



Essex County Council

# Essex Flood Partnership Board

<b>10:00</b>	<b>Thursday, 18 February 2021</b>	<b>Online Meeting</b>
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Please do not attend County Hall as no one connected with this meeting will be present.

**For information about the meeting please ask for:**

Lisa Siggins, Democratic Services Officer

**Telephone:** 033301 34575

**Email:** democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

## Essex County Council and Committees Information

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting will be held via online video conferencing.

### Accessing Documents

If you have a need for documents in, large print, Braille, on disk or in alternative languages and easy read please contact the Democratic Services Officer before the meeting takes place. For further information about how you can access this meeting, contact the Democratic Services Officer.

The agenda is also available on the Essex County Council website, [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk). From the Home Page, click on 'Running the council', then on 'How decisions are made', then 'council meetings calendar'. Finally, select the relevant committee from the calendar of meetings.

### Pages

<b>1</b>	<b>Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest</b>	<b>4 - 4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Online meeting protocol and software functionality</b>	

<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes 15.10.20</b>	<b>5 - 9</b>
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2020.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Flood Incidents and Investigations</b>	
	To receive a presentation from Charlotte Palmer, Flood Investigation Engineer regarding the recent flooding incidents in Essex and recap ECC's Flood Investigation responsibilities as Lead Local Flood Authority.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMPs)</b>	
	To receive a presentation from Honor Drummond, Anglian Water regarding progress with Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans.	
<b>6</b>	<b>2020-21 Essex Capital Flood Programme update</b>	<b>10 - 12</b>
	To receive a report (EFPB/01/21) and a presentation from Dave Chapman, Project Delivery Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Capital Programme.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Innovative Resilience Programme Essex EOI Bid</b>	<b>13 - 15</b>
	To receive Report (EFPB/02/21) and a presentation from John Meehan and partners, Sustainability and Resilience Team, regarding the Innovative Resilience funding expression of interest, which is being made by ECC and key partners.	

**8 Essex Climate Action Commission Update**

The Essex Climate Action Commission has set up 5 Special Interest Groups to bring forward recommendations. The Land Use & Green Infrastructure Special Interest Group has been meeting since July 2020 and has developed recommendations for a Land Use & Green Infrastructure Climate Action programme, covering both the whole County and a Climate Focus Area within the County.

John Meehan Head of Sustainability & Resilience who chairs the land Use and Green Infrastructure Special Interest Group will present the Recommendations of the Group.

**9 Any Other Business**

**10 Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 29 April 2021 likely to be online.

**Exempt Items**

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

**That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.**

## Agenda item 1

**Committee:** Essex Flood Partnership Board

**Enquiries to:** Lisa Siggins, Democratic Services Officer

### Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

#### Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Membership	
Cllr Simon Walsh	Essex County Council
John Meehan	Essex County Council
Lucy Shepherd	Essex County Council
Peter Massie	Essex County Council
Peta Denham	Environment Agency
Rachel Keen	Environment Agency
Carl Smith	Thames Water
Jonathan Glerum	Anglian Water
Mark Eaglestone	Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
Cllr Jack Ferguson	Basildon Borough Council
Cllr Wendy Schmitt	Braintree District Council
tbc	Brentwood Borough Council
Cllr Andrew Sheldon	Castle Point Borough Council
Cllr Mike Mackrory	Chelmsford City Council
Cllr Lee Scordis	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Nigel Avey	Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Danny Purton	Harlow District Council
Cllr Stephen Nunn	Maldon District Council
Cllr Arthur Williams	Rochford District Council
Cllr Nick Turner	Tendring District Council
Cllr Gary Collins	Thurrock Council
Cllr Martin Terry	Southend on Sea Borough Council
Cllr Neil Reeve	Uttlesford District Council

## Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held Online on Thursday, 15 October 2020

### Present:

### Members of the Board:

Cllr Simon Walsh (Chairman)	Essex County Council
Jonathan Glerum	Anglian Water
Cllr Andrew Sheldon	Castle Point Borough Council
John Meehan	Essex County Council
Peta Denham	Environment Agency
Rachel Keen	Environment Agency
James Mason	Environment Agency
Cllr Nigel Avey	Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Mike Mackrory	Chelmsford City Council
Cllr Danny Purton	Harlow District Council
Cllr Sue White	Maldon District Council
Cllr Nick Turner	Tendring District Council
Cllr Gary Collins	Thurrock Council
Cllr Arthur Williams	Rochford District Council
Cllr Neil Reeve	Uttlesford District Council

### Other persons present

Dave Chapman	Essex County Council
Guy Cooper	Environment Agency
Neil Fenwick	Essex Fire and Rescue
Damien Ghela	Maldon District Council
Paul Hayden	RFCC
Martyn Hare	Essex Fire and Rescue
James Mason	Environment Agency
Max Marcheselli	Essex County Council
Jo Matthews	Southend Borough Council
Gavin Montella	Southend Borough Council
David Prudence	Essex Highways
Lee Sencier	Essex County Council
Dave Chapman	Essex County Council
Tim Simpson	Essex County Council
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council – Democratic Services
Nicky Spurr	Essex County Council

Mandy Thompson  
Rob Wise

Epping Forest District Council  
NFU

**1 Online meeting protocol and software functionality**

Tim Simpson explained the online meeting protocol and software functionality.

