

CAPTURING THE VALUE OF THE CATCH



SEPTEMBER 2021

LEVELLING UP FUND BID - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Foreword

"Capturing the Value of the Catch" is Lewes District Council's bid to the Government's Levelling up Fund (LUF). The fund is part of the Government's efforts to level up the country and ensure no community is left behind, including those in our coastal towns, and fits strongly with our Council's community wealth-building approach.

This is an exciting opportunity for Newhaven. If our bid is successful, the funding will re-establish the town as a maritime centre of excellence and ensure Newhaven's fishing industry receives the immediate support it requires.

Funding will:

- Provide two new fish landing stages for Newhaven's small vessel fishing fleet.
- Build a new Centre of Excellence for Seafood Processing in the town including an auction room and marketplace.
- Stimulate a local market for fish with the addition of a restaurant and community destination at West Quay and creating a community destination. This will include a variety of community and visitor facilities to retain spending in Newhaven for longer.



Cllr James MacCleary

Lead Member for Regeneration and Prosperity, Lewes District Council



Maria Caulfield MP

Member of Parliament for Lewes



Casting Out

Fisheries require very specific geography to operate within; Newhaven is the only deep-water port in East Sussex and is home to treasured, family-run fishing fleets.

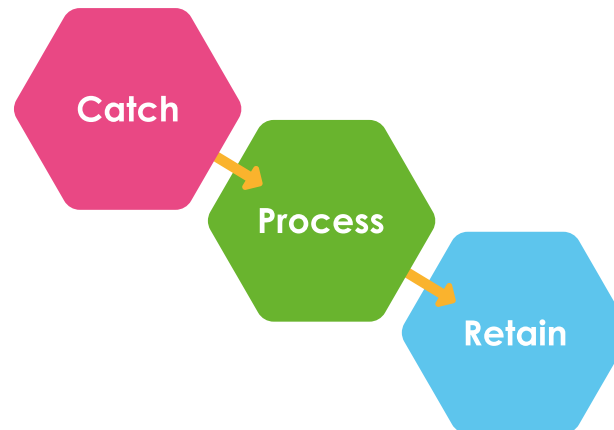
The town is emerging as a real pearl of the South East coast with targeted Government investment and a strong network of businesses, communities, and institutions. All are united in celebrating and wanting to make the most of Newhaven's marine heritage, but the fishing fleet needs targeted and timely support to survive and thrive.

New opportunities to secure quotas within the UK's sovereign waters have emerged but the infrastructure is currently lacking to **Catch**, **Process** and **Retain** the value of this fantastic resource.

Catch – providing two new fish landing stages to accommodate 16 smaller vessels, increasing the value of their catch to 2015 levels by 2029/30.

Process – building a new Centre of Excellence for Seafood Processing at Avis Way, creating an auction room and marketplace.

Retain – stimulating the local market for fish at West Quay by constructing a new Restaurant and Community Destination complete with children's play area, volleyball court and splash pool.



Levelling Up Fund investment will help create a virtuous circle for the town's fishing industry, retaining value and strengthening supply.

Troubled Waters

Newhaven has an historic and thriving fishing community, but its smaller vessel fleet is under threat because the port's fishing berths are falling into a state of disrepair. Furthermore, the lack of processing facilities and limited local hospitality offer mean that the town fails to retain the value of its catch.

The landed value of catch from smaller (under 10m) vessels fell from **1.4 million to below 700k between 2015 and 2019**, threatening livelihoods and undermining ambitions to make the most of the town's maritime environment and re-establish Newhaven as a centre of excellence for the seafood and aquaculture industry.

In 2019, the **842 tonnes of fish** landed in Newhaven had a value of just under **2 million**, but a market value closer to **4 million** with no suitable local processing facilities. The catch is currently



transported for processing by HGV vehicles over a 28-mile return journey, six days a week, with little of the end-product finding its way back to restaurants and shops in Newhaven.

At present, only 5% of fish landed by local fleets is processed in Newhaven and even less is retained.

Gateway To The Town

COVID-19 has severely disrupted port activity and the UK's withdrawal from the European Union has presented both opportunities and challenges. The gateway to the town is tired and a lack of recreational and cultural facilities and poor urban design, offer little incentive for the **400,000 people** who pass through the town each year to spend their time and money in Newhaven.





Eric Ravilious

Lighthouses at Newhaven, 1935

By permission of Towner Eastbourne



Eric Ravilious 35



Capturing the Value of the Catch

Catch: £6.49 million to provide two new fish landing stages which will accommodate 16 smaller vessels, increasing the value of their catch to 2015 levels by 2029/30.

Process: £1.07 million to build a new Centre of Excellence for Seafood Processing at Avis Way, creating an auction room and marketplace.

Retain: £5.38 million to stimulate the local market for fish at West Quay by constructing a new Restaurant and Community Destination complete with children's play area, volleyball court and splash pool.

Capturing the Value of the Catch will:

- Revive Newhaven's small vessel fishing fleet, which has lost half of its value since 2015 and is likely to disappear unless onshore facilities can be improved.
- Reposition the Newhaven fishing industry to a post-Brexit domestic market.
- Help to re-establish the town as a maritime centre of excellence.
- Expand and embed the fishing industry into the fabric of the town and secure its position as a maritime centre of excellence.
- Develop new recreational space and attractions, including opportunities to buy and consume locally caught fish, to attract visitors who currently bypass or pass through the town.
- Create new jobs and training opportunities in the fishing industry supply chain.
- Integrate seamlessly with Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund investments.



