

Witham First District Internal Drainage Board



Annual Report & Statement of Accounts 2023/24 for the year ended 31st March 2024

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Contents

Annual Report 2023/24.....	3
Statement of Accounts 2023/24.....	6
Witham First District Internal Drainage Board, Members 2023/24.....	7
The Annual Governance Statement 2023/24.....	8
The Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts 2023/24.....	9
Statement of Accounting Policies	10
1. General.....	10
2. Non Current Assets.....	10
3. Depreciation.....	10
4. Debtors and creditors.....	11
5. Stock	11
6. Government Grants and Contributions.....	11
7. Leases.....	11
8. Reserves.....	11
9. Provisions.....	12
10. Taxation.....	12
11. Post Balance Sheet Events.....	12
12. Pensions	12
13. Exceptional Items	12
14. Discontinued Operations.....	12
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2024.....	13
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024	14
Notes to the Accounts.....	15
Note 1: Special Levies	15
Note 2: Government Grants & Contributions	15
Note 3: Pension Contributions	15
Note 4: Officers' Remuneration.....	15
Note 5: Public Works Loans Board.	16
Note 6: Audit Fees & Expenses	16
Note 7: Joint Services	16
Note 8: Related Party Transactions.....	17
Note 9: Post Balance Sheet Event.....	17
Note 10: Non Current Assets	17
Note 11: Debtors and Prepayments.....	18
Note 12: Creditors and Receipts in Advance	18
Note 13: FRS102 Pensions	18
Note 14: Funds & Reserves.....	21
Appendix 1- Area of the Board.....	22
Appendix 2 – Structure Chart.....	23
Appendix 3 – Interrelationship between pumped hours, rainfall and electricity costs	24

Witham First District Internal Drainage Board Statement of Accounts & Annual Report 2023/24

Annual Report 2023/24

Witham First District Internal Drainage Board [IDB] is a Public Body, an independent Flood Risk Management and Drainage Authority created under land drainage statutes. The IDB has a duty to work in partnership with other Flood Risk Management Authorities in Lincolnshire including IDBs, the Environment Agency, District Councils and Lincolnshire County Council [In LCC's role as Lincolnshire's Lead Local Flood Authority since April 2012]. The Board is responsible for flood risk, land drainage and water levels management, works and improvement schemes and operational maintenance of water courses and pumping stations within its defined drainage district of 16,384 hectares, other than on main rivers where the Environment Agency has this role and towards which the Board pays an annual IDB precept [£83,031 in 2023/24]. A map of the Board's drainage district and its extended catchment is included at Appendix 1 to this Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.

The Board comprises 28 Members, including Mr David Armstrong (Chairman) and Mr Paul Carrott (Vice Chairman) of the Board since November 2021. Members are either elected by and represent the occupiers of land in the drainage district or they are nominated by one of two District Councils, City of Lincoln Council or North Kesteven District Council. All Members have a corporate responsibility to represent the interests of the Board. The Board's role is to determine strategy, direction and policy for the organisation and to ensure the IDB operates within an appropriate governance framework. The Board is supported by officers, led by a Chief Executive, who advise the Board, implement the Board's agreed strategies, plans and policies and operationally manage and provide the Board's services. The Board's organisational structure chart is provided at Appendix 2. The Board's support services, as this chart demonstrates, are provided to a group of four IDBs, the other three being Upper Witham IDB, Witham Third District IDBs and from 01st April 2017 North East Lindsey IDB joined the partnership under the terms of a new Joint Services Agreement. The 4 Boards remain separate legal statutory bodies but work collectively in a partnership as the "Witham and Humber Drainage Boards".

The Board secures income from two main sources. Firstly, income is secured through a direct levy on owners and occupiers of land within the drainage district, with rates being payable on 01st April each year and totalling £706,850 in 2023/24. Secondly, income is secured through special levies paid by the two District Councils in two instalments on 01st May and 01st November each year, totalling £557,493 for 2023/24 (i.e., City of Lincoln £190,538 and North Kesteven District Council £366,955).

The Special Levy for the following financial year is set at a Board meeting before 15th February each year, when the Board is asked to agree the land valuation as at the previous 31st December, the proposed budget for the forthcoming year [which outlines any planned developments and the plant, vehicle and machinery programme] and any consequent percentage uplift to the penny rate in the pound.

