
Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Wednesday, 03 April 2019

Present:

Present:

Members of the Board:

Cllr Simon Walsh (Chairman)	Essex County Council
Peta Denham	Environment Agency
Jonatham Glerum	Anglian Water
Cllr Ray Howard	Castle Point Borough Council
Rachel Keen	Environment Agency
John Meehan	Essex County Council
Cllr Richard Moore	Basildon 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
Paul Hayden	RFCC
Charlotte Palmer	Essex County Council
Matthew Phipps	Southend Borough Council
David Prudence	Essex Highways
Tim Simpson	Essex County Council
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council – Democratic Services

- 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. Moira Bruin was the new Essex County Fire and Rescue Service representative.;

2. The following apologies were noted:

Cllr Wendy Schmitt – Braintree District Council
Graeme Kasseleman -Thames Water
Moira Bruin– Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
Cllr Gary Collins – Thurrock Council
Cllr Danny Purton – Harlow District Council
Cllr Nigel Avey – Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Vic Ranger – Uttlesford District Council
Peter Massie- ECC

3. There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Essex SuDS Guide Review

The Board received an update from Tim Simpson, Development and Flood Risk Manager on the review of the Essex SuDS which included:

- As an on-going part of the Lean review of the ECC's SuDS service, one of the areas identified as most in need for improvement was the number of holding objection that the LLFA issues when consulted on planning applications. With this as one of key areas for improvement highlighted as part of the review, the project team, working with the SuDS team, started to explore ways to improve these numbers.
- Two key areas were identified to help reduce the number of holding objections: working to increase the number of SuDS planning advice meetings that take place with developers and focusing the SuDS guide more on the ultimate goal of the service which is to enable developers to meeting planning criteria while delivering high quality drainage solutions with multiple benefits.
- Some small changes are proposed to the current guide both to ensure that the format is up to date and that the guidance is as clear as possible. Additionally, there will be a review of topics that vary from national standards to ensure that all current policies are as robust as they can be.
- A draft document is currently being finalised for internal consultation. Thereafter, it is intended to consult partners, including Board members, on a refined version of the document at the start of May. The consultation will also include LPAs, some developers and consultants who are considered key users of the document. Following consultation and a period of further refinement it is hoped that an updated version of the document will be published towards the middle of the summer.

Jonathan Glerum of Anglian Water advised the Board that their guide entitled "Sewers for Adoption" now included a reference to SuDs within its guidance and a new OFWAT code that would come into force in 2020. He felt that it would be beneficial if the ECC document also made reference to the said code.

In response to a Member question it was confirmed that the associated costs would be met through existing water bill/sewer charge revenue.

4 Essex Property Level Resilience update

To receive a report (**EFPB/06/19**) from Charlotte Palmer, Flood Investigation Engineer, on the progress of the new Property Level Resilience Contract and delivery.

Ms Palmer advised the Board that she had taken over responsibility for this area of work from Dipo Lafinhan and highlighted the key issues from the above-mentioned report which included:

- The 2018/19 Essex Flood Property Level Resilience (PLR) project will be 100% funded from grants and payments from external organizations such as the Environment Agency and Anglian Water.
- ECC have an agreement with Anglian Water to complete PLR measures to a minimum of 40 residential properties in Essex on their DG5 (Anglian Water Flood Risk Register) register. This is fully funded by Anglian Water; therefore, there will be no further financial implications to ECC
- Delivery 18 + 3 (21) PLR installations in Felixstowe on behalf of Suffolk County Council. This is fully funded by Suffolk County Council.
- Progress of delivery by Lakeside Solutions (the new supplier to ECC) – full details of which were contained in the report
- The Environment Agency are planning to use ECC services for delivery of PLR to ~50 properties in Stanstead Mountfitchet (which are a mixture of residential and commercial)
- The contract with Lakeside is due for renewal the end of May, the decision has been made to extend this for another year until May 2020. The Essex Floods Team is currently working with the Procurement Services Team to obtain the appropriate governance sign off needed to approve the contract extension.

The Board were advised that ECC are looking at ways to publicise and promote PLR and welcomed ideas in this regard. It was stressed that this is a valuable service and the contract is flexible which will benefit external/partner organisations.

In response to a question raised, it was confirmed that where a property has been the subject of a flood a resurvey is usually carried out and advice

provided. It was however stressed that PLP is not a 100% guarantee against flooding but works to reduce its impact.

The Chairman thanked Charlotte Palmer for her update.

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

5

2018-19 Essex Capital Flood Programme

The Board received a report (**EFPB/07/19**) and a PowerPoint presentation from Dave Chapman, Project Delivery Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Capital Programme. Mr Chapman advised that the report contained all the relevant information and highlighted the following:

- The Flood Team has generated a total of £1.57m worth of external funding as a result of the work have carried out on this year's capital programme. The amount of income generated by the capital programme is 36% of our annual budget, which is above the 25% target that was set at the start of the year.
- The total number of properties benefitting from reduced surface water flood risk as a result of all completed schemes on the 2018/19 capital programme is 383; this exceeds the target of 377 that was set at the start of the financial year.

The PowerPoint presentation gave pictorial examples of completed schemes.

The Board **NOTED** the report

6

Any Other Business

Lucy Shepherd and John Meehan advised the Board that consideration is being given to expanding the scope of Board. This would include a focus on flood resilience, increased partnership working and raised public awareness. John Meehan highlighted the multi benefit success of the Sponge 2020 project.

Jonathan Glerum of Anglian Water took the opportunity to show the Board a PowerPoint presentation and gave an overview of "Making Rain Happy" – which is the public face of the first ever 25-year surface water management plan produced by Anglian Water. He explained that support from external partners would be welcomed.

Councillor Howard raised an issue that is causing concern in his district regarding a privately-owned caravan park. There are concerns that the owners/developers are not adhering to regulations and he asked that the Environment Agency investigate the situation. The Chairman confirmed that he would also refer this issue to the minerals and waste planning authority.

Peta Denham of the Environment Agency asked for permission to bring an item regarding a new EA strategy to the July meeting of the Board.

7

Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 11.30 am

Chairman