

Progress Report
East Sussex Local Flood Risk Management
Strategy
Delivery Plan 2017-2018

**EAST SUSSEX LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
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 actions 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; and
- 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 benefits.

Delivery Plan 2017 - 2018: progress update

The following table sets out the actions and the associated progress made by the Risk Management Authorities in East Sussex and other key partners towards realising the objectives of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as detailed in the delivery plan for the 2017 - 2018 period. It also provides a narrative for progress over the subsequent two years (18/19 and 19/20).

Objective no.

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

Actions	Status/Progress
Identify and develop appropriate structures to ensure continued engagement and progress reporting with key partners and stakeholders on flood and coastal erosion risk management issues.	<p>Given that Internal Drainage Boards, district and borough authorities are not represented at Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, the LLFA ensures that the Committee papers are shared and that issues are raised by the LLFA on their behalf.</p> <p>A comprehensive approach to engaging RMAs in East Sussex has yet to be identified, and currently engagement takes place in conjunction with partner organisations on a specific theme or in response to events at a specific location.</p> <p>Nevertheless, this issue has now been raised at the January meeting of the Southern RFCC as a regional, not simply a county matter.</p>
Periodically review partner roles, responsibilities and statutory duties	Ongoing – this will be addressed through the review of the strategy is set to commence 2020/21.
Regional liaison on flood risk matters with southern lead local flood authorities through the South East Seven	Ongoing – South East Seven meets on an ad hoc basis dependent upon regional or national issues and consultations
Regional liaison on flood risk matters through the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	Ongoing – ESCC represented at all main meetings and at sub-committee and working groups.

<p>Working in partnership with local stakeholders to explore opportunities for delivering local schemes. Assess the potential for securing funding for local flooding hotspots</p>	<p>A number of projects have commenced since the last delivery plan review.</p> <p>Phase Two of the Hastings surface water studies has commenced.</p> <p>Forest Row/Tompsets Bank project to introduce soft flood risk management measures is ongoing in partnership with the Ashdown Forest Conservators. Delays have occurred due to longer term vacancy in the FRM team.</p> <p>A bid to secure funding for a Property Level Resilience (PLR) scheme in Brooklyn Road, Seaford is progressing to the April meeting of the Southern RFCC. The project has been developed alongside Lewes District Council and liaising with the Seaford Flood Action Group.</p> <p>The Southern Wealden Groundwater project (undertaken in partnership with Wealden District Council with the aim of gaining a greater understanding of how groundwater will potentially be impacted in a key growth area) is ongoing.</p> <p>Work is underway to improve the fluvial flood modelling of Polegate/Eastbourne, with Eastbourne BC and Wealden DC being the key partners and ESCC acting as coordinator</p> <p>Bids have been submitted for funding to improve the accuracy of surface water flood risk in Hailsham/Willingdon and Eastbourne.</p>
<p>Work with catchment-based partnerships to align flood risk management measures with catchment priorities as and when the opportunity arises</p>	<p>Ongoing – Working with Pevensy and Cuckmere Catchment Partnership supporting Natural Flood Management Projects. ESCC together with the partnership is currently developing a funding bid to provide the evidence base upon which to develop a catchment wide SuDS and water quality planning policy framework.</p>
<p>Support the newly formed Pevensy and Cuckmere Levels Water Level Management Board in its role as an Internal Drainage Board and provide initial support.</p>	<p>The Pevensy and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board is now fully established. It is developing its own staff resource and has entered into a hosting agreement with ESCC, as the LLFA, so that ESCC provides accommodation and local managerial support. The agreement also helps to ensure that there is a joined up and consistent approach by the two organisations on flood risk matters, which also ensures against duplication of tasks, particularly when it comes to influencing the planning and development process.</p>
<p>Identify opportunities for surface water drainage improvements which additionally contribute to the management of sewer flooding</p>	<p>Work is underway on testing options to bring parts of the Bourne Stream (Eastbourne) back into use by redirecting surface water flows into the stream. The objective is to reduce the amount of surface water entering the existing combined system and therefore improve foul water capacity in the stream's catchment: which includes the town centre and the Seaside Road area.</p> <p>The second phase of this project has reached the draft recommendation stage, the implementation phase will be managed by Southern Water.</p>

