

## Executive Summary

This document forms the Stage 1 Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) for the towns of Peacehaven, Newhaven and Seaford in the Lewes district of East Sussex. The report outlines the predicted risk and recommended progression towards a surface water management strategy for Peacehaven, Newhaven and Seaford. In this context surface water flooding describes flooding from sewers, drains, groundwater, and runoff from land, small watercourses and ditches that occurs as a result of heavy rainfall.

This Stage 1 SWMP covers Phase 1 of the Defra SWMP process, and aspects of Phases 2 and 3. Phase 1 work involved the collection and review of surface water information from key stakeholders and the building of partnerships between key stakeholders responsible for local flood risk management. The Phase 2 risk assessment consisted of a desktop interpretation of available data. Modelled network outputs from Southern Water were used in conjunction with results of previous studies and historical data to identify Local Flood Risk Zones (LFRZs) where surface water flooding affects properties, businesses and/or infrastructure. Within the study area, ten LFRZs were identified for further investigation: two in Peacehaven, five in Newhaven and three in Seaford.

Phase 3 identified a number of opportunities for measures to be implemented across the catchment to reduce the impact of surface water flooding. Ongoing maintenance of the drainage network and small scale improvements are already undertaken as part of normal operation within the study area. It is important to recognise that flooding within the catchment is not confined to the LFRZs, and therefore it is recommended that planning policies that promote retrofitting SuDS be considered for all redevelopments or refurbishments in Peacehaven, Newhaven and Seaford. In addition, there are study area wide opportunities to raise community awareness.

For each of the LFRZs in the study area, it is recommended that further research is undertaken to gain a greater understanding of flooding mechanisms and risk. Analysis of Environment Agency Updated Flood Maps for Surface Water has identified that flooding is heavily influenced by existing and historical watercourse valleys, and impacts a number of infrastructure assets. It is recommended that in the short to medium term Lewes District Council (LDC) and East Sussex County Council (ESCC):

- Engage with residents regarding the flood risk in their areas, to make them aware of their responsibilities for property drainage (especially in the LFRZs) and steps that can be taken to improve flood resilience;
- Provide information to residents, to inform them of measures that can be taken to mitigate surface water flooding to/around their property;
- Prepare and implement a communication strategy to raise awareness and effectively communicate surface water flood risk to different audiences using a clearly defined process for internal and external communication with stakeholders and the public; and
- Improve maintenance regimes to target those areas identified to regularly flood or known to have blocked gullies.

Whilst East Sussex County Council has taken the responsibility for leading on the Stage 1 SWMP, it is

recommended that the responsibility for maintaining the links between the partners would be better served at the local level by Lewes District Council. Thus the next step should be the organisation of a meeting between the County Council and Lewes District Council, with a view to inviting the SWMP partners and to discuss the continuance of the partnership and the next stage of investigations.