
Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 05 October 2017

Present:

Members of the Board:

Cllr Simon Walsh (Chairman)	Essex County Council
Liz Berry (substitute for Graham Verrier)	Environment Agency
Cllr Frank Ferguson (substitute for Cllr Allan Ball)	Basildon Borough Council
Jonathan Glerum	Anglian Water
Cllr Ray Howard	Castle Point Borough Council
Peter Massie	Essex County Council
John Meehan	Essex County Council
Cllr Danny Purton	Harlow District Council
Cllr Andrew St Joseph	Maldon District Council
Cllr Dave Sperring	Rochford District Council
Cllr Vic Ranger	Uttlesford District Council

Other persons present

Paul Hayden	RFCC
Trudie Bragg	Castle Point Borough Council
Oladipo Lafinhan	Essex County Council
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council - Democratic Services
Tim Simpson	Essex County Council
David Prudence	Essex Highways

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Mark Cory –Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Gary Cullen –Southend Borough Council
Cllr Will Breare- Hall - Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Wendy Schmitt - Braintree District Council
Cllr Allan Ball – Basildon Borough Council -Cllr Frank Ferguson attending as a substitute
Councillor Mick Skeels - Tendring District Council
Graham Verrier Environment Agency - Liz Berry attending as a substitute
Rachel Keen – Environment Agency
Dave Bill – Essex Fire and Rescue Services

Graeme Kasselmann – Thames Water

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman requested Members declare an interest as appropriate.

4 Role of the Essex Flood Board

The Board received an update from John Meehan, Head of Environment and Flood Management on the role of the Essex Flood Board.

Members were given an overview and details of:

- The team structure of the Flood and Water Management Team
- Details of representation on the Flood Board
- How the Board provides an excellent forum for information sharing
- Its aim to decrease flood risk
- Achievements thus far
- Budgets
- Website and communications
- Canvey Island 6 point plan/partnership working
- The volunteer ditch clearing programme

The Chairman thanked John Meehan for the useful update.

5 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy- a new approach

The Board received a presentation and update from Richard Brenkley, Better Agency, working on behalf of Essex County Council to review and communicate our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Members were advised that the main objective was to improve public knowledge and understanding within Essex.

The update included:

- campaign objectives
- aim to increase usage of the flood risk tool on the website
- aim to increase the number of households taking action to protect against flooding
- engage more developers, to utilise the flood teams services and advice
- engage the public to demonstrate and tell stories of the preventative work undertaken by ECC

- the target audience

A discussion followed regarding how the success of the project will be measured and the timescales involved. Members were advised that website usage will be tracked and that public awareness results in costs savings in terms of enquiries received.

It was also confirmed that as not all residents are digitally active, other forms of communication will be used, for example via parish councils.

The Chairman thanked Richard Brenkley for his presentation and update.

6 Highways Surface Water Alleviation Schemes- A pictorial example of schemes

The Board received a PowerPoint presentation from David Prudence, Asset Management Strategy & Policy Engineer, Essex Highways to further illustrate the types of works done under the Surface Water Alleviation Scheme (SWAS) process.

Members were advised that SWAS schemes are capital funded drainage works, generally requiring a wider scope than revenue funded schemes which are minor works such as replacing a gully.

Members were then shown pictorial examples of successful SWAS schemes.

A discussion followed regarding the responsibility and funding of maintenance work. Councillor Purton raised concerns about an ongoing issue in his district, and David Prudence confirmed that if details were provided to him, he would investigate the issue.

Councillor Howard raised an issue regarding Ouida Road in Canvey Island with David Prudence confirming that progress updates on the schemes would be sent to Councillor Howard. Jonathan Glerum of Anglian Water, confirmed that he was aware of the issue and that it would be investigated.

Finally David Prudence provided answers to the questions raised following the his presentation at the July meeting of the Board

- How is the SWAS budget spent?
Answer - 2016/17 capital allocation of £2.5M, outturn was £2.646M – slight over spend
- SWAS procedure can include 'initial assessment', 'appraisal', 'detailed design', and 'works delivery'. This can be a lengthy process

requiring more than one year. Can anything be done to speed up this process?

Answer - There is now improved liaison with the drainage engineer, so that straight forward schemes can progress straight to 'walk, talk and build' gaining quick wins.

The Chairman thanked David Prudence for his presentation.