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

Actions	Status/Progress		
Continue to review/develop lead local flood authority resources and capacity to fulfil statutory requirements	Ongoing actions include: staff training on technical matters such as the use of industry standard software, drainage design etc, exploring and implementing opportunities for sharing resources/responsibilities with the Pevensey & Cuckmere Water Level Management Board. Revenue raising by offering consultancy services to Local Planning Authorities for the production of their Strategic Flood Risk Assessments is being trialled.		
Provide technical drainage advice on highway improvements to Uckfield Town Centre	Since this action was first identified the Highway Authority's design team is now part of the Jacobs/Costain joint venture (JV). Local flood risk technical advice is now coordinated from within the JV.		
Develop and maintain a consistent approach to recording and designating flood assets, including information regarding their significance to local flood risk management, and their condition and ownership	An Asset Register was completed in compliance with Section 21 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and is updated as and when new information becomes available. ESCC's main focus has been on surface water drainage assets as coastal erosion assets are the responsibility of the District and Borough Councils.		
Undertake Section 19 Investigations where appropriate.	The Section 19 report for Hunloke Avenue, Eastbourne has been published in July 2019. Further Section 19 investigations will be completed as and when required.		
Undertake investigations, and enforce where necessary, into potential contraventions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.	Formal enforcement procedures are only considered when a negotiated resolution cannot be secured, and the risk posed by the contravention is such that property or life are put at risk. Formal enforcement procedures were not considered necessary in this reporting period – to mid-February 2020 ESCC dealt with the following number of potential enforcement cases (the vast majority of cases investigated were not a breach of the Land Drainage Act, or were resolved through agreed works being undertaken):		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">17/18 - 59</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">18/19 - 91</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">19/20 (Feb) – 122</td> </tr> </table>	17/18 - 59	18/19 - 91
17/18 - 59	18/19 - 91	19/20 (Feb) – 122	
Undertake a sediment erosion study for Heathfield.	Due to staff turnover and increasing demands on the LLFA's resources placed on it by its statutory planning consultee role this action has not been taken forward.		
Maintain and update: 1) Flood incident database; and	Currently the Flood Incident Database holds 15927 records of flooding dating back as far as 1960. The next update will be in February 2020.		

Actions	Status/Progress		
2) Database of land drainage enquiries and ordinary watercourse consents.	The number of Ordinary Watercourse Consents submitted over the reporting period are:		
	17/18 – 22	18/19 – 125	19/20 (Feb) - 122
	Data on land drainage enquiries can be under the “Investigations” section		
Undertake county-wide study identifying areas of Critical Drainage Concern for use in Local Plan policy and development management decisions	The concept has been trialled formally in Fairlight in Rother District. However, in practice these areas are beginning to define themselves as our bids for funding, level of engagement with planning authorities on policy matters and the assessment flood risk in the LFRMS focus our effort in particular areas such as Eastbourne, Southern Wealden, and Hastings.		
Develop and submit funding bid for groundwater study in Southern Wealden	Local Levy funding was secured in 2018. Wealden District Council further contributed to the funding of the project which is programmed to conclude in the summer of 2020.		
Complete the review of the East Sussex Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment	The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment should be reviewed on a six-yearly basis in accordance with the Flood Risk Regulations. The original East Sussex PFRA (2012) was completed in January 2018 and identified both Eastbourne and Hastings as Flood Risk Areas (areas which are nationally significant in terms of surface water flood risk).		

iii. Empower local communities and land owners to take action in order to be prepared for and limit the impacts of flooding

Actions	Status/Progress
<p>Raise awareness of the new SuDS requirements within Local Planning Authorities, the development industry and the consultancy sector (where necessary and feasible).</p>	<p>Numerous meetings have taken place with planning committee members and planners from the local planning authorities over the past three years, to explain the ESCC role and that of Pevensy and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board in advising on planning applications. Presentations provided to the Developers East Sussex forum, but requests to attend local agents/developers' forums, which are run by the District and Borough Council's, have not been forthcoming.</p>
<p>Raise awareness of householder responsibilities and legal obligations of riparian ownership</p>	<p>Ongoing –riparian ownership has featured in the County magazine. Information and advice are given as part of land drainage case work.</p>
<p>Provide access to useful and up-to-date flood risk information for communities.</p>	<p>Details of the Sussex Resilience Forum's Emergency Flood Plans, the Environment Agency's flood alert service and how to report highway flooding are available via links on the County Council's website. Information is provided on the ESCC website in the form of Surface Water Management Plans and investigations in to flooding events. The Flood Risk Management Team will provide reports to residents on request, outlining the key flood risk within the locality of their property. The Flood Risk Management is assisting Emergency Planning colleagues with the refresh of Multi Agency Flood Plans</p>
<p>Ensure that local flood risk is appropriately addressed within neighbourhood plans.</p>	<p>Ongoing – responses to neighbourhood plan consultations are made to the deadline set, subject to the availability of resources.</p>
<p>Promote transparency and public accountability of risk management authority activities through East Sussex County Council's Scrutiny Committee process.</p>	<p>The need to conduct a scrutiny review was not identified during this reporting period.</p>
<p>Encourage community groups to identify flood risk issues and to progress potential flood risk solutions</p>	<p>The pressure of responding to planning consultations and staff turnover has prevented the LLFA undertaking pre-emptive work in this area. Consequently, we have relied on issues being brought to our attention by Risk Management Authority partners or directly by the community. Seaford Flood Action Group is one example of a District Council taking the lead in identifying the need for LLFA involvement in a flood prone area.</p>
<p>Support District and Borough Councils in awareness raising projects within local communities.</p>	<p>Assistance can be provided by attending meetings or exhibitions and the provision of data. Examples of such work over the reporting period have been:</p>

