

Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Wednesday, 23 January 2019

Present:

Members of the Board:

Cllr Simon Walsh (Chairman)	Essex County Council
Peta Denham	Environment Agency
Cllr Ray Howard	Castle Point Borough Council
Graeme Kasselmann	Thames Water
Peter Massie	Essex County Council
John Meehan	Essex County Council
Cllr Richard Moore	Basildon District Council
Cllr Danny Purton	Harlow District Council
Cllr Andrew St Joseph	Maldon District Council
Lucy Shepherd	Essex County Council
Cllr Arthur Williams	Rochford District Council

Other persons present (having signed the attendance book)

Trudie Bragg	Castle Point Borough Council
David Chapman	Essex County Council
Cllr Mark Durham	Maldon District Council and ECC
Kim Durrani	Epping Forest District Council
Dean James	Harlow District Council
Shirley Hall	Maldon District Council
Paul Hayden	RFCC
Oladipo Lafinhan	Essex County Council
Matthew Phipps	Southend Borough Council
David Prudence	Essex Highways
Lee Sencier	Essex County Council
Tim Simpson	Essex County Council
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council – Democratic Services
Rob Wesley	Water UK

1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report of the Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations was received, and It was noted that

1. Cllr Lee Scordis was the new Colchester Borough Council representative.

2. The following apologies were noted:

Cllr Wendy Schmitt – Braintree District Council
Cllr Vic Ranger -Uttlesford District Council
Cllr Lee Scordis– Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Nigel Avey – Epping Forest District Council

3. There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th July were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Basildon Hospital SPONGE 2020 Project Update

The Board received a report (**EFPB/01/19**) and PowerPoint presentation from Lee Sencier, Surface Water Planning Engineer on the completion of the SPONGE 2020 project at Basildon Hospital.

The Board were informed that the project is located in the Cardiothoracic Centre at Basildon and Thurrock University Hospital, Basildon. The project comprises of two parts, the first is the improvement of two existing courtyards in the Cardiothoracic Centre (CTC) and the second is re-instatement of a former washland area on Dry Street, both to include Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) features that will provide water quantity, quality, amenity and biodiversity benefits to staff, patients and visitors to the hospital.

The presentation gave an overview of the delivery of both parts of the projects and included plans and “before and after” pictorial examples of each part of the project.

The Board felt that this was an excellent scheme with numerous benefits. John Meehan echoed this and mentioned that it was envisaged that the project would be put forward for appropriate awards.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sencier for his presentation.

The Board **NOTED** the report

4 **SuDS Lean Review**

The Board received a report (**EFPB/02/19**) and Prezi presentation from Lucy Shepherd, Lead Local Flood Authority Manager on the latest SuDS Team process review and prioritised improvement activity.

Lucy Shepherd advised Members that last year a new learning project commenced which focussed on a new way of thinking and dealing with challenges. This has now moved onto a review of ECC's SUDS consultation process. The focus is making sure ECC achieve the most efficient service it can, without compromising quality for its customers.

The presentation gave an overview of the process with examples of how the review will identify issues and justify possible improvements. It also highlighted a current problem being 68% of consultations are 'not right first time'. Consequently, Lucy spoke about the process of developing solutions and improvements, and the process of them being implemented.

The Board felt that this was a very good project, with Lucy Shepherd encouraging them to provide feedback and ideas in the forthcoming months. Peta Denham from EA was excited about the project and asked Lucy if she could present at an EA team meeting.

The Board **NOTED** the report.

5 **Essex Capital Flood Programme update**

The Board received a report (**EFPB/03/19**) and a verbal update from Dave Chapman, Project Delivery Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Capital Programme. Mr Chapman advised that the above-mentioned report contained all the relevant information and welcomed questions from the Board.

In response to a question regarding funding, the Board were advised that a revised funding programme for 2019/2020 had been agreed as it was the final year of the 5 year programme, but nothing had been agreed beyond that.

Councillor Purton offered his thanks with regards to collaborative working and drew the Board's attention to the recent Small Project of the year award that was awarded to the Kingsmoor scheme.

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

6 **Essex Flood Property Level Resilience project**

The Board received a report (**EFPB/04/19**) and a verbal update from Diplo Lafinhan, Commercial & Project Development Officer, on the progress of the new Property Level Resilience Contract and delivery.

The Board were advised that following a procurement process a new supplier, Lakeside Flood Solutions had been awarded the contract. Mr Lafinhan gave the Board an overview of progress made and that full details were contained in the above-mentioned report.

Members were also informed that ECC are delivering 18 PLR projects in Felixstowe on behalf of Suffolk County Council and work in the Thames RFCC area.

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

7 Green Essex Strategy

The Board received a report (**EFPB/05/19**) and PowerPoint presentation (which was included in the agenda pack) from John Meehan, Head of Sustainability & Resilience, and Jayne Rogers, Environment Officer regarding the new Green Infrastructure Strategy for Essex.

John Meehan introduced this item and advised the Board that the purpose of the report and presentation was to raise awareness on the development of a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy called the Green Essex Strategy and to highlight opportunities of GI to alleviate flooding.

Jayne Rogers gave a PowerPoint presentation which included the following:

- A definition of Green Infrastructure
- Why a GI strategy is needed
- Vision and objectives
- GI assets of Essex
- The benefits of GI
- GI stakeholder engagement
- Delivery of the strategy

Mr Meehan explained that there was a strong link between flood management and GI and encouraged the Board to inform others of the strategy and to provide feedback on it once it had been circulated.

A discussion followed which included the issue of agricultural land. It was suggested that support could be obtained from this sector, and that organisations such as the NFU and CLA should be contacted in this regard.

The topic of footpaths was also discussed, and it was suggested that the Essex Rural Partnership be contacted.

Paul Hayden advised he felt that an evidence base of health benefits from the recent regeneration of Felixstowe and Clacton could be of assistance to ECC.

The Chairman thanked Jayne Rogers and John Meehan for their presentation.

The Board **NOTED** the report

8 Any Other Business

Peter Massie pointed out that there had been a recent increase in Environment Agency charges. He felt that it would be useful to be provided with a breakdown of the charges, with Peta Denham agreeing to provide this information.

Cllr Ray Howard raised an issue concerning contact he has received from a local resident in his Castle Point District and tabled a letter he had received in this regard.

Peta Denham gave the Board an update on the Maldon/Heybridge flood alleviation scheme. She explained that the original funding suppliers had withdrawn their support and consequently a funding application had been submitted to the EA Assurance Board. There are still complications regarding this with more affordable options required to improve the cost ratio. Ms Denham asked for financial support from District Councils and from ECC.

Councillor St Joseph stated that he looked forward to working closed with the EA to progress this scheme. Councillor Durham stressed the importance of this scheme and encouraged Members to provide any available help.

9 Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019, at 10.00am County Hall Chelmsford.

The meeting closed at 12.05 pm.

Chairman