**2 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

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

Apologies had been received from:  
Councillor Wendy Schmitt – Braintree District Council

No declarations of interest were made.

**3 Minutes 09.07.20**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

**4 Flood Risk Management Plan Cycle 2 update**

The Board received a presentation from Joe Pugsley, Flood Risk Management Advisor, Environment Agency about work being carried out to agree objectives and measures for the next cycle of Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs)

The Board were advised that a FRMP is a requirement of Flood Risk legislation and that there are 7 river basin districts in England, of which the Anglian river basin is one. Mr Pugsley advised that the Plan was both an ambitious and overarching strategic plan which was linked to the National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England.

Presentation can be found [here](#)

The Board raised some issues following the presentation which included:

- Cllr Collins had concerns that the Shoreline Management Plans weren't guaranteeing the protection of the Essex Coast because they didn't include funding to support policy position.
- Where does the budget come from? - it was confirmed that whilst there is no specific budget, it would act as a strategic plan- work can be identified to be completed once resources are available.
- Whether Local Plans are taken into considering- it was confirmed that where Local Plans are in place, they will indeed be considered

- Members felt that it would be useful to map the various partnerships involved and identify the relevant responsibilities

John Meehan gave an update regarding funding in respect of the Climate Action Commission, advising that a Recommendations report will be submitted to Essex County Council in March 2021. The report will reflect the work of the 5 Special Interest Groups: Transport, Built Environment, Energy and Waste, Land Use and Green Infrastructure. It will recommend extensive use of SuDS and Green infrastructure to absorb flood water.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pugsley for his presentation.

## **5 Emergency Services Flood Response**

The Board received a presentation from Martyn Hare, Emergency Planning Officer, Essex Fire and Rescue about the work they and other emergency services carry out in relation to flood risk.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

Key issues pointed out included:

- 485 flooding incidents involving properties between Jan 2019 and June 2020
- ECFRS water rescue assets within the County.
- 114 incidents where persons required rescuing from mud or wash
- Animal rescue within the County

Jonathan Glerum of Anglian Water enquired about the working relationship with Anglian Water's operational team, with Martyn Hare confirming that the relationship was excellent, with collaborative working applied using the JESIP principles.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hare for an informative presentation.

## **6 Innovative Resilience Fund**

The Board received a presentation from Guy Cooper, FCRM Senior Advisor, Environment Agency, about the Innovative Resilience funding pot, which is being made available to Lead Local Flood Authorities and Coastal Authorities.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

The Board were advised that the funding will vary but on average it will be for approximately £6m per project. The programme will run for 6 years from 1 April 2021 and end of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.

Mr Cooper also drew the Board's attention to some upcoming webinars, the dates of which were included in the presentation.

Councillor Turner enquired as to whether irreplaceable heritage assets would be included in the funding. Guy Cooper explained that the focus will be on housing and communities, and that a bid could not be submitted based solely on such heritage sites.

Paul Hayden of RFCC, advised that in his experience, the more ambitious schemes tended to be more successful. He advised that multi policy areas should be included and that he was happy to give his assistance.

The Chair thanked Mr Cooper for his presentation.

## **7 Surface Water Management Plan Update**

The Board received a presentation from Lee Sencier, Development and Flood Risk Manager, on the progress of 2 New surface water Management Plans (SWMPs), update to the existing plans and new action plans to support those updates.

Dave Chapman advised that this form the basis of future Capital Funding planning.

The Chair requested that a glossary be included in the published version for explanation purposes.

Presentation can be found [here](#).

## **8 2020/21 Essex Capital Flood Programme Update**

The Board received a report (**EFPB/04/20**) and a presentation from Dave Chapman, Project Delivery Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Capital Programme.

Mr Chapman explained that in 2020/21 the funding from ECC was initially deferred for a year so the expectation was that there would be the need to generate all funds from external sources. However, through negotiation with the Essex's finance team an advance of £950,000 from next year's capital programme had been secured.

He further advised that he was pleased to announce that the Flood Team have recently submitted four applications to the Green Recovery Challenge fund. The schemes are all aimed at delivering small scale NFM measures that will address surface water flood risk and enhance the biodiversity and ecology of our sites. ECC have also partnered with Trees for Cities on the bids, so that include areas of new tree planting can be included. If the bids are successful, the projects will run until the end of the 2021/22 financial year and are 100% funded. The application process will take approximately five weeks to determine so an update will be available at the next Flood Board meeting.