Actions	Status/Progress
	<p>Hollington Stream event</p> <p>Seaford Property Level Resilience community event</p> <p>The provision of data for Wealden Property Level Resilience project</p>
<p>Investigate and (if viable) adopt a flood alert system for the county.</p> <p>Look to working with regional and local partners to lessen costs</p>	<p>ESCC has adopted the Hydromaster system along with Kent County Council. Surrey and West Sussex County Councils are currently in the process of investigating the use of the service.</p> <p>Further work is required to calibrate the system to accommodate both urban and rural needs.</p>

iv. Avoid increasing flood and coastal erosion risk by encouraging best practice for the maintenance of assets and preventing inappropriate development

Actions	Status/Progress
<p>Respond to statutory consultations on the local flood risk and drainage aspects of major planning applications within deadlines set, and Local Planning Authorities to give due consideration to the consultation responses.</p>	<p>These figures relate to all planning casework and include pre-application enquiries and applications for outline, reserved matters and full planning permission as well as discharge of conditions.</p> <p>In early 2018/19 we began to identify those applications within the catchment of the PCWLM Board.</p> <p>2017/18 - 418 cases</p> <p>2018/19 – 480 cases of which 167 were PCWLMB related</p> <p>2019/20 (to Feb) 478 cases of which 206 were PCWLMB related</p>
<p>Provide advice and support to Local Planning Authorities on development plan policy and allocations, and for planning authorities to incorporate these recommendations into the resulting policies.</p>	<p>Work is ongoing with the Local Planning Authorities.</p> <p>Have provided technical lead on reviewing existing Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and undertaking new ones for ESCC & Hastings Borough Council.</p> <p>Advice provided to Lewes District Strategic for its Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)</p> <p>Advice provided to Eastbourne Borough Council on its Housing and Economic land assessment (SHELAA)</p> <p>Discussions underway for ESCC to undertake SFRAs for Eastbourne Borough Council.</p> <p>Advising both Eastbourne and Wealden on a project to undertake a fluvial model for Polegate/Eastbourne.</p> <p>Provided advice and comments on the various iterations of the Wealden Local Plan (now withdrawn), the Rother Development and Site Allocations document and the Lewes Local Plan Part 2.</p>

Actions	Status/Progress
Engage with riparian owners, both as individuals and communities, to ensure they undertake their responsibilities such as the maintenance of watercourses.	Please refer to action 'Promote awareness of householder responsibilities and legal obligations of riparian ownership' under objective iii.
Continue to assist Local Planning Authority teams across East Sussex – and if necessary, develop a programme to address any identified needs.	This is a duplicate action. Recommendation to remove this action from the next delivery plan.
Wealden District Council to develop growth proposals for key areas, which take account of local flood risk	A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was undertaken & close liaison with ESCC has taken place, to inform flood risk policy as part of the Draft Local Plan. However, WDC will have to rework its draft local plan following the recent Inspector's report. This is expected to generate significant amounts of work as we advise on a new development strategy.

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 benefits

Actions	Status/Progress
Work with local RMAs to identify measures in the Bourne Stream catchment to better manage surface water for the benefit of the foul water network.	Work ongoing – cost benefit analysis of preferred options is complete, and the draft rept is being reviewed.
Produce the Lewes Surface Water Management Plan	Completed September 2017
Undertake the Forest Row Catchment Flood Alleviation Study	Completed August 2019
Deliver the Wealden Community Resilience Project	Ongoing – phase 3 is underway.
Work with partners to implement the actions arising from the Surface Water Management Plans for:	<p>The management of highway drainage is consistent theme of the SWMPs. Information regarding flood risk and highway drainage is shared with the Highway Asset Management team which prioritises remedial actions where necessary.</p> <p>Similarly, the management of the surface water/combined sewer system figures prominently. As the asset manager Southern Water works with LLFA and others where flooding in these SWMPs has a Southern Water sewer component.</p> <p>Southern Water has assessed many of the issues we have</p>

