.

All **District and Borough Councils** in East Sussex have a responsibility for coastal erosion along their shorelines.

The **County Council and the District and Borough Councils** work collectively on Emergency Planning.

Southern Water as a sewerage undertaker is responsible for managing sewer flooding across the county.

A full outline of the roles and responsibilities of the Risk Management Authorities in East Sussex can be found in Section 4 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Technical Appendices.

Issues and Objectives

- 9 It is not possible to prevent all flooding but East Sussex County Council will work, with its partners, to manage and limit the impacts of local flooding for communities across the county.
- 10 It is recognised that flooding from local sources can not be tackled in isolation as multiple sources often combine to produce a flood event. Over time we will work to provide a co-ordinated strategy for flooding from all sources including coastal erosion. This vision is reflected within the strategy's guiding principle and objectives.
- 11 Flooding is a natural process which shapes our environment, but it can also pose a threat to the safety and wellbeing of communities.
- 12 The impacts of flooding include:
 - o Damages to residential and commercial property, key services and infrastructure such as roads and hospitals, as well as
 - o Damages to agricultural land and crops.
 - o Increases in, or an inability to gain access to, flood insurance;
 - o Health related impacts both physical and psychological; and
 - o Environmental impacts such as the release of pollutants harming water quality.
- 13 Flooding can also be beneficial. Storing water in selected 'low' risk areas can provide flood protection, whilst also allowing habitat creation and providing amenity value. For an outline of the added benefits that can be achieved through flood protection, along with details of key projects taking place across the county, please refer to Section 3 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Technical Appendices.
- 14 Evidence suggests that in the future damage caused by flooding is likely to increase unless managed effectively.
- 15 Future pressures include:
 - o Climate Change leading to more intense periods of rainfall, thus increasing the frequency of large-scale flooding and the chances of flooding occurring where it has not been observed before;
 - o Sea-level rise affecting drainage and groundwater levels in coastal areas;
 - o Heightened river levels preventing surface water drainage from riverside towns and development;
 - o Population increase and changes in its structure (such as an ageing population) will raise the demand for development and key services;
 - o Growth pressures seeing new development in areas at risk of flooding or creating risk elsewhere and
 - o Deterioration of structures or features that currently protect us from flooding and need to be maintained.

16 Taking into account these issues, the **guiding principle** of the East Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is:

To provide local leadership and work in partnership with public bodies, businesses, community groups, voluntary sector organisations and local people to manage the risk and associated social, economic and environmental impacts of flooding and coastal erosion across East Sussex.

17 This strategy will work towards achieving the following **objectives**:

- i. Establish and maintain effective partnerships with key organisations and local communities in order to develop collective knowledge, share best practice and secure funding for local flood risk management measures.
- ii. Improve the evidence base and understanding of local flood risk to ensure that limited resources are targeted in the areas of highest risk and vulnerability.
- iii. Empower local communities and land owners to take action in order to be prepared for and limit the impacts of flooding.
- iv. Avoid increasing flood and coastal erosion risk by encouraging best practice for the maintenance of assets and preventing inappropriate development.
- v. Work in partnership to deliver cost-effective flood and coastal erosion risk management measures which take a catchment wide approach and contribute to wider social, economic and environmental outcomes.

