




MINUTES

Title:		Suffolk Flood Management Partnership (SFRMP)	
Date:		21 April 2016	
Place:		NFU Offices, Newmarket	
Time:		09:30-12:00	
Attendees:		Matt Hullis, SCC, CHAIRMAN Jane Burch, SCC Giles Bloomfield, East Suffolk IDB Peter Barrett ESW Simon Curl, SCC Steff Jones, SCC John Grayling, BDC/MSDC Neal Evans, Suffolk Resilience Forum James Williams, EA Kate Lindsay, EA Steve Boor, SCC Highways Andrew Murray-Wood,, SCC Rob Wise, NFU Phillip Rowson, SCDC/WDC	MH JB GB PB SC SJ JG NE JW KL SB AMW RW PR
Apologies:		Chris Fry, Babergh DC Jonathan Glerum, AW Bill Parker, SCDC/WDC Coastal Management Team Andrew Newton, Ely Group IDB Will Akast, EA	
Item No.	Item Description	Relevant business considered, facts noted, the decision taken and its rationale	Actions /Papers
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	MH welcomed everyone to the meeting and listed apologies.	
2.	Land Management and Flood Risk	<p>RW gave a presentation about the new Countryside Stewardship (CS) and how it might support natural flood management – ‘Land Management for Flood Risk Options’.</p> <p>CS brings together a number of previous agri-environment schemes with Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) capital grant scheme. It is considered that environmental and water quality issues are prioritised over flood risk. Application process is onerous and has a number of restrictions which may affect take up. Low financial incentive for some options. CSF map shows much of Suffolk not designated as a priority area for advice provision.</p> <p>Grants for culverting are in conflict with SFRMP culverting policy.</p> <p>Other options for natural flood risk management were outlined including e.g of Stroud where large number of small-scale</p>	 NFU Presentation to SFRP 21-4-16.pptx

		<p>interventions have been delivered by accessing a series of funding pots. Approach could be utilised for work in Debenham. Flood grant in aid can be enhanced by environment programme funds where WFD benefits delivered.</p> <p>AWM highlighted the importance of raising awareness of the cost-saving benefits of natural flood risk management options to planning and engineering groups. He has been working particularly with highways teams.</p> <p>The Essex CC model of small grants for local interventions to alleviate flooding was discussed. It is unlikely such a scheme will be instigated by SCC.</p>	
3.	SuD s and Planning Matters	<p><u>SCC advice on minor developments</u> Planning authorities are seeking advice from SCC on drainage matters in minor developments but these SCC cannot resource all requests, SC to work with PR to develop standard wording for minor development guidance. Revision of major conditions (planned for Autumn) could be used as basis for minor guidance.</p> <p>PR highlighted importance of good working relationship with developers – good example of Jason Skilton and advice to Badger re: microdrainage. The aim is to enable development by finding a suitable drainage solution.</p> <p>MH: Forthcoming additional resource in SCC flooding team will help improve capacity for pre-application and minor development guidance.</p> <p>SC notes that early stage pre-application engagement helps to improve quality of applications. Reference to SuDS requirements in local validation lists vital. PR suggested the list from SCC is too long to incorporate entirely.</p> <p><u>Dishcharging of historic conditions</u> KL confirms EA will continue to offer advice and help.</p> <p><u>Adoption of SuDs by AW</u> J Glerum not present at meeting. Anglian Water is having on-going discussions about adoption of SuDs, but issues encountered around H&S e.g. open ponds would need to be fenced off which is not acceptable to either developers or planning authority in many instances. Most developers opting for management company adoption – which the meeting felt is not ideal as these are at risk of going out of business soon after the site is complete. The issue is establishing secure ongoing funding of maintenance at an early stage. The use of CIL Regulation 123 may help.</p> <p>GB called for assets to be captured / registered on minor developments as this will increase probability of assets being maintained. It was recognised this is challenging as the Lead Local Flood Authority does not comment on minor applications.</p>	<p>SC to discuss changes with PR</p> <p>PR to investigate CIL 123 options</p>
4.	EA Updates	<p><u>Updated Climate Change Advice</u> ‘Adapting to Climate Change - Briefing for area team to circulate to</p>	

