
Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 30 January 2020

Present:

Members of the Board:

Cllr Simon Walsh (Chairman)	Essex County Council
Jonathan Glerum	Anglian Water
Cllr Simon Hart	Castle Point Borough Council
John Meehan	Essex County Council
Cllr Danny Purton	Harlow District Council
Cllr Neil Reeve	Uttlesford District Council
Cllr Nick Turner	Tendring District Council
Cllr Arthur Williams	Rochford District Council

Other persons present (having signed the attendance book)

Trudie Bragg	Castle Point Borough Council
Simon Curl	Environment Agency
James Ennos	Tendring District Council
Damien Ghela	Maldon District Council
Beth Healey	Lakeside Flood Solutions
Stephanie Kober	Suffolk County Council
James Mason	Environment Agency
Jo Matthews	Southend Borough Council
David Prudence	Essex Highways
Jayne Rogers	Essex County Council
Lee Sencier	Essex County Council
Tim Simpson	Essex County Council
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council – Democratic Services
Mandy Thompson	Epping Forest District Council
Navtes Tung	Thurrock Council
Angela Warlow	Lakeside Flood Solutions

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 Nick Turner is the new Tendring representative
Cllr Neil Reeve is new Uttlesford representative

2. The following apologies were noted:

Councillor Nigel Avey – Epping Forest

Councillor Rose Moore- Chelmsford District Council

Councillor Sue White – Braintree District Council

Paul Hayden -RFCC

Moiria Bruin– Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Peta Denham - Environment Agency James Mason attending as substitute

Peter Massie – Essex County Council

Rachel Keen – Environment Agency

3. There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Property Flood Resilience Delivery

The Board received a presentation from Angela Warlow, Operations Manager and Beth Healey for Lakeside Flood Solutions who deliver Property Flood Resilience on behalf of Essex County Council and Partners on the delivery of Property Flood Resilience.

The presentation can be found [here](#).

The Board were advised that the scheme is now in its fifth year and that a key challenge is driving uptake of the scheme. Previously there had been a long waiting list, but this is no longer the case. The Board discussed this issue and members agreed to raise the issue within their relevant Districts.

The Chairman advised that he raise the issue with his Cabinet colleagues, and John Meehan confirmed that feedback on the challenges would be given to the Board at a future meeting.

The Chairman thanked Ms Warlow and Ms Healey for their presentation.

4 Green Essex Strategy Update

The Board received report (**EFPB/01/20**) and presentation from Jayne Rogers, Environment Officer and John Meehan, Head of Sustainability and

Resilience, on the progress with the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery and organisation of the Essex Forest Initiative.

The Board were advised that the purpose of the strategy is to understand the values our current green infrastructure provides and its potential to provide in the future in terms of environmental, social and economic benefits. The aim is to guide and shape planning and other services through setting principles that can inform plans and strategies to enhance, protect and create an integrated network of high-quality GI in Essex.

The strategy is accompanied by an action plan which sets out priority actions which is also the basis of the Place & Public Health Business actions over the next 15 years.

The strategy went out to public consultation in May 2019 for a period of 9 weeks and is now in final draft form.

The governance process will seek support and sign-off by the Executive Director and Portfolio Holder, Councillor Simon Walsh and put on the Forward Plan in order to present to Cabinet for 17 March 2020.

Once the strategy has been adopted the action plan, which sets out a programme of actions for implementation of the Green Essex Strategy will be further developed and formalised to achieve GI objectives.

The presentation formed [Appendix A](#) to the above report

The Board discussed the Strategy and the issue of funding and maintenance of coastal paths was raised. This was clarified and the Board were advised that 25% of funding is required from ECC.

In response to a Member question, John Meehan clarified that if trees are planted correctly and with the use of mulching, they should thrive without watering. The Board were also advised that contact has been made with Essex Highways regarding the re-forestation of highways.

The Chairman thanked Ms Rogers and John Meehan for the presentation and update.

The Board **NOTED** the report.

5

Essex Capital Flood Programme 2019-20 update

The Board receive report (**EFPB/02/20**) from Dave Chapman, Project Delivery Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Capital Programme, which was presented by Tim Simpson.

John Meehan gave the Board some background information and advised that the scheme was currently in year 5. Year 6 has yet to be approved by the Investment Board and feedback will be given to the Board once the decision has been made. He advised that it is hoped that in the next

financial year there will be 50% external funding, with partnership working being the key to success.

The Board were shown pictorial examples of completed schemes and advised that positive publicity had been received.

The Board **NOTED** the report.

6 Asset Management Period 7 (AMP7) Funding Update - Anglian Water Update

The Board received an update from Jonathan Glerum, Regional Flood Risk Manager for Anglian Water, on Ofwat's decision about funding for Asset Management Period 7 and how this affects flood funding in the region.

Mr Glerum gave a recap of AMP6 and stressed the importance of partnership working in connection with funding. He stressed that Anglian Water wanted to do similar in respect of AMP7(2020-2025).

Mr Glerum explained that the AMP7 plan was submitted to the water regulator, Ofwat in September 2018. He advised that in their initial response, they proposed to remove partnership funding, and that Anglian Water responded to protest about this issue. Thereafter, £12.1m was agreed in respect of partnership funding to manage flood risk.

He advised that there are lots of challenges ahead and that Anglian Water would work closely with ECC. He also explained that Ofwat have included a funding incentive which is linked to delivery, which will need to be returned if the terms are not adhered to.

The Chairman thanked Mr Glerum for his update.

7 Thurrock Tidal Breach

The Board received a presentation from Navtej Tung, Principal Transport Planner for Thurrock Council, on a recent breach of the sea wall within Thurrock Council's administrative area and the impact that this has had on the Council.

Mr Tung gave details of the River Thames overtopping which occurred in September 2019, and explained the challenges encountered thereafter.

The Board discussed the issues raised and were advised that the land in question is earmarked for a Compulsory Purchase Order by Lower Thames Gateway.

Cllr Turner suggested that the Coastal Concordat for England may provide some guidance.

The presentation can be found [here](#).

The Chairman thanked Mr Tung for his presentation.

8 Any Other Business

Cllr Reeve raised a local issue, which David Prudence confirmed that he would discuss with him following the meeting.

9 Date of next meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 30th April 2020 at 10.00am County Hall, Chelmsford.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm

Chairman