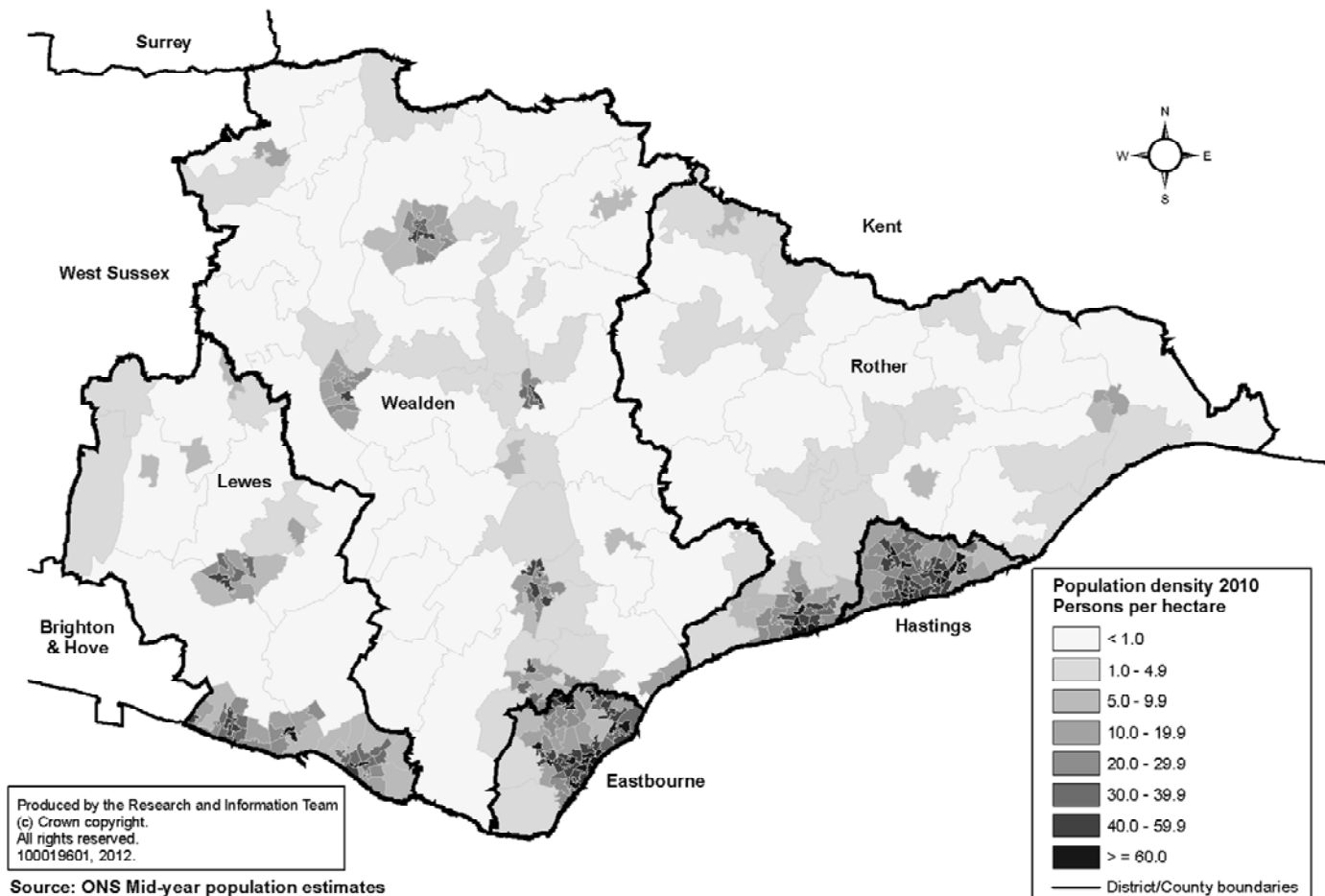
18 This strategy has drawn on, and is complimentary to, the following key policies of the County Council:

- o The East Sussex Strategic Partnership's 'Pride of Place' Sustainability Strategy (2008- 2026);
- o East Sussex County Council's Climate Change Strategy and
- o East Sussex County Council's Environment Strategy.

19 For more details of the key policies and legislation that have driven this strategy, please refer to Section 2 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Technical Appendices.

The Strategy Area

20 This strategy covers the County of East Sussex, which has a population of just over half a million. East Sussex covers an area of 1,725 km² (660 square miles) and includes the Districts of Lewes, Rother and Wealden and Boroughs of Eastbourne and Hastings.