Actions	Status/Progress	
	<p>identified through the Drainage Action Planning process which has been underway across its region over the past three years.</p> <p>Critically, the statutory planning role is one which assists in delivering the objectives of the SWMP process and the Flood Risk Management team will comment on the majority of planning applications in the SWMP areas listed below.</p>	
	Hastings	Phase 2 of the Flood Alleviation Study for Hastings Central has commenced reporting expected in Autumn 2020
	the Eastbourne Area	<p>Bourne Stream analysis due to complete by Spring 2020</p> <p>Eastbourne Lakes assessment completed in 2018.</p> <p>Bid submitted for renewing surface water flood model for the borough and southern Wealden.</p>
	Forest Row	A project to implement a low cost flood alleviation scheme in Tompsett's Bank had progressed. However, the departure of a key member of staff during the summer of 2019 and consequent ongoing vacancy, this project has not progressed.
	Crowborough	Key issues within Crowborough relate to the management of highway drainage and therefore actions are incorporated in the maintenance programme. Actions relating to watercourses and riparian responsibilities are in essence reactionary and we respond to reported incidents as and when they arise.
	Heathfield	Key issues within Heathfield relate to the management of highway drainage and therefore actions are incorporated in the maintenance programme. Actions relating to watercourses and riparian responsibilities are in essence reactionary and we respond to reported incidents as and when they arise.
	Seaford	Working alongside Lewes District Council and the Seaford Flood Action Group, Property Level Resilience (PLR) scheme is underway to secure funding to apply PLR to up to 60 homes and businesses in the Brooklyn Road area.
	Peacehaven	Key issues within Peacehaven relate to the management of highway drainage and therefore actions are incorporated in the maintenance programme. Actions relating to watercourses and riparian

Actions	Status/Progress	
		responsibilities are in essence reactionary and we respond to reported incidents as and when they arise.
	Newhaven	Meeching Valley has been identified as a priority and options to manage surface water flows are being reviewed.
	Bexhill	The SWMP identified primarily highway drainage issues and responses, these have been communicated to the Highway Authority.
	Rye	The issues of concern focus on the combination of fluvial risk, high groundwater and a drainage system which relies on pumping in particular conditions. Consequently, the lead agencies (Southern Water, the Environment Agency and the Highway Authority) have been informed of the recommended actions
	Battle	Key issues within Battle relate to the management of highway drainage and therefore actions are incorporated in the maintenance programme. Actions relating to watercourses and riparian responsibilities are in essence reactionary and we respond to reported incidents as and when they arise.
	Hailsham	Application for funding to undertake more detailed studies have been unsuccessful. Awaiting response to bid for updating surface water flood mapping.
	Uckfield	Key issues within Uckfield relate to the management of highway drainage and therefore actions are incorporated in the maintenance programme. Actions relating to watercourses and riparian responsibilities are in essence reactionary and we respond to reported incidents as and when they arise.
Review of Eastbourne Park Flood Storage Scheme boundaries and capacities - Consultants commissioned to develop scoping documents.	Completed – Reports finalised in May 2018	
Commence Hastings Central Flood Alleviation Study	Ongoing – Phase 2 has commenced.	
Commence Hastings Warrior Square Flood Alleviation Study	Phase 1 identified actions centred on property level protection	

Actions	Status/Progress		
Commence East Hailsham Flood Alleviation Study	National funding unavailable without “top up” contributions which have yet to be identified		
Coordinate and participate in local stakeholder activity on developing and delivering solutions to ongoing sewer flooding in Winchelsea Beach	Since this action was originally drafted the situation has developed and the County Council’s coordinating role has now been taken up by Southern Water.		
Develop and implement a flood alleviation scheme for Crowhurst	A Natural Flood Management project is underway within the catchment. The project forms part of a number of regional pilots examining the benefits of Natural Flood Management being delivered by the Environment Agency and the Sussex Wildlife Trust.		
Develop Drainage Area Plans for key settlements in the county.	Eastbourne, Newhaven, and Lewes complete.		
Improve the maintenance and management of highway drainage assets.	Whilst the Highway Authority undertakes an asset maintenance programme the manner in which tasks are recorded does not reflect the full range of activities. It is also worth mentioning that an individual “job” will comprise a large number of individual tasks. Nevertheless, the total number of drainage management jobs for the financial years covered by this update are;		
	2017/18– 104	2018/19 - 117	2109/20 (to Sept) 117