
Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held Online on Thursday, 18 February 2021**Present:****Members of the Board:**

Cllr Simon Walsh (Chairman)	Essex County Council
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 Stephen Nunn	Maldon District Council
Lucy Shepherd	Essex County Council
Cllr Nick Turner	Tendring District Council
Cllr Arthur Williams	Rochford District Council
Cllr Neil Reeve	Uttlesford District Council
Dave Chapman	Essex County Council
Honor Drummond	Anglian Water
James Ennos	Tendring District Council
Damien Ghela	Maldon District Council
Martyn Hare	Essex Fire and Rescue
James Mason	Environment Agency
Max Marcheselli	Essex County 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
Mandy Thompson	Epping Forest District Council
Navtej Tung	Thurrock Council
Rob Wise	NFU

1 Online meeting protocol and software functionality

Lucy Shepherd 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 it was noted that Councillor Stephen Nunn was the new member for Maldon District Council.

Apologies had been received from:
Councillor Gary Collins– Thurrock Council
Jonathan Glerum- Anglian Water
Peter Massie - ECC

No declarations of interest were made.

3 Minutes 15.10.20

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2020 were approved as a correct record.

4 Flood Incidents and Investigations

The Board received a presentation from Charlotte Palmer, Flood Investigation Engineer regarding the recent flooding incidents in Essex and recap Essex County Council's Flood Investigation responsibilities as Lead Local Flood Authority.

The presentation focused on Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 which states that “On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate....”. The presentation gave details of ECC's criteria, the flood investigation process, and details of a case study.

In response to a Member question, Charlotte Palmer gave some clarification regarding responsibilities for blocked ditches. This included the use of historic mapping, with Martyn Hare from Essex Fire and Rescue offering to provide assistance in this regard.

Councillor Sheldon asked for advice in the case where a District Authority's asset mapping is not up to date, Ms Palmer advised that ECC's mapping officer could pass on information regarding the digitisation of mapping.

The presentation can be found [here](#).

The Chairman offered his personal thanks to Charlotte and all those involved for all their hard work.

Enquiries regarding local issues were dealt with following the meeting.

5 Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMPs)

The Board received a presentation from Honor Drummond, Anglian Water

regarding progress with Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

6 **2020-21 Essex Capital Flood Programme update**

The Board received a report (EFPB/01/21) and a presentation from Dave Chapman, Project Delivery Manager, on the progress of schemes in the Capital Programme.

The PowerPoint presentation gave pictorial examples of two completed schemes. The presentation can be found [here](#)

The Chairman asked for clarification regarding the funding contribution provided by ECC during the five-year programme. Mr Chapman confirmed that it was £19.4m and that £9m had been received from external grant funding.

The Board **NOTED** the report

7 **Innovative Resilience Programme Essex EOI Bid**

To receive Report (EFPB/02/21) and a presentation from John Meehan Head of Sustainability & Resilience and partners, Sustainability and Resilience Team, regarding the Innovative Resilience funding expression of interest, which is being made by ECC and key partners.

The Board were advised that this was a scheme being promoted by the Environment Agency. The programme will allocate £150 million of the £200million to 25 areas in England. Each of the selected partnership projects will receive on average £6 million between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2027.

Details of the bid submitted by ECC were set out in the above-mentioned report and in the presentation.

In response to a Member's question, John Meehan, and Peta Denham (Environment Agency) explained the overall aim which is to add new ideas and ways of working to make the County more resilient.

John Meehan confirmed that the Board would be updated with any developments with its bid.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

The Board **NOTED** the report

8 **Essex Climate Action Commission Update**

The Essex Climate Action Commission has set up 5 Special Interest Groups to bring forward recommendations. The Land Use & Green Infrastructure Special Interest Group has been meeting since July 2020 and has developed recommendations for a Land Use & Green Infrastructure Climate Action programme, covering both the whole County and a Climate Focus Area within the County.

The objective of the Land Use & Green Infrastructure Climate Action (LUGICA) programme is to achieve a transformation in land management in Essex that delivers net zero carbon as quickly as possible and to do it in a way that also delivers multiple benefits such as net gain for biodiversity, improved soil health, improved air quality, reduced flooding, reduced urban heat island effect, and improved amenity, liveability and wellbeing of Essex communities.

John Meehan who chairs the land Use and Green Infrastructure Special Interest Group presented the Recommendations of the Group as part of a presentation which can be found [here](#).

Councillor Reeve enquired as to how Districts can work collaboratively with the Commission, with it being confirmed that going forward there would be involvement with District authorities.

The Chairman also confirmed that he chaired a meeting of Environmental leaders, with representatives from all Districts.

Councillor Nunn raised the issue of the proposed power station at Bradwell-on-Sea. This was clarified by Samantha Kennedy who is explained that this was not in fact considered by the Commission, as it is in fact a decision that is being taken by Government.

In response to a point raised by Councillor Turner, there followed a discussion regarding agriculture and land use.

9 Any Other Business

None

10 Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 29th April at 10 am, likely to be held online.

The meeting closed at noon.

Chairman