
Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 25 January 2018 at 10.00 am

Present:

Members of the Board:

Cllr Simon Walsh (Chairman)	Essex County Council
Cllr Will Breare-Hall	Epping Forest District Council
Kathryn Dedman	Essex County Council
Cllr Frank Ferguson (substitute for Cllr Allan Ball)	Basildon Borough Council
Cllr Ray Howard	Castle Point Borough Council
Rachel Keen	Environment Agency
John Meehan	Essex County Council
Cllr Andrew St Joseph	Maldon District Council
Graham Verrier	Environment Agency

Other persons present

Milaila Bentz	Southend Borough Council
Trudie Bragg	Castle Point Borough Council
Lee Crabb	Braintree District Council
Qasim Durrani	Epping Forest District Council
James Ennos	Tendring District Council
Shirley Hall	Braintree District Council
Paul Hayden	RFCC
Oladipo Lafinhan	Essex County Council
David Prudence	Essex Highways
Lee Sencier	Essex County Council
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council - Democratic Services
Tim Simpson	Essex County Council
Rob Wise	National Farmers Union

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. The membership of the Board was unchanged since the last meeting.

2. The following apologies were noted:

Cllr Ball – Basildon District Council– Cllr Ferguson attending as a substitute
Cllr Purton – Harlow District Council
Cllr Skeels – Tendring DC
Cllr Sperring – Rochford District Council
Dave Bill – Essex Fire and Rescue Services
Jonathan Glerum – Anglian Water
Graeme Kasselmann – Thames Water
Peter Massie - ECC

3. There were no declarations of interest

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With regards to minute 6 (Highways Surface Water Alleviation Schemes), Councillor Howard asked for a progress update regarding Ouida Road in Canvey Island. David Prudence of Essex Highways advised that the Canvey Island Surface Water Alleviation Schemes (SWAS) are currently progressing through the design stage prior to delivery on the ground. The design team contacted him recently with the view that the SWAS schemes are inextricably linked with Anglian Water infrastructure issues in the same locations. He had arranged for a teleconference that afternoon between Jonathan Glerum from Anglian Water and Geoff Wood from the Jacobs design team to discuss how to work in partnership on these schemes. He advised that he will be de-briefed by Geoff Wood next week at which time he will provide Cllr Howard with an update on the situation.

3 CFIF Experience From A District/Borough Perspective

The Board received a PowerPoint presentation from:

- Dean James and Patrick Bailly, Harlow District Council and
- James Ennos, Tendring District Council

The presentations gave pictorial examples of the schemes that were completed by the two District Councils as a result of the funding received from the Community Flood Improvement Fund (CFIF).

The Board were advised that all the schemes were very successful and

would not have been possible without the CFIF funding.

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman thanked the officers for their presentations. He encouraged other district councils to get in contact with the Flood team if they had similar schemes with which they needed similar assistance.

4 **Capital Programme update**

The Board received report **EFPB/1/18** and verbal update from Dave Chapman, Delivery & Enforcement Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Capital Programme and the Outline Business Case for 2018/19.

Members were reminded of the three elements of the capital flood programme:

- Property Level Protection (PLP)
- Community Flood Improvement Fund (CFIF)
- Capital funded Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS)

Dave Chapman gave the Board details of forecast external funding of £1.6m as set out in report **EFPB/1/18**. He advised that approximately 450 properties are set to benefit from reduced surface water flood risk as a result of the programme, which is greater than the original target of 377.

The Board were shown pictorial examples of completed schemes.

Graham Verrier from the Environment Agency (EA) advised that there would be further flexibility in the grant applications processes to the EA. The level of approval at which the Area Flood Risk Manager could approve funding applications has been increased for grant applications less than £100k to grant applications less than £500k and they will be working with the Flood team in this regard.

Dave Chapman advised that ECC were currently in the process of bidding for additional 'natural flood management' scheme delivery funding from the EA.

Councillor Howard gave his thanks to all those involved in the schemes delivered in Castle Point and John Meehan spoke of the benefits of the works, which are examples of multi benefit green infrastructure.

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

5 **Essex Property Level Resilience update**

The Board received report **EFPB/2/18** and a verbal update from Oladipo Lafinhan, Flood Partnerships Funding Co-ordinator, regarding an update on Property Level Resilience (PLR).

