

Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held Online on Thursday, 15 October 2020

Present:

Members of the Board:

Cllr Simon Walsh (Chairman)	Essex County Council
Jonathan Glerum	Anglian Water
Cllr Andrew Sheldon	Castle Point Borough Council
John Meehan	Essex County Council
Peta Denham	Environment Agency
Rachel Keen	Environment Agency
James Mason	Environment Agency
Cllr Nigel Avey	Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Mike Mackrory	Chelmsford City Council
Cllr Danny Purton	Harlow District Council
Cllr Sue White	Maldon District Council
Cllr Nick Turner	Tendring District Council
Cllr Gary Collins	Thurrock Council
Cllr Arthur Williams	Rochford District Council
Cllr Neil Reeve	Uttlesford District Council

Other persons present

Dave Chapman	Essex County Council
Guy Cooper	Environment Agency
Neil Fenwick	Essex Fire and Rescue
Damien Ghela	Maldon District Council
Paul Hayden	RFCC
Martyn Hare	Essex Fire and Rescue
James Mason	Environment Agency
Max Marcheselli	Essex County Council
Jo Matthews	Southend Borough Council
Gavin Montella	Southend Borough Council
David Prudence	Essex Highways
Lee Sencier	Essex County Council
Dave Chapman	Essex County Council
Tim Simpson	Essex County Council
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council – Democratic Services
Nicky Spurr	Essex County Council

Mandy Thompson
Rob Wise

Epping Forest District Council
NFU

1 Online meeting protocol and software functionality

Tim Simpson 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 and noted.

Apologies had been received from:
Councillor Wendy Schmitt – Braintree District Council

No declarations of interest were made.

3 Minutes 09.07.20

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

4 Flood Risk Management Plan Cycle 2 update

The Board received a presentation from Joe Pugsley, Flood Risk Management Advisor, Environment Agency about work being carried out to agree objectives and measures for the next cycle of Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs)

The Board were advised that a FRMP is a requirement of Flood Risk legislation and that there are 7 river basin districts in England, of which the Anglian river basin is one. Mr Pugsley advised that the Plan was both an ambitious and overarching strategic plan which was linked to the National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England.

Presentation can be found [here](#)

The Board raised some issues following the presentation which included:

- Cllr Collins had concerns that the Shoreline Management Plans weren't guaranteeing the protection of the Essex Coast because they didn't include funding to support policy position.
- Where does the budget come from? - it was confirmed that whilst there is no specific budget, it would act as a strategic plan- work can be identified to be completed once resources are available.
- Whether Local Plans are taken into considering- it was confirmed that where Local Plans are in place, they will indeed be considered

- Members felt that it would be useful to map the various partnerships involved and identify the relevant responsibilities

John Meehan gave an update regarding funding in respect of the Climate Action Commission, advising that a Recommendations report will be submitted to Essex County Council in March 2021. The report will reflect the work of the 5 Special Interest Groups: Transport, Built Environment, Energy and Waste, Land Use and Green Infrastructure. It will recommend extensive use of SuDS and Green infrastructure to absorb flood water.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pugsley for his presentation.

5 **Emergency Services Flood Response**

The Board received a presentation from Martyn Hare, Emergency Planning Officer, Essex Fire and Rescue about the work they and other emergency services carry out in relation to flood risk.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

Key issues pointed out included:

- 485 flooding incidents involving properties between Jan 2019 and June 2020
- ECFRS water rescue assets within the County.
- 114 incidents where persons required rescuing from mud or wash
- Animal rescue within the County

Jonathan Glerum of Anglian Water enquired about the working relationship with Anglian Water's operational team, with Martyn Hare confirming that the relationship was excellent, with collaborative working applied using the JESIP principles.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hare for an informative presentation.

6 **Innovative Resilience Fund**

The Board received a presentation from Guy Cooper, FCRM Senior Advisor, Environment Agency, about the Innovative Resilience funding pot, which is being made available to Lead Local Flood Authorities and Coastal Authorities.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

The Board were advised that the funding will vary but on average it will be for approximately £6m per project. The programme will run for 6 years from 1 April 2021 and end of 31st March 2027.

Mr Cooper also drew the Board's attention to some upcoming webinars, the dates of which were included in the presentation.

Councillor Turner enquired as to whether irreplaceable heritage assets would be included in the funding. Guy Cooper explained that the focus will be on housing and communities, and that a bid could not be submitted based solely on such heritage sites.

Paul Hayden of RFCC, advised that in his experience, the more ambitious schemes tended to be more successful. He advised that multi policy areas should be included and that he was happy to give his assistance.

The Chair thanked Mr Cooper for his presentation.

7 Surface Water Management Plan Update

The Board received a presentation from Lee Sencier, Development and Flood Risk Manager, on the progress of 2 New surface water Management Plans (SWMPs), update to the existing plans and new action plans to support those updates.

Dave Chapman advised that this form the basis of future Capital Funding planning.

The Chair requested that a glossary be included in the published version for explanation purposes.

Presentation can be found [here](#).

8 2020/21 Essex Capital Flood Programme Update

The Board received a report (**EFPB/04/20**) and a presentation from Dave Chapman, Project Delivery Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Capital Programme.

Mr Chapman explained that in 2020/21 the funding from ECC was initially deferred for a year so the expectation was that there would be the need to generate all funds from external sources. However, through negotiation with the Essex's finance team an advance of £950,000 from next year's capital programme had been secured.

He further advised that he was pleased to announce that the Flood Team have recently submitted four applications to the Green Recovery Challenge fund. The schemes are all aimed at delivering small scale NFM measures that will address surface water flood risk and enhance the biodiversity and ecology of our sites. ECC have also partnered with Trees for Cities on the bids, so that include areas of new tree planting can be included. If the bids are successful, the projects will run until the end of the 2021/22 financial year and are 100% funded. The application process will take approximately five weeks to determine so an update will be available at the next Flood Board meeting.

Councillor Turner raised the issue regarding the situation concerning the Thorpe-le -Soken scheme, which was clarified by David Prudence of Essex Highways.

9 Any Other Business

Jonathan Glerum of Anglian Water raised an issue concerning some recent press coverage in respect of some flooding to a school in Braintree. There appeared to be some criticism of Anglian Water by Essex Highways, and he felt that there needed to be better partnership working. David Prudence stated that he had no knowledge of this and would contact Mr Glerum following the meeting.

10 Date of next meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 27th January at 10 am, either online or at County Hall, Chelmsford.

The meeting closed at 12.25pm

Chairman