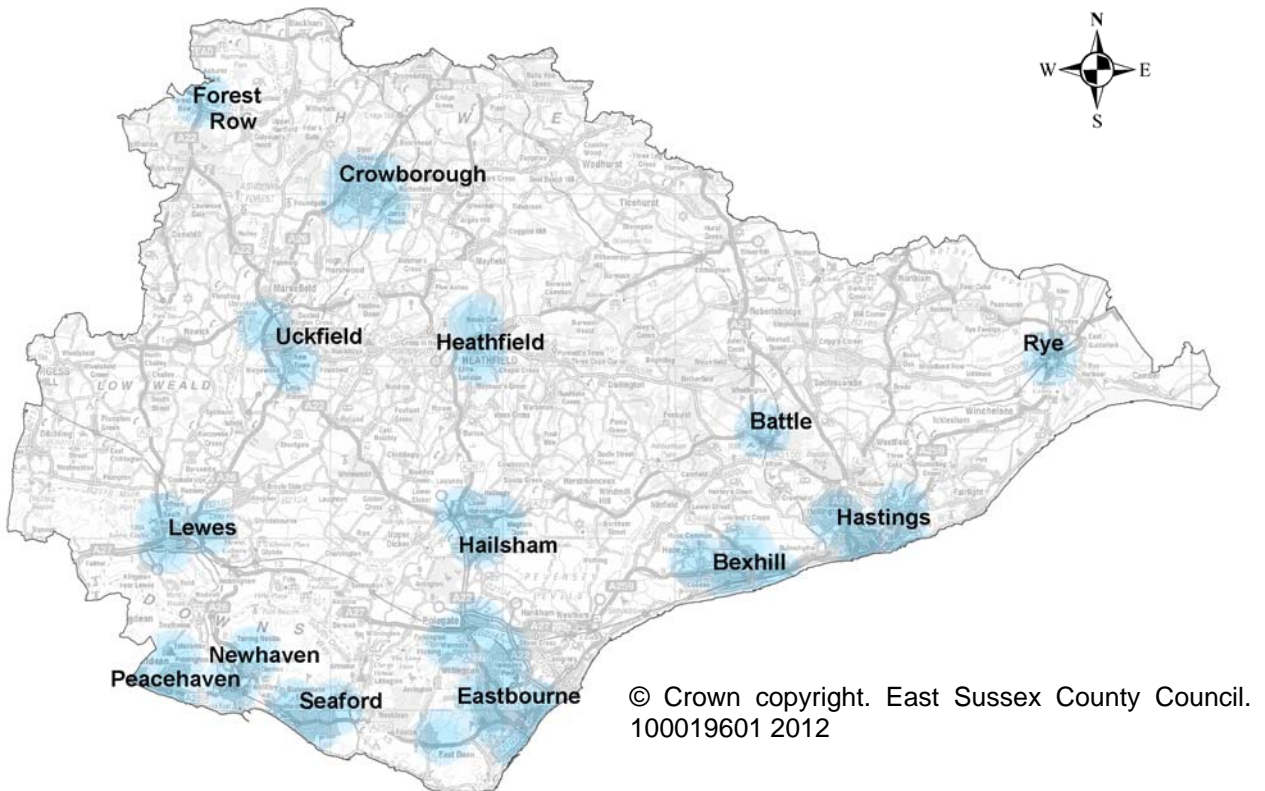
21 In March 2011 the population of the county stood at 526,700, with 75% of people living in urban areas along the coastal strip as highlighted by the map above.

22 East Sussex is widely recognised for its high quality landscape. The South Downs National Park, the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the Heritage Coastline which includes the Seven Sisters all fall within East Sussex. The County also possesses a wide range of protected environmental and heritage sites of international, national, regional and local importance. A detailed overview of the physical, social and economic characteristics of East Sussex can be found in Section 1 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Technical Appendices.

23 Recognising that the movement of water through the landscape is not limited by administrative boundaries, the County Council will look beyond its borders and work (with key partners) across river catchments and along the coast to address flooding problems.

The Focus

24 Using information available to the County Council local flood risk has been assessed across East Sussex. A number of local flooding hotspots (14 in total) have been identified, as highlighted on the map below. These hotspots will help us to target our resources to where they are needed the most. Our priorities will be determined by a number of factors including levels of deprivation, vulnerability and locations where the greatest numbers of people, businesses and assets are affected.



Localised flooding hotspots across East Sussex

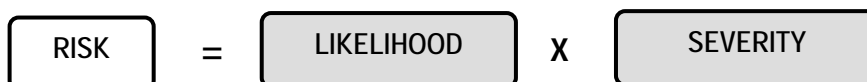
25 A technical note outlining how risk has been assessed for the purpose of this strategy can be found in Section 5 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Technical Appendices.