The Board agreed on 24th January 2023 a rate uplift for 2023/24 of 29.0% in order to set a balanced budget of £1,378,027.

After an excessively wet 2012/13, when the Board's Pumps in its 13 Pumping Stations operated for long hours, evidenced by comparative historical records, to protect property, agricultural land and critical infrastructure, since 2014/15 it had been much drier. There have been localised heavy rainfall events of a short duration.

However, there were further high rainfall events during Summer and Autumn 2019/Winter 2020 which resulted in some flooding across Lincolnshire. There were parts of the Witham & Humber Boards' systems that had to deal with water from EA main rivers, whether due to bank breaches, overtopping or excessive bank seepage. This meant that some of the Board's pumps were pumping far more hours than would have been required without this additional water not intended to be received by the Board's systems, which in turn meant excessive additional electricity costs were incurred. Where these lead to internal flooding to property these are subject to a multi-agency Section 19 investigation and report led by Lincolnshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority.

During January and February 2020 there was further heavy rainfall which increased electricity usage to higher than normal, due to catchments remaining saturated from the previous year. Although a much drier year was experienced in 2022/23, significant rainfall has been experienced in 2023/24. In October, Storm Babet brought significant rainfall across Lincolnshire with significant flooding resulting from EA main river breaches, overtopping and excessive seepage. Rain events continued with another significant event in January 2024, Storm Henk which again brought widespread flooding. Due to these rainfall events, the Board incurred electricity costs of £553,907 during 2023/24 compared to an increased budget of £305,000. This was also due to the substantial increase in electricity unit costs and standing charges from October 2022 and again in October 2023. This has been a significant Budgeting issue for 2023/24. At Appendix 3 rainfall data, pumped hours and electricity costs incurred by the Board are set out, showing the inter relationship between them.

The Board is a signatory to the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership. The Board has continued to monitor and record locally important species on all Drains and roll out its programme of owl boxes installation and monitoring in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Partnership. In November 2021 the Board approved a new Nature Strategy, which supersedes the previous Biodiversity Action Plan.

Since April 2012 the Board, in common with other IDBs in Lincolnshire, has provided a consents and enforcements service for and on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council [LCC], the Lead Local Flood Authority in Lincolnshire, beyond the Board's drainage district in its extended rainfall catchment. This service has been provided under a Memorandum of Understanding with LCC for 2023/24.

Examples of the Board's work in 2023/24 include:

- Operation of the Board's 13 Pumping Stations to protect property, agricultural land and critical infrastructure in the drainage district of 16,384 hectares.
- Substantial completion of the Board's Summer 2023 maintenance and weed cutting programme.
- Works undertaken as part of the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA) on behalf of the Environment Agency at Ruskington Catchwater, Anwick Catchwater, Farroway Drain, Digby Beck, Sandhill Beck, Leasingham Beck, Ruskington Beck, Nine Foot River, Old River Slea, River Slea and Ancaster Beck.
- Commencement of a new telemetry scheme to be installed at 12 Witham First pumping stations which will be completed in 2024. These works have been funded by Flood Defence Grant monies at £150,750 in total.
- Agreed the purchase of a Spearhead Aspen machine to increase the flailing capacity of the Board for watercourse maintenance at a cost of £230,457. This machine will arrive for the Summer 2024 season.
- Refurbishment of both pumps at Digby Pumping Station totaling £36,832. This involved the lifting and overhaul of the pumps. This work improves the lifespan of the pumps and is part of the Board's planned annual maintenance programme. Regular checks are also undertaken on the pump control panels to reduce the risk of malfunction and failure.
- Responded to Storm Babet (October 2023) and the subsequent heavy rainfall events which caused water to come into the Board's systems which it was not designed to do so overloading the Board's pumping station assets. A subsequent repair programme now underway at considerable expense.
- Provided a consents and enforcement service for Lincolnshire County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority), under a Memorandum of Understanding to 31.03.24, outside the Board's drainage district in the extended rainfall catchment.
- Continuing with the Board's conservation initiatives including the erection of owl boxes, the leaving of reed margins for water voles, birds and insects and continued membership of the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, annual report and training.

