

Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held Online on Wednesday, 27 April 2022

Present:

Members of the Board:

Cllr Lee Scott	Essex County Council
Cllr Nigel Avey	Epping Forest District Council
Graham Brown	Environment Agency
Jonathan Glerum	Anglian Water
Cllr Simon Hart	Castle Point Borough Council
Rachel Keen	Environment Agency
Peter Massie	Essex County Council
John Meehan	Essex County Council
Cllr Richard Moore	Basildon Borough Council
Cllr Richard Pavitt	Uttlesford District Council
Cllr Nicky Purse	Harlow District Council
Cllr Wendy Schmitt	Braintree District Council
Lucy Shepherd	Essex County Council
Cllr Dave Sperring	Rochford District Council
Cllr Nick Turner	Tendring District Council
Cllr Peter Wexham	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Cllr Sue White	Maldon District Council

Also present:

David Chapman	Essex County Council
James Ennos	Tendring District Council
Josie Falco	Braintree District Council
Damien Ghela	Maldon District Council
Laura Hepworth	Environment Agency
Richard Powell	RFCC
David Prudence	Essex Highways
Lee Sencier	Essex County Council
Tim Simpson	Essex County Council
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council – Democratic Services
Mandy Thompson	Epping Forest District Council
Nuvtej Tung	Thurrock Council
Roger Webster	Environment Agency

1 Online meeting protocol and software functionality

Councillor Scott 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.

Apologies had been received from:

- Rachel Keen - Environment Agency
- Cllr Collins - Thurrock Council
- Cllr Crow- Colchester Borough Council
- Cllr Mulroney Southend on Sea Borough Council- Cllr Wexham substituting
- Mark Eaglestone Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

No declarations of interest were made

3 Minutes: 26.01.22

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2022 were approved as a correct record.

Cllr Turner requested an update on OFWAT attending a future meeting of the Board. Lucy Shepherd advised that she had recently changed roles and that this action had now been handed to Marc Inman who would chase in this regard.

4 Essex Water Strategy

The Board received a presentation from Lucy Shepherd, Lead Local Flood Authority Manager regarding the upcoming Essex Water Strategy scoping study. The presentation illustrated the problem between water supply and demand, how the problem will grow and potential solutions.

A Slido question live survey was conducted following the presentation, with the link to the same provided to Members following the meeting

The presentation can be found [here](#)

Cllr Turner advised that he has weather stations within his District which indicated that there were no issues with water shortages. He believed that the issue lay with water companies and their procedures for water collection.

Lucy Shepherd confirmed that there needed to be more engagement with the water companies and that work was in progress in this regard.

Cllr White felt that there as a major issue with new housing developments and associated planning permissions. She believed that there is too much red tape and that was a greater need for collaborative working.

John Meehan stressed that national and global agencies are predicting future water shortages and that lowering levels of rainfall were creating issues.

Cllr Wexham stated that in his area there were issues with the availability of water supplies.

Cllr Scott asked that the above issues be added as a future agenda item.

5 Highways Floods Enforcement Officer

Lucy Shepherd advised that a new Highways Flood enforcement officer had recently been appointed and there was the intention to invite the team/officer to a future Board meeting.

Cllr Scott stated that this was excellent news and a welcome appointment which was greatly assist with enforcement issues.

Cllr Wexham enquired as to how this appointment would tie in with Southend on Sea Borough Council and Thurrock Council, which are both unitaries. Cllr Scott advised that at this stage he was not able to confirm but that he felt that as this was an Essex County Council (ECC) appointment it may be restricted to the Districts within the County. Lucy Shepherd agreed to investigate it and confirm the position.

Following the meeting it was confirmed that the Highways Enforcement Officer is an ECC employee only. Southend and Thurrock hold highways and land drainage responsibilities and Cllrs should speak to their in-house Flood Teams for further advice. ECC regularly communicate, sharing experience and approaches via the Executive Flood Officers Group (more info at <https://www.southend.gov.uk/flooding-1> and <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/flood-risks/overview>).

6 Essex Capital Flood Programme and Essex Forestry Initiative

The Board received a report **EFPB/02/22** from Dave Chapman, Project Delivery Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Floods Capital Programme. This was followed by a presentation on the Essex Forestry Initiative end of year review.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

The following issues were raised by members:

- Allocated maintenance- it was confirmed that this was done on a case by case basis depending upon the site in question
- Maintenance is key if trees are to survive – this was agreed
- Whether tree planting was too simplistic, with there being a need to work with drought issues- it was confirmed that an environmental assessment is carried out prior to planting.

Cllr Turner enquired as to whether there were any additional trees available for an area within his Division. Dave Chapman confirmed that he would make contact following the meeting.

7 Environment Agency Scheme Update

The Board received a video presentation from Roger Webster, Environment Agency regarding the Coggeshall, Feering and Kelvedon scheme. The video presentation accessed via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfULOeddT-c>

8 Partner Updates

There were none.

9 Any Other Business

Cllr Turner advised that he had been experiencing issues communicating with both Anglian Water and the Environment agency. He gave details with Jonathan Glerum of Anglian Water confirming that he would contact Cllr Turner following the meeting in this regard.

Cllr White also explained that she too was experiencing issues.

Cllr Scott suggested that at future meetings, Anglian Water/Jonathan Glerum be given an allocated slot on the agenda to enable Board members to raise such issues.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6th July at 11am, to be held online.

The meeting closed at 11.10 am

Chairman