What is Flood Risk?

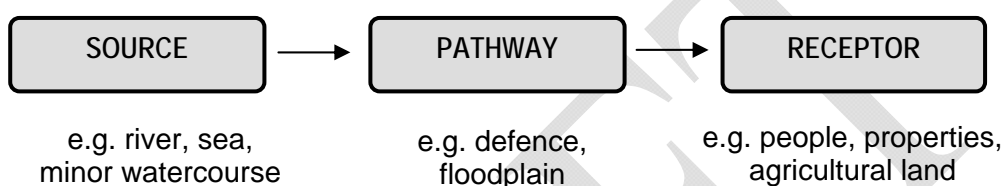
Flooding is a hazard as it has the potential to cause harm to human health and life, and effect the natural and built environment.

The term 'risk' acknowledges the actual harm caused and is different to a hazard.

Flood Risk is a combination of the probability/likelihood of a flood event occurring and the severity of its impacts:



Flooding is only a risk when flood water affects people, property or agricultural land (the receptor).



Risk captures the severity of, or related consequences produced by, a flood event. Impacts can be social, economic and environmental, for example the number of properties flooded and the level of associated economic damages. The consequences of a flood depend on the level of exposure and the vulnerability of those affected. For example an ambulance station required to be operational during a flood event or basement dwellings would be more vulnerable to (equivalent) flooding than an industrial estate.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

- 26 The County Council will go beyond its statutory duties as a Lead Local Flood Authority to help deliver the recommendations and vision of the Pitt Review.
- 27 Working with the 'Risk Management Authorities' and other key partners the County Council will aim to deliver a co-ordinated and effective approach to flood risk management, avoiding inefficiencies and duplication of effort.
- 28 Flooding across the County originates from a number of different sources (local, river, coastal) and often these combine heightening the risk to communities. The long-term aim of this strategy is to integrate flood risk management.

Challenges Ahead

- 29 The guiding principle and objectives frame this Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and set out what we want to achieve in the long-term. However, there are still a number of key challenges that the Council faces in its new role and it will work to overcome:
 - The responsibility for local flooding is a new role entirely and has not been transferred from another organisation;
 - The Council must work to develop its in-house skills and capacity to deliver this new role effectively;
 - There is a lack of supporting evidence and data to support decisions due to under investment into research and investigation on local flooding in the past;

- The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 has not simplified the framework for authorities involved in local flood risk management;
- The role of district and borough councils in relation to local flood risk management is missing from the 2010 Act;
- There is limited funding to deliver works on the ground to address local flooding issues so actions must be prioritised; and
- There a number of plans which address flooding from different sources, such as Catchment Flood Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans. We need to develop new ways of working to overcome the artificial barriers to partnership working these can create.

30 Action Points set out below demonstrate how we will begin to tackle these challenges and manage local flood risk across East Sussex.

Partnerships

31 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 was intended to streamline flood risk responsibilities but these still remain divided between a number of authorities and are not clearly defined in all cases. Partnership working is therefore essential to the delivery of effective flood risk management.

32 By working together, we can avoid duplication of effort, maximise available resources and funding opportunities and share best practice, skills and expertise.

Action Points

- The active involvement of all authorities with a responsibility for flooding is crucial to this strategy's success so we will continue to maintain key partnerships within the county and across the South East.
- The County Council will seek to widen its partnership arrangements to work with other organisations and stakeholders. These are outlined in full in Section 4 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Technical Appendices and include local flood groups, town and parish councils, utility and telecommunication companies as well as property owners themselves.
- The County Council will also continue to lobby the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to clarify the role of District and Borough Councils in relation to local flood risk management.

Key Partnerships

South East Seven – a partnership of seven upper tier local authorities (county and unitary councils) in the South East that are committed to working together on a set of key work areas, including flood risk management. The members of the partnership are:

- East Sussex County Council;
- West Sussex County Council;
- Surrey County Council;
- Hampshire County Council;
- Kent County Council;
- Medway Council and
- Brighton and Hove City Council.

The group share expertise and work to deliver shared services.