The Board were advised that there is currently no ECC funding allocated for the continuation of the PLR scheme in 2018/19 and beyond. However, external funding has been secured from the E A and further funding is being sought.

Furthermore, an agreement has been made with Thurrock Council to deliver a number of PLR installations to its residents. The costs of the PLR installations would be recovered for Thurrock through a combination of Environment Agency and Anglian Water funding.

Members were informed of the progress made in the delivery of the 2017/18 phase of the project and that approval is being sought to tender for the selection of a preferred consultant to manage and deliver the 2018/19 phase of the PLR project.

Paul Hayden RFCC Anglian Eastern Chairman encouraged ECC to seek additional funding from the RFCC and from the EA.

The Board were informed of a visit to Canvey Island by Sir James Bevan. Graham Verrier gave the Board details of the visit, which included a visit to Castle Point Borough Council officers. The visit was in response to a request made by Sir James. Mr Verrier explained that Sir James witnessed a PLR project being installed and met with a local resident, hearing about her flood experience. This enabled him to understand how the scheme worked in practice. Mr Verrier thanked all those involved with the visit.

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

6 Essex Community Flood Improvement Fund update

The Board received report **FFPB/3/18** and verbal update from Oladipo Lafinhan, Flood Partnerships Funding Co-ordinator, regarding an update on Community Flood Improvement Fund (CFIF).

The report gave details of the 13 applications received thus far in the 2018/19 phase, with the potential to reduce flood risk to 87 residential properties. Pictorial examples were included in the report and shown to the Board during the update.

The Board were informed of the observations made during the implementation of the 17/18 phase of this grant and of proposed changes which would further encourage increased take up and efficient delivery and implementation of future phases of the CFIF grant.

The observation included the issues experienced by parish councils and in order to assist in this issue, some District Councils have provided expertise

in connection with the CFIF application process. It is hoped that this could be replicated County-wide.

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

7 **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy- A New Approach**

The Board received a PowerPoint presentation from Kat Dedman, Local Flood Authority Manager, on the review and communication of ECC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The Board were reminded that a presentation was given at the October meeting by Better Agency who are working on behalf of ECC in this review. Members were given an overview of the objectives with the emphasis on engagement with the public and with developers in the County.

Members were informed that the Formal strategy document is being re-written and that website updates being planned for completion to coincide with Strategy.

A discussion followed regarding various ways to increase public awareness.

At the end of the item the Chairman advised that Kat Dedman will shortly be leaving ECC to take up a post at the Environment Agency. On behalf of the Board the Chairman offered his thanks to Kat for all her hard work and wished her well for the future.

8 **Essex Surface Water Management Plan Update**

The Board received report **FFPB/4/18** and PowerPoint presentation from Lee Sencier Watercourse Regulation Engineer.

The Board were advised that ECC has recently undertaken a review of the numbers of properties at risk of pluvial flooding across the county. The review has been carried out to capture the most up to date standards, modelling methods and data availability. Full details of the review were set out in the above mentioned report.

Some key changes in the way national flood mapping data is produced and the method/ criteria used to identify properties at risk of pluvial flooding has led to some significant changes in the flood risk area rankings to be reported in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The report highlighted observations made during the review of properties at risk of pluvial flooding across Essex, along with the Surface Water Management Plan hydraulic modelling update. It also included details of changes to the numbers of properties identified as being at risk of surface water flooding across Essex and reclassification of flood risk areas for inclusion in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. This will be the subject of approval via the ECC governance process.

The Board were also asked to note the update to the existing SWMP hydraulic modelling, revised CDA boundaries and revised properties at risk counts are to be adopted as a technical addendum to the existing Surface Water Management Plans for Essex which will be subject to approval via the ECC governance process.

Councillor Howard raised an issue regarding the River Roach in his District. John Meehan explained the difficulties due to the geographic setting and that consequently solutions are limited.

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

9 Any Other Business

Councillor St Joseph requested an update regarding Minute 7 of the meeting of 5th October, concerning the scheme in Heybridge. Dave Chapman provided an update but advised that despite all efforts being made, unfortunately this scheme was not financially viable and that other alternative routes would need to be used.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 5th April 2018 at 10.00am County Hall Chelmsford.

The meeting closed at noon.

Chairman