		<p>brief external customers' was circulated in meeting Agenda. More detail available from HERE</p> <p>Climate change advice for surface water now includes different epochs and percentiles. Advice suggests 20% allowance for design and an upper estimate of 40% for exceedance design also to be considered. MH noted a trend amongst other LLFAs to request 40% allowance as standard, but accept 20% as an exception.</p> <p>River flow applications are more complex with a range of epochs and percentiles. Attempts being made to make an allowance for minor applications e.g. homeowners. Long-term aim to re-run all models to help prioritise developments by location.</p> <p>EA is beginning to issue objections as people do not consider the correct climate change allowances.</p> <p>MH suggested publishing a guidance note for planning authorities with the 40% allowance as the standard request.</p> <p><u>Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR)</u> New Environmental Permitting Regulations which replace Flood Defence Consents for landowners wishing to work on main rivers. For details see HERE</p> <p>New regulations reflect more risk-based approach. Classifications are: Excluded, Exempt, Standard Rules Permits, Bespoke Permits. No cost - Excluded and Exempt categories. There are strict conditions for Exemptions that may result in Bespoke Permit classification. No exemptions in or adjacent to environmentally designated sites. Cost rising from £50 to £170 per application and eventually onto a sliding scale.</p> <p>Payments for compliance checks also expected in the future.</p> <p>RW noted guidance issued regarding the exemption for dredging 1.5km river if modified channel. The photographs used for guidance results in subjective view.</p> <p>EPR not relevant to consenting on ordinary watercourses.</p>	<p>SC to circulate updated guidance.</p>
5.	<p>SFRM Strategy</p>  <p>SFRMS - Public Summary.pdf</p>	<p><u>Progress update on adoption</u> Group provided updates on adoption of SFRMS. SCC confirmed adoption. BDC/MSDC sign off does not require going through committee. SCDC/WDC – Cabinet member sign off. East Suffolk IDB will raise at board meeting in June. JB brought to attention of Eastern Regional Flood & Coast Committee. Strategy did not need to be endorsed but was acknowledged.</p> <p><u>Communications and Distribution</u> Printed copies of the Strategy were given to members present and will be distributed to others shortly.</p> <p>SJ has established a communication plan to promote the new</p>	<p>ALL notify JB once Strategy endorsed</p>

		<p>Strategy including a Public Summary - draft circulated. This will be promoted to Parish Councils and all partners asked to notify SJ of any other opportunities to promote it.</p> <p>Partnership members asked to include a copy of the Summary or web link on their websites and local authorities to share with Councillors.</p> <p>The SFRMS is available here - http://www.greensuffolk.org/about/SFRMP/</p> <p>If anyone would like further hard copies of the full Strategy please notify SJ.</p> <p><u>Action Plan Review</u> JB circulated action plan for group to update (see website) GB re Line 12 -develop Suffolk-wide investment plans for FCERM. Whilst there is now a 6-year capital programme there is also a need for longer term strategic plan. Agreed to discuss at next meeting.</p> <p>KL - amendment to line 310. Remove ref. to EA.</p>	<p>ALL include Summary on websites</p> <p>SJ to add investment plan to next agenda</p>
6.	<p>Update on key projects & S19 investigations</p>	<p><u>Lowestoft inc Kirkley S19</u> JB updated group on S19 investigation at Kirkley. All actions completed or sufficiently advanced to close the S19. Key activity now is to put in place long term maintenance schedule and agreements about who does what. The wider project for Lowestoft now has a formal Project Board comprising Councillors from SCC and WDC and other funders. Currently finalising the overarching tidal, pluvial and fluvial strategy, but still awaiting pluvial and fluvial data from consultants, risking delaying public consultation scheduled for end of May – mid July.</p> <p><u>Newmarket</u> SC: Aecom to be re-engaged to carry out an economic assessment on a list of possible interventions including upstream work, increasing the bank height and downstream flow improvements. Following this a consultation is to be carried out. It is noted that the 2012 flood event cannot be modelled, indicating a blockage in the middle section. JB reported this is also true on the Kirkley stream, indicating the importance of long-term maintenance as a key flood risk management option.</p> <p><u>Sudbury and Great Cornard</u> SC: It is a high priority to accelerate work on this project. Lots of new potential development. A first draft of a surface water management plan for the area is to be expected in next few months.</p> <p><u>Debenham</u> Few opportunities for traditional flood risk management so currently in discussion with landowners to identify areas to implement natural flood management measures and large storage areas. Strategic Outline Case prepared ready for submission to LPRG before moving onto delivery phase.</p>	

		<p><u>Aldeburgh</u> GB noted that IDB no working on the Aldeburgh Town wall, following EA work after the 2013 flood damage. Local contribution allowing enhancements beyond usual standard to meet Alde & Ore Estuary Plan requirements.</p> <p><u>Kessingland and Benacre Sluice</u> Coastal erosion occurring. Currently managed by EA. Do nothing could result in A12 being inundated with tide within 5-10 years. A project is formulating with a number of partners, led by the Water Management Alliance. Only 11 properties at risk so low levels of FDGiA. GB suggests new approach implementing WFD on channel design for the pump channel. Past approach - trapezoidal channel and no vegetation. Could be used as a case study/lesson for others.</p> <p><u>Others</u> JB noted a few isolated incidents of properties flooded in west of county following heavy rainfall, e.g. Sicklesmere.</p>	
7.	Resilience and emergency planning	<p>At Sicklesmere one property was flooded and two were at risk. Fire service was called to help prevent flooding of the two properties. They requested sandbags but KierMG unable to supply – quoted to SCC policy.</p> <p>NE confirmed policy was revisited after December 2015 flood event and was endorsed - i.e. no sandbags will be provided to individuals, but there use strategically was supported. The policy also supported promotion of property level protection where relevant and support for local flood groups.</p> <p>The provision of sandbags or modern equivalent for use in multi-agency strategic approach will be revisited now Keir MG has taken on highways responsibilities. Also worth exploring role of fire service and their ability to hold flood sacs or similar for use in such situations.</p> <p>JB advised that in Essex the flood team and fire service work more closely with the fire service taking a proactive role in flood prevention as well as managing incidents. It is noted that SCC currently has a joint portfolio holder for Environment and Public Protection (Cllr Matthew Hicks) and that exploring this approach in Suffolk might be worthwhile.</p> <p>JW outlined the extended flood line facility operated by EA but available to respond to all forms of flooding. Local Authorities provide answers to FAQs to be used by the operators. NE will obtain FAQs from other Councils (some generic) can be used to help SCC create theirs..</p>	NE to provide FAQ for extended floodline
8.	Review of Minutes from last meeting 19/02/2016	Outstanding actions from last meeting were reviewed – see below table.	 2016-01-19 SFRMP Minutes.docx
ACTIONS from 19th January 2016			