The East Sussex Flood Partnership – a partnership of the Risk Management Authorities in East Sussex (including the South Downs National Park Authority) which meets on a quarterly basis to provide a strategic overview of flood risk management work within the county.

Lewes IUDS – emerged from the Lewes (town) Integrated Urban Drainage pilot study in 2008. This partnership led by Lewes District Council seeks to address longstanding drainage issues affecting the town and raise community awareness of local flooding.

Improving the Evidence Base for Local Flood Risk Management

- 33 The County Council will continue to build a clear and robust evidence base to support this strategy and its new role. Without the regular review and updating of flood risk information our understanding of local problems will remain incomplete. This risks delaying or preventing actions on the ground to address local flooding issues.
- 34 A number of focused studies on local flooding, its mechanisms and consequences have already been undertaken across the County. These have taken place in:
- Eastbourne and South Wealden,
 - Hastings and
 - Lewes.
- 35 A more robust evidence base will assist the County Council, and its partners, in displaying the costs and benefits of local flooding schemes; helping us to secure funds both centrally and locally. Quick-wins and the need for funding will be easier to display. Further details of the mechanisms through which funding is secured can be found in Section 7 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Technical Appendices.

Action Points

- Given sufficient funding, the Risk Management Authorities will continue to undertake local studies and assessments. Knowledge gained can be fed back into this strategy, helping us to establish more locally relevant and realistic options to address flooding issues.

- o Information gathering will be aided by the County Council's new flood investigation role. More details can be found in Section 4 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Technical Appendices.
- o Further sharing of knowledge, data and best practice will be encouraged between the Risk Management Authorities by formalising data sharing arrangements. The Environment Agency, Defra and the Local Government Association will also continue to provide support.
- o The County Council and the other Risk Management Authorities for East Sussex will continue to pursue opportunities to participate in pilot projects and initiatives, where necessary and appropriate. This will help build our internal knowledge and capacity as well as advance understanding within the flooding and water sector as a whole. Past examples include:
 - The Lewes Integrated Urban Drainage Study Pilot 2008 and
 - East Sussex County Council Strategic Investment Plan Pilot 2011 - 2012.

Prioritising Actions to Address Local Flooding

- 36 Key to our strategy's approach to tackling local flooding, taking into account the uncertainties surrounding this new role is proportionality.
- 37 It is not technically, economically or environmentally possible to remove all flood risk. The County Council and its partners must invest limited resources to their best effect, in other words gaining the maximum benefit for every pound spent. The 14 local flooding hotspots identified as part of our assessment will act as a focus for our efforts and we will need to conduct further work to determine feasible options for reducing risk at these locations.
- 38 However, by focussing on these hotspots alone we will ignore the risk faced by the county's rural communities. It will be necessary for rural flood risk to be treated in the same proportionate approach. Issues will be identified through the County Council's new flood investigatory role and ordinary watercourse consenting and enforcement responsibilities. The other Risk Management Authorities, local flood groups or parish councils should also bring flooding and maintenance issues to the attention of the Lead Local Flood Authority.

Action Points

- o Resources to address flooding issues will be allocated in a proportionate manner, focusing on areas where the greatest social, economic and environmental benefits can be delivered.

Communications

- 39 Effective communication is key to ensuring that:
- o Those liable to flooding are aware of the risk they face and can take appropriate action to minimise it and
 - o Those who may worsen flooding problems are aware of their responsibilities and the effects that their actions, or lack of action, may have.
- 40 Raising community awareness is a key priority for this strategy. Flood risk can not be removed entirely but we can work to help prepare individuals and communities by providing the right information to those who need it.
- 41 Organisations such as the National Flood Forum, the Association of Drainage Authorities, the Environment Agency, Southern Water and the Sussex Resilience Forum (the Emergency Planning Authorities of East and West Sussex) all have a role in informing communities of the risks they face and what should be done to minimise it.

Action Points

The County Council and its partners will:

- undertake focussed awareness raising programmes highlighting the actions communities can take to minimise the impacts of flooding.