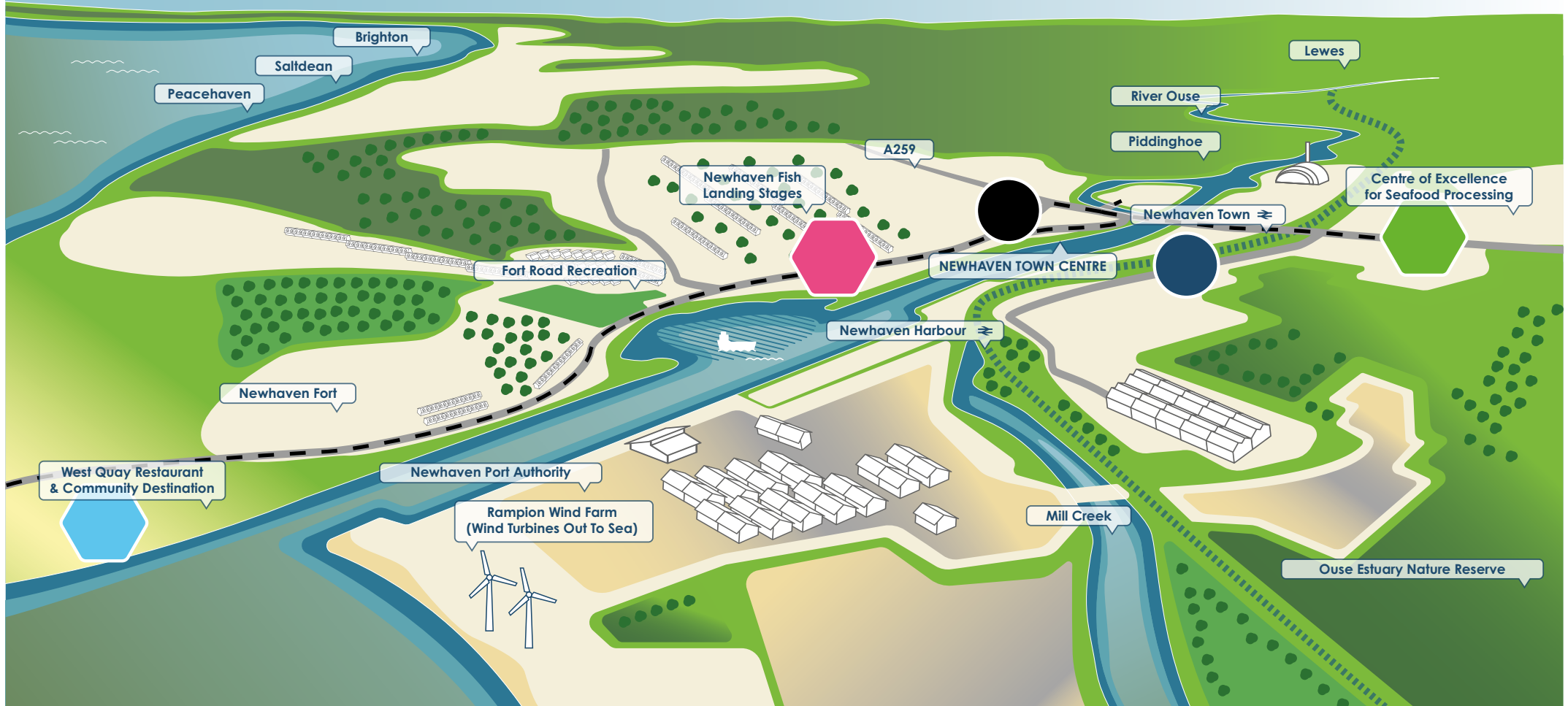
Summary Of Investment

Levelling Up Fund

- Catch - Newhaven Fish Landing Stages
- Process - Centre of Excellence for Seafood Processing
- Retain - West Quay Restaurant & Community Destination

Additional Secured Investment

- Future High Streets Fund
- The Sidings
- ⋯ Towns Fund Wayfinding and Connectivity





Summary Of Investment

"I am delighted to support this project that fits so strongly with our vision for Newhaven as part of the Town Investment Plan. This agreed vision includes a desire to make the most of our town's maritime heritage and re-establish Newhaven's role as a thriving and vital southern gateway to the UK."

Chris Ketley,
Chair - Newhaven Town Deal Board

"'Capturing the Value of the Catch' accords fully with the ambitions of the Newhaven Enterprise Zone. This project will enable Newhaven to build upon our recent successes, creating new employment and learning opportunities whilst promoting its dynamic industries."

Graham Peters,
Newhaven Enterprise Zone

"Together, these investments will help ensure that Newhaven is able to re-establish its position as a key fishing port. Newhaven Town Council are strongly supportive of this Levelling Up Fund submission and look forward to hearing of its successful outcome."

Ken Dry,
Clerk to Newhaven Town Council



What Happens Next?

Lewes District Council is expecting a funding decision from Government before the end of 2021. If our bid is successful, work would be expected to be completed by early 2024.

Visit www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/regeneration/levelling-up-fund/ for information on the Levelling Fund and to view progress.

Credits

Towner Eastbourne

Elmo Studio - Scott Salvage

Architecture of Calm - Scott James Currie

Newhaven Enterprise Zone

elmo
studio

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AoC
Architecture of Calm



Lewes District Council