
Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held Online on Thursday, 11 May 2023

Present:

Members of the Board:

Cllr Lewis Barber	Essex County Council
Marc Inman	Essex County Council
Peter Massie	Essex County Council
John Meehan	Essex County Council
Cllr Gary Collins	Thurrock Council
Cllr Steph Nissen	Colchester City Council
Cllr Nicky Purse	Harlow District Council
Cllr Sue White	Maldon District Council
Cllr Nick Turner	Tendring District Council
Cllr Ken Williamson	Epping Forest District Council

Also present:

David Chapman	Essex County Council
Michael Cross	Tendring District Council
Robert Davy	Basildon Borough Council
Aaron Dixey	Environment Agency
Josie Falco	Braintree District Council
Damien Ghela	Maldon District Council
Doug Mlambo	Anglian Water
Matt Moore	Anglian Water
Tom Palmer	Southend-on-Sea City Council
Richard Powell	RFCC
David Prudence	Essex Highways
Tim Simpson	Essex County Council
Lucy Shepherd	Essex County Council
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council – Democratic Services
Jeff Stacey	Rochford District Council
Mandy Thompson	Epping Forest District Council
Grant Tuffs	Anglian Water
Navtej Tung	Thurrock Council

1 Online meeting protocol and software functionality

Cllr Lewis Barber 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.

It was noted that Cllr Wendy Schmitt had not stood for re-election for Braintree District Council at the recent elections and that a new Board representative would be appointed.

Apologies had been received from:

- Cllr Lee Scott- ECC- Cllr Lewis Barber acted as Chair in his place
- Cllr Richard Pavitt- Uttlesford District
- Cllr Richard Moore- Basildon Borough Council
- Cllr Mike Mackrory- Chelmsford City Council
- Jonathan Glerum- Anglian Water- Matthew Moore
And Grant Tuffs attended on his behalf

No declarations of interest were made

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023 were approved as a correct record.

4 Amendments to the Essex Flood Partnership Board Terms of Reference

The Board received a report (**EFPB 02/23**) from Marc Inman, Lead Local Flood Authority Manager, regarding amendments to the Essex Flood Partnership Board Terms of Reference

The Board noted the report.

5 Water Strategy Update

The Board received a presentation from Lucy Shepherd, Essex Water Strategy Manager, in relation to the Essex Water Strategy.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

Cllr Nick Turner raised points regarding the adequate collection of water by the water companies and repeated his request for there to be clarification of the relationship between OFWAT and the water companies.

In response to a question raised by Cllr Nicky Purse, Lucy clarified the nature of the public engagement campaign.

6 Delivery Update and Overview from the Environment Agency

The Board received a presentation from Aaron Dixey, Flood Risk Manager for Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk which provided an overview of the Environment Agency's (EA) work in flood risk management.

He advised that EA's remit is dictated by legislation and funding comes from a variety of sources. Money for flood risk activities comes mainly from central government Grant In Aid as well as Local Levy and some other local income sources. EA administers grant on behalf of all Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) in accordance with Defra policy. EA's flood risk role centres around providing advice, regulating activities, and maintaining and operating a wide asset base. EA has a strategic overview for all RMAs, administering grant, providing oversight and guidance, sharing expertise, and reporting back to government.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

7 2023/24 Essex Capital Flood Programme update

The Board received a report **EFPB/03/23** from Dave Chapman, Project Delivery Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Floods Capital Programme

The Board noted the report.

8 Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Board received a presentation from Tim Simpson, Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Manager, in relation to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

Tim gave an overview of the LNRS regulations and statutory guidance.

Cllr Sue White expressed her concern regarding the use of generic reports by Natural England and issues concerning local wildlife sites being run by amateur bodies.

Both Cllr White and Turner raised additional issues including around the planning process. As mentioned in item 9 below, there is a proposal to

bring a future item to the Board regarding SuDs and the planning process which will provide clarification.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

9 Combined Sewer Overflows

The Board received a presentation from Doug Mlambo, Anglian Water (AW) regarding Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and the implementation of a Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan.

Following the presentation several Members raised concerns regarding sewer maintenance and discharge.

Matt Moore from Anglian Water provided clarification explaining the use of SuDs by AW.

Cllr White expressed her concerns regarding the lack of adequate maintenance of ditches.

John Meehan suggested that a future item on the use of SuDs be brought before the Board to provide clarity.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

10 Anglian Water Update

Matt Moore, Anglian Water gave an update presentation regarding Anglian Water (AW).

The Board were advised that a new team had been created, with Molly Tucker being the coastal catchment manager for Essex.

Some members raised particular issues and it was felt that there was an overlap with the remit of the EA. Members were asked to contact the relevant agencies directly with details of their particular concerns/issues.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

11. Partner Updates

There were none

12 Any Other Business

Cllr Nick Turner raised an issue regarding sluice gates in his division and asked whether any other Members had experienced similar issues. He also advised the Board that an area within his division was being considered for UNESCO World Heritage Status

John Meehan expanded upon the UNESCO Status explaining to the Board about the East Atlantic Flyway.

13 Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed, to be held online.

The meeting closed at 2.15pm

Chair