Maintenance and Drainage Issues

- 42 Sir Michael Pitt's Report identified that a lack of maintenance of existing flood risk management assets (such as ditches, highway drainage, watercourses and other drainage features) was a key contributory factor to the 2007 summer floods.
- 43 Without regular maintenance the expected level of protection provided by such assets will continue to diminish over time. The impacts of climate change are expected to raise the probability of flooding and erosion. Assets will also reach the end of their design life and require replacement, refurbishment or further maintenance which will increase the overall costs of flood protection. This is further complicated as the Lead Local Flood Authority cannot direct assets not in its control to be maintained.

Action Points

- 44 East Sussex County Council (as a Lead Local Flood Authority and Highway Authority) along with its other Risk Management Authority partners will work to:
- Raise awareness of asset ownership and the importance of regular maintenance;
 - Raise awareness of the responsibilities of riparian ownership i.e. those who have a watercourse running through or adjacent to their land;
 - Produce an Asset Register of key structures or features for local flooding and make this publically available; and
 - Identify the responsibility for 'orphan' or unclaimed assets, so that they do not remain unmaintained; and will
 - Where necessary, use powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 to ensure that land owners maintain their watercourses.

The facts about Riparian Ownership

Does a watercourse flow within, or next to your land or property?

If **YES**, then read '**Living on the Edge**', guidance from the Environment Agency which sets out the responsibilities of riparian owners environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31626.aspx.

Planning

- 45 Integrating local flood risk management and the planning system is a key priority. This strategy looks toward limiting the risk to, and caused by, new development. Flooding issues should be considered at the very earliest stages of site identification and design.
- 46 The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities (including the South Downs National Park Authority) to consider all flood risk when drafting development plans and in making decisions on development proposals.
- 47 Our assessment of local flood risk (which will be regularly reviewed) will assist in refining the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments which inform the development strategies of the local planning authorities within East Sussex i.e. District and Borough Councils and the South Downs National Park Authority.

48 Once government commences the relevant sections of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the County Council will become a Sustainable Drainage Approving Body, or SAB. All development over certain thresholds will need to secure drainage approval before construction begins. This gives the County Council the opportunity to ensure that new drainage proposals do not contribute to the overloading of the drainage network causing flooding. It also provides opportunities to deliver improvements to water quality and local amenity.

Action Points

49 The County Council will:

- Produce county-wide Sustainable Drainage guidance to assist developers and planners;
- Contribute to regional guidance on the use of sustainable drainage in the master planning of larger sites and how environmental, amenity and flooding solutions can be integrated; and
- Work with the local planning authorities in East Sussex to ensure that the planning and drainage approval processes work together effectively.

Funding

50 The funding available to East Sussex County Council for its new role as a Lead Local Flood Authority and for delivering local flood risk schemes is limited and the government's priority on reducing the national debt will continue to place a downward pressure on budgets.

51 However, the government's new partnership funding approach encourages communities and stakeholders to take more responsibility for the flood risk they face and aims to increase overall investment beyond that which can be provided centrally.

52 The County Council has successfully secured funding for a number of local flooding projects via partnership contributions and from local levy raised through the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Such projects will help to lower the risk to householders and businesses and help to deliver change for communities on the ground. Further details of schemes being progressed this year are included within the Strategy's Delivery Plan.

Action Points

53 The County Council will:

- Seek new and alternative sources of funding to 'top-up' funds so more local flooding schemes can progress;
- Pool resources locally and regionally where necessary and appropriate; and
- With the help of the other Risk Management Authorities will identify and submit new projects for funding approval.

54 For more details of the funding process, refer to Section 7 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Technical Appendices.

What is being done where I live?

To easily identify flooding schemes being undertaken in your area visit environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/131801 and utilise the postcode search function.

The map shows flooding and coastal erosion schemes that have received funding this financial year and which may receive government funding in the next.

Next Steps

- 55 The East Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out how the County Council, in partnership with the other Risk Management Authorities and key stakeholders, will manage local flooding issues across East Sussex over the next three years.
- 56 This strategy represents the first step towards a co-ordinated strategy for flood risk from all sources, but from the outset demands effective and meaningful working arrangements with the Risk Management Authorities if it is to be successful.
- 57 The key focus for the first three years is building in-house capacity, as well as a robust evidence base to support effective decision making through the undertaking of local studies and assessments. A number of schemes to address local flooding problems on the ground will also be developed and delivered.