7 Essex Capital Flood Programme 2017-18 and 2018-19 Outline Business Case update

The Board received a report (EFPB/14/17) and verbal update from John Meehan, Head of Environment & Flood Management, on the progress of schemes in the Capital Programme and the Outline Business Case for 2018/19.

Members were reminded of the three elements of the capital flood programme:

- Property Level Protection (PLP)
- Community Flood Improvement Fund (CFIF)
- Capital funded Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS)

John Meehan provided an update of external funding for capital schemes and advised Members that Property Level Protection (PLP) in 2018/19 is deemed a revenue cost as the expenditure is less than £5,000 per property. For this reason PLP does not appear in the Capital Flood Programme OBC.

However in 2017/18 Environment Agency funded c.£100,000 for PLP and ECC is very positive about a further c.£100,000 proposal. ECC is optimistic in 2018/19 that it can work with Environment Agency to deliver another £100,000 or £200,000 of PLP projects.

Members also received details of scheme delivery during 2017/18.

During the discussion that followed Councillor Howard raised concerns about the scheme in East Thundersley. It was confirmed that John Meehan would arrange a meeting to discuss the issue.

Councillor St Joseph raised concerns about the scheme in Heybridge and it was agreed that John Meehan would contact him in this regard.

The Board **NOTED** the report and update.

8 Essex Property Level Protection update

The Board received a report (EFPB/15/17) and a verbal update from

Oladipo Lafinhan, Flood Partnerships Funding Co-ordinator, regarding an update on Property Level Protection (PLP).

Members were advised that there is currently no ECC funding allocated for the delivery of the 2018/19 PLP project phase. However external funding has been secured from the Environment Agency, with plans to make an application for further funds before the end of the financial year.

Members were informed of the progress made in the delivery of the 2017/18 phase of the project, and that the current consultant's contract is due to end on 31 March 2018 with a new tender process in place in respect of a new contract.

The Board **NOTED** the update.

9 **Essex Community Flood Improvement Fund**

The Board received a report (EFPB/16/17) and verbal update from Oladipo Lafinhan, Flood Partnerships Funding Co-ordinator, regarding an update on Community Flood Improvement Fund (CFIF).

The report gave details of the 11 applications received thus far in the 2018/19 phase, with the potential to reduce flood risk to 74 residential properties.

Members were advised that unresolved watercourse regulation enquiries currently make up most of the CFIF applications made.

The total grant applied for was £560,000 in 2017/18 and as a result of Environment Agency interest in the CFIF grant, an outline business case for £50,000 contribution to the 17/18 CFIF will be submitted to the EA.

The Board **NOTED** the report.

10 **New development & mitigating flood risk**

The Board received a PowerPoint presentation from Tim Simpson, Development & Flood Risk Manager, on the policies applied to new development and the ability to gain developer contributions.

The presentation included an overview of;

- surface water management in Essex
- details of what aspects ECC comments upon
- support for decision making
- key requirements
- post planning considerations
- ECC standard conditions
- Developer contributions in respect of Sec 106 and CIL

In response to a question raised, Tim Simpson clarified that whilst ECC do comment on local plans, flood plans fall outside of this remit ,and that was in fact a matter for the Environment Agency.

The Chairman thanked Tim Simpson for his presentation.

11 Any Other Business

With the agreement of the Chairman, the Board received an update from Paul Hayden, RFCC Anglian Eastern Chairman. He spoke regarding the funding challenges faced and urged Members to look at different ways of working, including the reprogramming of schemes. He felt Essex's proactive Floods teams could find further opportunities in the next 2 years which are the final years of the EA 6 year plan.

He also advised of the restrictions in connection with Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) funding, with Jonathan Glerum offering to facilitate talks with the relevant LEPS.

Councillor Ranger raised an issue regarding the SLADE site in Saffron Walden and it was confirmed that John Meehan and David Prudence would contact him directly in this regard.

12 Future Meeting Dates

The Board noted the future meeting dates:

Thursday 25th January 2018 at 10.00am County Hall Chelmsford

Thursday 5th April 2018 at 10.00am County Hall Chelmsford

Thursday 5th July 2018 at 10.00am County Hall Chelmsford

Thursday 4th October 2018 at 10.00am County Hall Chelmsford

The meeting closed at 12.32 pm

Chairman