Item reference	What	Who	Complete
2. Strategy	KL to seek evidence to support the inclusion of Halesworth as a priority town	Kate Lindsay	KL: some evidence (hydraulic modelling) carried out in 2012. KL to share evidence.
	All to submit any final feedback and officer endorsement by 5 Feb and advise of timescales for their organisations to complete political sign off	ALL	Complete
	Briefing note/headline to be created/shared with all councillors	Jane Burch/All LA partners	Complete
3. F'stowe Sudbury & Gt Cornard SWMP Leiston Other projects	Anglian Water to report review of trash screens and surface water capacity	J Glerum	J Glerum not present
	Investigate soakaways/downpipes as cause of apparent ground water flooding.	Jason Skilton	Complete
	SC to identify funding needed and what it will deliver (by ~29/01/2016). Local Councillors to be advised of revised scope of project	Simon Curl S Curl/J Grayling	Complete Outstanding
	Investigate funding in relation to Leiston and eligibility for flood grant aid	Abi Singleton	Complete
	Debenham – EA national advice on funding natural flood management works DO to circulate full list of highway drainage projects across county to be tackled in priority order	Kate Lindsay Derek Oldham	Complete Outstanding
4. SuDS and Planning matters	All LPA partners are asked to raise inclusion of Flooding on validation lists with relevant planning officers to ensure validation process is changed to include flooding asap.	All LPA partners	Complete
5. PLP	Circulate JBA March 2014 evaluation report of PLP.	Kate Lindsay	Complete
6. EA updates	Invite James Williams to next meeting	Kate Lindsay	Complete
	Share learning from PSCA – BP reports slow progress due to issues with legal time and missing info from EA. Roll over to next meeting.	BP	Oustanding
7. Review of Minutes from last meeting 29/10/2015	Outstanding actions:		
	8. Ensure AW project and Sudbury SWMP aligned Update EA system with SCC project finances	S Curl/J Glerum S Curl	Ongoing Ongoing
	9. Update on Stonelodge Park for next meeting	Denis Cooper	Project

	<p>Project stalled due to indecision in parks department. Project now 'parked'..</p> <p>Include advice on beneficial use of clays in Suffolk SuDS guidance'</p> <p>Karen Thomas currently looking at practicalities of doing this, e.g. movement of waste permit.</p>	Simon Curl	<p>parked.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
AOB	<p>KL: EA and Natural England to align geographical boundaries. It is announced that Natural England will align to EA's boundaries.</p> <p>EA's Norfolk and Suffolk teams will merge with Cambridge and Bedfordshire area and will be called 'East Anglia' by April 2017. Possibly opportunities to align with county boundaries.</p> <p>JB notes that RFCC boundaries will not change.</p> <p>NE: National Flood Resilience Review underway following flooding in north of England over winter 2015. Lessons to be learnt will feed in to how we respond in Suffolk.</p> <p>PB attended National Security and Emergency Work Liaison Forum where it was announced that funding applications for schemes to protect critical infrastructure were to be revisited.</p> <p>MH: Flooding team at SCC is expanding – additional engineer (Luke Mitchell) and a county-wide technician (Jamie Evans). There will then be three engineers and these will be aligned to central, east and west areas and it is intended that they will spend time working from district offices.</p> <p>MH: Scrutiny meeting to be held early June focussing on lessons learned from Kirkley Stream S19 and public engagement.</p> <p>It was suggested that Devolution and its implications for FCERM be added to next agenda.</p>		SJ to note

ACTIONS from 21st April 2016			
Item reference	What	Who	Complete
5. SFRMS	All to notify JB once new Strategy adopted	ALL	
	All to include Public Summary on websites	ALL	
	Add Suffolk-wide investment to next meeting's agenda	SJ	
7. Resilience and emergency planning	NE to provide generic FAQs	NE	
10. AOB	Devolution on next agenda	SJ	