Delivery Plan

- 58 The following table sets out the actions that will be progressed over the coming year by the Risk Management Authorities in East Sussex and other key partners. These actions will help work towards achieving the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy's objectives.
- 59 The managing and supporting partners who will deliver each action are detailed as well as the timescales over which the actions will be achieved.
- 60 The Delivery Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.

| Objective | Actions | Delivery Partner(s) | Supporting Partner(s) | Time frame |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <p>Establish and maintain effective partnerships with key organisations and local communities in order to develop collective knowledge, share best practice and secure funding for local flood risk management measures</p> | <p>1) Ensure continued engagement and progress reporting with key partners on flood and coastal erosion risk management issues through the East Sussex Flood Partnership</p> <p>2) Periodically review partner roles, responsibilities and statutory duties</p> | ESCC | All RMAs SDNPA | <p>1) Ongoing</p> <p>2) On review of the strategy</p> |
| | <p>Establish procedural arrangements for approving sustainable drainage applications between ESCC and Local Planning Authorities</p> | ESCC | EBC, HBC, LDC, RDC, WDC, SDNPA | <p>In time for commencement</p> |
| | <p>Regional liaison on flood risk matters with southern Lead Local Flood Authorities through the South East Seven</p> | WSCC | ESCC, KCC, HCC, B&HCC, SCC, MC | <p>Three - Six monthly meetings</p> |
| | <p>Regional Liaison through the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee</p> | EA | All relevant LLFAs including ESCC | <p>Ongoing quarterly meetings</p> |
| | <p>Expand the scope of the Lewes Integrated Urban Drainage Study Partnership to include the entirety of Lewes District and formalise partnership arrangements</p> | LDC | ESCC, EA, SW | <p>Spring 2013</p> |
| | <p>Continued engagement with the Development Control Forum and Drainage Working Group on the integration of sustainable drainage systems, drainage matters and the planning system</p> | ESCC | All RMAs SDNPA | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | <p>Assess the potential for securing Resilience Partnership funding for local flooding hotspots and develop an approach for providing support to those at risk of flooding in rural areas</p> | EBC, HBC, LDC, RDC, WDC | ESCC EA RFCC | <p>Ongoing engagement in the Medium Term Plan process</p> |
| | <p>Clarify an approach for identifying surface water drainage improvements which additionally contribute to sewer flooding solutions</p> | ESCC, SW | EA, EBC, HBC, LDC, RDC, WDC | <p>2012- 13</p> |

| Objective | Actions | Delivery Partner(s) | Supporting Partner(s) | Time frame |
|--|--|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Improve the evidence base and understanding of local flood risk to ensure that limited resources are targeted in the areas of highest risk and vulnerability | Work with communities, landowners and managers to develop a sustainable approach to managing water levels and maintaining assets in low lying areas and the wider catchment | EA NE | ESCC EBC, HBC, LDC, RDC, WDC, SDNPA Community and Landowner Groups | 2014 |
| | Review the East Sussex Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment | ESCC | All RMAs SDNPA | 2016 |
| | Continue to develop LLFA resources and capacity to fulfil statutory requirements | ESCC, Defra, EA, LGA | All RMAs SDNPA | Ongoing |
| | Develop a comprehensive flood investigation procedure, so that flood events are investigated where it is deemed necessary and appropriate | ESCC | All RMAs SDNPA | 2012 - 13 |
| | Commence Eastbourne Town Centre Surface Water Assessment | ESCC | EBC, SW, EA | 2012 - 13 |
| | Commence Uckfield Town Centre, Surface Water Assessment | ESCC | WDC, SW, EA | 2012 – 13 |
| | Develop and maintain a consistent approach to recording and designating flood assets, including information regarding their significance to flood and coastal erosion risk management, their condition and ownership | ESCC | EA All RMAs | 2012 - 13 |
| | Develop and maintain a consistent approach: 1) for sharing data; | 1) ESCC 2) ESCC 3) EA | All RMAs SDNPA | 1) 2012 -13 2) 2014 |
| | 2) for capturing flood incident data and | | | 3) 2012 - 13 |

