

Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 05 July 2018

Present:

Members of the Board:

Cllr Simon Walsh (Chairman)	Essex County Council
Cllr Nigel Avey	Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Arthur Collins	Rochford District Council
Peta Denham	Environment Agency
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

Other persons present (having signed the attendance book)

Trudie Bragg	Castle Point Borough Council
David Chapman	Essex County Council
Kim Durrani	Epping Forest District Council
James Ennos	Tendring District Council
Paul Hayden	RFCC
Oladipo Lafinhan	Essex County Council
David Prudence	Essex Highways
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council – Democratic Services
Debbie Whitfield	Cambridge Housing Society

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. It was noted that Cllr Richard Moore was the new Basildon District Council representative, Cllr Nigel Avey was the new Epping Forest District Council representative and that Cllr Ioannou was the new Rochford District Council representative

Lucy Shepherd advised that if any new Member would like to receive some induction training, they should contact her in this regard.

2. The following apologies were noted:

Dave Bill – Essex Fire and Rescue Service
Cllr Mick Skeels – Tendring District Council
Cllr George Ioannou – Rochford District Council (Cllr Arthur Williams attending as substitute)
Cllr Vic Ranger – Uttlesford District Council
Peter Massie – Essex Highways

3. There were no declarations of interest

2 Minutes

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

Thereafter, Councillor Howard asked for an update in connection Minute 6 and the RSPB site in his division. John Meehan advised that this was being looked at as part of a bigger project and that is envisaged that a meeting will be held with Castle Point District Council in the near future.

3 Environment Plan

The Board received a PowerPoint presentation from Peta Denham, Environment Agency Area Flood Risk Manager on the 25 year Environment Plan.

The presentation included the following issues:

- How the plan affects the work of flood risk management authorities
- The launch of the plan by the Prime Minister, Theresa May, and the Secretary of State, Michael Gove in January 2018.
- An explanation of the plan - The Plan sets out long-term goals and then provides a set of actions (policies) that will help to achieve these. One of the primary goals of the plan is 'reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as floods and drought'
- What else does the 25yr Environment Plan mean for the work in FCRM - update the National FCRM Strategy by 2019, more emphasis on natural flood management

Councillor St Joseph spoke about the importance of partnership working

with the private sector.

Councillor Howard expressed his concern at failures due to maintenance issues regarding the clearing of highways, gullies and dykes.

On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked Peta Denham for a very informative presentation.

4 Natural Flood Management Schemes

The Board received a PowerPoint presentation from Tom Palmer, Project Design Engineer regarding new Natural Flood Management Funding and Schemes in Essex.

The Board were provided with the definition of Natural Flood Management (NFM) – it more of a concept, simply put it involves using more natural processes and material to reduce flood risk rather than concrete, bricks and traditional harder engineering solutions.

The presentation included:

- The benefits compared to other risk management methods
- Why NFM is used- including the positives and negatives
- Pictorial examples of where NFM has been used within the County- this included details of a completed scheme in Thaxted involving the use of a heavy horse. Details of a scheme in Kingsmoor, Harlow which has been shortlisted for a Climate Resilience Award were also shown.

On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked Tom Palmer for a very interesting presentation.

5 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The Board received a report (EFPB/07/18) and PowerPoint presentation on the refreshed Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, from Lucy Shepherd, Lead Local Flood Authority Manager.

The presentation included:

- The legislative requirements under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- The reasons for changing the current one – which include it being lengthy and 4 years old
- The previous and the new audience
- The governance process
- The new format- simplified, to the point and non-technical
- The consultation process and its objectives

Mrs Shepherd confirmed that the partner consultation would run until 31st July 2018 and that the link would be re-circulated following the meeting.

Councillor Moore and Councillor St Joseph welcomed the new Strategy document. Cllr St Joseph hoped that this would engage the public, and would support a public campaign to undertake essential watercourse maintenance in the Autumn.

The Chairman thanked Ms Shepherd for her presentation and welcomed the new format of the document.

The Board **NOTED** the report.

6 Essex Capital Flood Programme Update

The Board received a report (EFPB/08/18) and verbal update from Dave Chapman, Delivery & Enforcement Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Capital Programme and future OBCs. Mr Chapman pointed out that the above mentioned report contained all the relevant information and welcomed questions from the Board.

Councillor Howard asked a question regarding the budget of £19 million which was clarified by Mr Chapman.

Jonathan Glerum of Anglian Water asked about the engagement with the public. Mr Chapman advised that there was lots of planning in this regard, including with landowners, businesses and public engagement events.

The Board were also shown pictorial examples of completed schemes.

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

7 Cambridge Housing Society CFIF Scheme

The Board received a PowerPoint presentation Debbie Whitfield, Cambridge Housing Society on the delivery of their Community Flood Improvement Fund (CFIF) funded project. The presentation included:

- Details of the application and grant award process
- Amount of grant - £84,000 for 14 properties
- Technical details of the works involved
- Pictorial evidence of the works which included external doors, flood guards and non-return valves

On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked Ms Whitfield for her presentation which he felt was an excellent example of collaborative working.

8 Any Other Business

John Meehan suggested that it would be useful for Members to take part in

a site visit (venue to be confirmed) on 4th October. Full details will be provided nearer to the date.

Jonathan Glerum advised that he had now received a comprehensive response in respect of an issue raised regarding strategic planning and engagement with the water companies (Minute 3 of the meeting of 5th April). It was confirmed that this would be circulated to Members following the meeting.

Councillor Howard raised an issue regarding the possibility of forthcoming flood risks and questioned whether the County was prepared for it. John Meehan confirmed that there is an Emergency Flood Committee which is on alert to the prospect of heavy rainfall.

Councillor Howard also raised an issue regarding a road in his division that is a flood risk. David Prudence of Essex Highways agreed to investigate and provide details to Councillor Howard.

9

Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 4th October 2018, the venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at noon.

Chairman