Councillor Turner raised the issue regarding the situation concerning the Thorpe-le -Soken scheme, which was clarified by David Prudence of Essex Highways.



**9 Any Other Business**

Jonathan Glerum of Anglian Water raised an issue concerning some recent press coverage in respect of some flooding to a school in Braintree. There appeared to be some criticism of Anglian Water by Essex Highways, and he felt that there needed to be better partnership working. David Prudence stated that he had no knowledge of this and would contact Mr Glerum following the meeting.

**10 Date of next meeting**

The Board noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 27th January at 10 am, either online or at County Hall, Chelmsford.

The meeting closed at 12.25pm

**Chairman**

<b>Report title:</b> 2020/21 Essex Capital Flood Programme update	
<b>Report to:</b> Essex Flood Board	
<b>Report author:</b> David Chapman Project Delivery Manager	
<b>Date:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	<b>For:</b> Discussion
<b>Enquiries to:</b> John Meehan (Head of Environment and Climate Action)	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex	

## 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To update the Flood Board on the 2020/21 Capital Flood Programme

## 2. Background

**2.1** The initial 5 years of the capital programme is now complete. Over this period, we have delivered several projects ranging in size and complexity, been nominated and won awards but we continue to push the boundaries in terms of design interventions and achievable benefits. In order to deliver schemes on the Flood Programme, we are using a number of consultants and in-house expertise to design and build individual projects.

**2.2** The Capital Flood Programme is broken down into 2 elements

- 1) Property Flood Resilience (PFR) is a scheme that offers residents of previously flooded properties an opportunity to apply for individual property protection. The applications are then vetted and prioritised.
- 2) Capital funded Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) forms the bulk of our programme; this area focuses on delivering projects on the ground in the areas most at risk of surface water flooding. Below is more specific detail on the Capital Programme FAS.

## 3. External funding update for capital schemes

**3.1** Over the completed five years of the programme, we have developed strong working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and District Councils. During this process the Flood and Water Management team has been able to attract external contributions and income to support a number of functions, these include

- Feasibility and assessment studies
- Delivery of capital flood alleviation schemes
- Delivery of the Property Level Protection project

We had an initial target of generating 25% of our annual budget from external stakeholders such as those mentioned above. The difference in 2020/21 is that the funding from ECC has been deferred for a year but in September 2020, we were able to advance £950,000 to deliver projects and develop schemes for delivery in 2021/21. Previous contributions to the flood programme are as follows;

- £125,771 contributions secured in 2014/15
- £225,227 contributions secured in 2015/16
- £436,490 contributions and income secured in 2016/17
- £1.63m contributions secured in 2017/18
- £1.57m contributions secured in 2018/19
- £1.53m contributions secured in 2019/20

### 3.2 Delivery programme

- West Mersea – Using the recently advanced £950,000 we have been able to accelerate delivery of schemes that were deferred at the start of the year. Due to COVID restrictions, temporary works design changes and inclement weather, the construction start date has been rescheduled for March 2021. Construction will continue into the 2021/22 financial year when the rest of the deferred flood budget is available.
- West Horndon – More detailed flood modelling has been made available by the landowner and their consultants, and a revised economics assessment has been carried out. Unfortunately, the revised economics for the site had failed to produce a financially viable option and construction of the Flood Alleviation Scheme has now been cancelled.
- River Slade – Construction is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> week. We have lost around 6-7 days of construction due to inclement weather and COVID restrictions, but as things stand, we are scheduled for completion in mid-April.
- MAL2 Maldon Central – Work on this scheme is complete and the flood storage area is now fully operational.
- Brent D Ursuline School – Due to design and access issues, the need for revised construction details has delayed the start of this project. It is currently estimated that work will start in April 2021.
- Make rain happy project – This is a retrofitting SuDS project that is being delivered in partnership with Anglian Water.
- Laindon – The BAS8 Laindon scheme has been delivered in partnership with Colchester Borough Council. The scheme consists of water course upgrades, additional storage, vegetation clearance, reconnection of lost highway drainage and improved hydraulics of the system.
- 3 new optimisation projects have been started and will be complete by the end of April 2021. These projects will then move into delivery for the 2021/22 financial year.

## **4 Flood programme summary**

4.1 The flood programme has finished its 5<sup>th</sup> year. During the current programme we have demonstrated the success achieved and the benefits delivered to residents of Essex. The current programme has seen over 75 sites investigated for the potential to deliver capital schemes. The knowledge gained from these projects will help to unlock more funding in the future and reduce the risk of surface water flooding to more residential properties in Essex.

4.2 By the end of the current programme, we will have generated £7.2m pounds worth of external funding will have been realised through the delivery of schemes on the capital programme and reduced surface water flood risk to over 1400 residential properties.

## **5 Good news story**

5.1 The Thorndon Country Park project was shortlisted for two awards at the November 2020 British Construction Industry Awards ceremony. Unfortunately, we were not successful in winning either of the categories we were nominated for, but we did make the top 3 nominations on the night. In February we will also be submitting two applications for the Environment Agency's Flood & Coastal awards

## **6 Recommendation**

6.1 For Essex Flood Board Members to note the successes of the capital programme. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the 2020/21 capital programme was deferred for a year, but the team have continued to work on schemes and unlocking external funding. Through having shovel ready schemes, we have managed to advance £950,000 worth of capital funding that will be used to start work on the ground earlier than expected and prepare 10 schemes for delivery in future years of the programme. Using the lessons learned, combined with developing stronger partnerships, the aim is to continue the upwards trend and we hope to retain this level of service, and where possible improve it for future years.

<b>Report title:</b> Innovative Resilience Programme Essex EOI Bid	
<b>Report to:</b> Essex Flood Board	
<b>Report author:</b> John Meehan, Lucy Shepherd, Tim Simpson, Dave Chapman	
<b>Date:</b> 18 February 2021	<b>For:</b> Discussion
<b>Enquiries to:</b> John Meehan (Head of Environment and Climate Action)	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex	

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In the 2020 Budget, the government announced a £200 million fund for innovative projects to help communities be more resilient to flooding and coastal change.
- 1.2 The programme will allocate £150 million of the £200million to 25 areas in England. Each of the selected partnership projects will receive on average £6 million between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2027.
- 1.3 An outline of the timeline is as follows. Essex County Council is currently preparing an Expression of Interest (EOI).
  - winter 2020/21–expressions of interest submitted and assessed
  - spring 2021 –projects announced
  - summer 2021–projects start
  - spring 2027 –projects complete

## 2. Action required

None

## 3. Background

- 3.1 On 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 the Essex Flood Board heard from Guy Cooper, Environment Agency regarding the new Innovative Resilience Programme.
- 3.2 Following a very successful bid development period, Essex County Council and over 23 'supporting' partners have submitted our Expression of Interest. Our project title was settled as **Innovative Water and Environmental Management for a Climate Resilient Essex.**

3.3 Our final Expression of Interest total was in the region of £9.9 million over the 6 year programme, with other sources of partner funding likely to reflect 23% of the total project value.

3.4 The following table outlines our bid summary as submitted.

- Our Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) backs the creation of a new **Climate Focus Area (CFA)** in Essex. This geographical area will be targeted to the Blackwater and Colne river catchments, approximately 30% of our diverse County. The CFA proposal is ground-breaking in the UK and is the perfect opportunity to showcase how actions can work together across a local area.
- The CFA has ambitions to reach net zero carbon as quickly as possible, promising multiple benefits of reduced flooding, improved biodiversity/soil health/air quality etc. and enhanced amenity for Essex communities.
- Through our Innovative Resilience Fund Bid we will be driving a range of pilot schemes forward to meet mutual targets within the CFA and will apply the learning from schemes to evidence and accelerate our Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) activities and investment there.
- Our schemes will showcase pioneering innovative change regarding integrated water management approaches, and a focus on replicating their success and ‘mainstreaming’ activities within the CFA and beyond. They include:
  - Spains Hall Estate proposes to change 400 hectares of current conventionally farmed arable land to a mix of **regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and rewilded areas** over the project period. This will create an innovative but replicable system of farm-scale water management, Biodiversity Net Gain, social impact and climate friendly land use underpinned by novel research and pioneering ecosystem service contracts.
  - RSPB and coastal landowner proposed conversion of **wet grassland to non-tidal saline wetland/saline lagoon**, both to increase the wildlife value and to act as a proxy for wider future change in Estuaries, seeking to explore issues around policy and legal consents.
  - Building on the established Managing Coastal Change Project to develop a package for recyclable soil providers and landowners to flexibly collaborate. Create an approach which identifies opportunity locations and resolves legal/governance issues so that **coastal/estuary resilience works such as “warp up”, breach repair and land raising** can be easily integrated into future business plans.
  - **Green infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) retrofit** within the urban public realm and highway. Working with public sector partners to take every opportunity to create green/blue space within our buildings and estates.

- Working with partners, Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) and Natural England's Catchment Sensitive Farming (ESF) teams we will support landowners to resolve challenges and ensure that **a replicable Natural Flood Management (NFM) delivery model and tools are implemented**. Filling the gap between now and Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS), providing much needed on-the-ground working discussions within this community.
- The innovative ideas contained within this bid will be used as an important landscape-scale exemplar as part of the Regional Plan for integrated water resource management being developed by Water Resources East, demonstrating the 'art of the possible' regarding joining up water resources, water quality and flood risk management at scale.