| Objective | Actions | Delivery Partner(s) | Supporting Partner(s) | Time frame |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| | 3) to ensure format compatibility in relation to flood assets and consents | | | |
| | Develop a targeted communications strategy to improve awareness and understanding of local flood risk, related responsibilities and to catalyse action | ESCC | All RMAAs SDNPA Local Flood and Community Groups | 2012 - 13 |
| | Promote transparency and public accountability of Risk Management Authority activities through ESCC's Scrutiny Committee process and develop indicators to assess progress | ESCC | All RMAAs | Ongoing 2013 - 14 |
| | Community groups to identify local flood risk issues and to progress potential flood risk solutions | Local Flood Groups | ESCC,EA EBC,HBC, LDC,RDC, WDC, SDNPA | Ongoing |
| Empower local communities, riparian and land owners to take action in order to be prepared for and limit the impacts of flooding | Work with community groups to promote and support the establishment of local flood groups and emergency plans where necessary and appropriate | SRF, Action in Rural Sussex | ESCC EBC,HBC, LDC,RDC, WDC, SALC, SDNPA, National Flood Forum | Ongoing |
| | Develop guidance and procedures which help to achieve sustainable outcomes: | | | |
| | 1) Updated guidance for the scoping of consent and sustainable drainage applications in relation to Water Framework Directive Assessment | 1) EA, LGA 2) KCC | 1) ESCC 2) ESCC | 1) In time for commencement 2) 2013 |
| | 3) Produce regional sustainable drainage and master planning guidance for developers | 3) ESCC | 3) All RMAAs | 3) 2013 |

| Objective | Actions | Delivery Partner(s) | Supporting Partner(s) | Time frame |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| | 4) Produce local sustainable drainage guidance for developers | | | |
| Avoid increasing flood and coastal erosion risk by encouraging best practice for the maintenance of assets and preventing inappropriate development | <p>Assess the need for capacity building for local planning authority teams across East Sussex - develop a programme to address any identified needs</p> <p>Where practicable and appropriate take steps to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, regardless of designation, in relation to flood and coastal erosion risk management measures and works</p> <p>Commence Bourne Stream Improvements Scheme</p> | ESCC | EBC, HBC, LDC, RDC, WDC | 2013 – 14 |
| Work in partnership to deliver cost-effective flood and coastal erosion risk management measures which take a catchment wide approach and contribute to wider social, economic and environmental outcomes | <p>Work with partners to implement the actions arising from the Surface Water Management Plans for:</p> <p>1) Hastings and</p> <p>2) Eastbourne</p> <p>Implement the Nevill Estate Surface Water Management Plan</p> | <p>All RMAs</p> <p>ESCC</p> <p>1) HBC</p> <p>2) EBC</p> <p>LDC, ESCC</p> | <p>SWT, NE</p> <p>EBC, SW, EA</p> <p>1) ESCC, SW, EA</p> <p>2) ESCC, SW, EA, WDC</p> <p>SW, EA</p> <p>ESCC, EA, SW</p> <p>SW, EA</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2012 -14</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2012 -14</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | <p>Work with partners to implement the actions arising from the Lewes Integrated Urban Drainage Study</p> <p>Commence Broyleside, Ringmer, Flood Alleviation Scheme and Property Level Protection</p> <p>Completion of Sustainable Drainage retrofitting at Hollington Primary School, Hastings</p> | <p>LDC, ESCC</p> <p>HBC, EA</p> | <p>SW, EA</p> <p>ESCC</p> | <p>2012 -14</p> <p>2012 - 13</p> |

| Objective | Actions | Delivery Partner(s) | Supporting Partner(s) | Time frame |
|-----------|---|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Commence Breaky Bottom, Overland Flow and Property Level Protection | LDC | ESCC, SW, EA | 2012 -13 |
| | Commence Crowhurst Surface Water Flood Relief Scheme | ESCC | RDC, SW, EA | 2012 -14 |
| | Commence Wivelsfield, Surface Water Alleviation Scheme † | LDC, ESCC | SW, EA | 2013 -14 |
| | Commence Meeching Valley, Surface Water Alleviation Scheme † | LDC, ESCC | SW, EA | 2013 -14 |
| | | | | |

† Proposed schemes subject to securing Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding

