
Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held in Committee Room 1 on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Present:

Members of the Board:

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| Cllr Lee Scott | Essex County Council |
| John Meehan | Essex County Council |
| Lucy Shepherd | Essex County Council |
| Jonathan Glerum | Anglian Water |
| Cllr Richard Moore | Basildon District Council |
| Cllr Rose Moore | Chelmsford City Council |
| Cllr Steph Nissen | Colchester City Council |
| Cllr Nicky Purse | Harlow District Council |
| Cllr Paula Spenceley | Maldon District Council |
| Cllr Chris Stanley | Rochford District Council |

Also present:

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| Lee Bellinger | Ringway Jacobs |
| David Chapman | Essex County Council |
| Michael Cross | Tendring District Council |
| Aaron Dixey | Environment Agency |
| Josie Falco | Braintree District Council |
| Karina Grimwade | Essex County Council |
| Matt Moore | Anglian Water |
| David Prudence | Essex Highways |
| Lucy Shepherd | Essex County Council |
| Lisa Siggins | Essex County Council – Democratic Services |
| Navtej Tung | Thurrock Council |
| Michael White | Environment Agency |
| James Williams | Environment Agency |

1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The Chairman explained the reasons for the “in person” meeting and advised of the intention for alternate meetings to be held online,

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

It was noted that Cllr Nick Turner was no longer the representative for Tendring District Council, and that details are awaited of the new representative.

Apologies had been received from:

- Cllr Balcombe -EFDC
- Cllr Collins Thurrock Council
- Cllr Cunningham- Braintree
- Richard Powell- RFCC
- Peter Massie- ECC
- Marc Inman -ECC

No declarations of interest were made.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2023 were approved as a correct record.

3 Introduction to the Essex Flood Partnership Board

The Board received an update from John Meehan, Head of Climate Adaptation & Mitigation, regarding the role of the Essex Flood Partnership Board.

John Meehan explained that as there were a number of new members present and this was the first “face to face” meeting since the pandemic, he felt that it seemed appropriate to remind members of the great track record of the Essex Flood Board. The Board was set up after the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. He also reminded the Board that they also fit within the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC). The RFCC which covers most of Essex is the Anglian Eastern RFCC, which has four Essex County Council (ECC) members, one Thurrock Council member and a Southend on Sea City Council member. There is also a single ECC member on the Great Ouse RFCC and the Thames RFCC's.

John also stated that he wanted to emphasise that the Board has a good relationship with the Environment Agency, whose officers were present at the meeting and that has unlocked £80.7 million from grants between 2015 and 2023.

The Chairman offered his thanks to all the officers involved in supporting the Board. He stressed the importance of the Board and was grateful for all those that were in attendance.

4 **Climate Czar role and Autumn Climate Summit**

Johan Meehan advised that Cllr Peter Schwier ECC Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling, had unfortunately been called away at very short notice to attend an Environment Committee at the House of Commons.

John advised that Cllr Schwier would have invited the Flood Board Members to the Essex Autumn Climate Conference which was being held on 31st October at the County Hotel, from 10am -1 pm. Following the meeting the contact details of Board members were shared with Louise Tennekoon, Climate Action Engagement Manager who would arrange for invites to be sent.

5 **National Flood Risk Assessment 2 (NaFRA2)**

The Board received a presentation from Michael White (Environment Agency) in relation to the National Flood Risk Assessment 2 (NaFRA2) update being undertaken.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

Issues raised by Members included:

- Implications of planning applications close to flood plains- it was confirmed that the key issue is to take into consideration all the relevant available data.
- Importance of tapping into the knowledge of local residents and action groups – this was acknowledged as being of importance.
- Concerns regarding the maintenance of assets – it was confirmed that where there was awareness of changes, new data would be obtained.
- In response to a Member question, it was confirmed that this was a “live” document which could be added/fed into.
- Whether it could model flood plain mapping- clarification was given that local mapping could be used to assist
- Mapping of “protected areas” – it was confirmed that going forward this should be improved.

John Meehan advised that the ECC Flood team have done significant work regarding modelling. Dave Chapman expanded upon this and confirmed that relevant data would be shared with the Environment Agency.

6 **2023/24 Essex Capital Flood Programme update**

The Board received a report, **(EFPB/04/23)** Essex Capital Flood Programme update, from Dave Chapman, Project Delivery Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Floods Capital Programme.

Some Members enquired regarding projects within their Districts, with Dave and relevant officers giving an update accordingly.

The Board noted the report.

7 Anglian Water Update

Jonathan Glerum, Anglian Water (AW) gave an update presentation regarding AW. The presentation included background information and an overview which Jonathan felt would be particularly useful for new Board members, stressing the importance of partnership working.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

Some Members raised particular issues within their Districts with Jonathan advising that these issues could be picked up outside of the meeting and that AW were happy to work with individual Board members.

Following the meeting a copy of the presentation was forwarded to Board members together with the contact details for Jonathan Glerum and his colleague Matthew Moore.

8 Partner Updates

There were none.

9 Any Other Business

There was none.

10 Date of Next Meeting

This would be held online via Zoom the date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 12.25 pm

Chair