All figures exclude VAT.

The end of year outturn position for the Board, as at 31st March 2024, was a modest surplus of £16,043 (compared with a surplus year-end position of £47,538 in 2022/23), after a budgeted contribution of £15,000 to the Plant & Machinery Reserve. This surplus has been allocated to the General Reserve.

Statement of Accounts 2023/24

The statement of responsibilities:

The Board is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its Officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs.

The Board is required to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of its resources and to safeguard its assets.

The Board's Accountable Officer is the Director of Finance & Governance.

To support its Governance arrangements, the Board approved on 17th September 2019 its Risk Management Policy, Strategy and its Risk Register, which it reviewed and updated again on 30th January 2024. On 14th September 2021 the Board approved a revised set of Financial Regulations and Statement of Internal Control.

The Statement of Accounting Policies:

This statement details the legislation and source of accounting principles on which the financial statements are prepared.

The Income and Expenditure Account:

This statement summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the IDB during 2023/24.

The Balance Sheet:

This statement is fundamental to the understanding of the Board's financial position as at 31st March 2024. It shows the balances and reserves at the Board's disposal and the fixed and net current assets employed in its operation, together with summarised information on the fixed assets held. The statement also includes assets and liabilities of the Board.

Notes to the accounts:

The notes relating to the statements above are detailed after the core statements, including cost centre budgets and variance analysis where appropriate for the period 2023/24 with comparisons to 2022/23.

Witham First District Internal Drainage Board, Members 2023/24

The Board has 28 Members, 21 Members elected by the Occupiers of land within the drainage district and 7 members nominated by the two District Councils who pay Special Levies to the Board, i.e., City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven District Council. Elections of occupiers of land are every 3 years and the latest term of office runs from 01.11.21 to 31.10.24. Council nominated members are for the period of the civic year.

Members 01.04.23 to 31.03.24 were:

Elected Member's Name	Electoral District	Executive Committee Members (8)
David C Armstrong (Chairman)	Nocton & Branston Fen	Yes
Paul Carrott (Vice Chairman)	Nocton & Branston Fen	Yes
Simon Maplethorpe	Anwick	Yes
William Grantham	Billinghay & North Kyme Fen	No
Andrew Means	Billinghay & North Kyme Fen	No
David K Busby	Blankney & Martin Fen	No
Vacancy	Blankney & Martin Fen	N/a
David Leggate	Blankney & Martin Fen	No
Bridget Maplethorpe	Digby	No
Edward Applewhite	Heighington Fen & Lincoln	Yes
Stephen F Cobb	Heighington Fen & Lincoln	Yes
Vacancy	Heighington Fen & Lincoln	N/a
Richard C Hickling	Metheringham & Dunston Fen	No
Ian Mair	Metheringham & Dunston Fen	No
Valerie Stanton	Nocton & Branston Fen	No
Andrew G Hodgson	Ruskington & Dorrington	No
Vacancy (to November 2023)	Sleaford District	No
Cllr Ken Fernandes (From Nov 2023)	Sleaford District	No
Mark D Harrison	Timberland & Thorpe Fen	Yes
Simon B Leggate	Timberland & Thorpe Fen	No
Peter Gilbert	Walcott & Dales Fen	Yes
Mr Ron Oxby	Walcott & Dales Fen	Yes

Nominated Member's Name	Nominating Authority	Executive Committee Members
Cllr Gary Hewson	City of Lincoln Council	No
Cllr Patrick Vaughan	City of Lincoln Council	No
Cllr Ian Carrington	North Kesteven District Council	No
Cllr Mervyn Head	North Kesteven District Council	No
Cllr Peter Lundgren (to May 2023)	North Kesteven District Council	No
Cllr Susan Waring (to May 2023)	North Kesteven District Council	No
Vacancy (to May 23)	North Kesteven District Council	N/a
Cllr Andrew Hagues (From May 2023)	North Kesteven District Council	No
Cllr Leigh Sanders (From May 2023)	North Kesteven District Council	No
Cllr Mike Clarke (From May 2023)	North Kesteven District Council	No

*1 Vacancy on Executive Committee

The Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

We acknowledge as the Members of Witham First District Internal Drainage Board our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, and confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Board's statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024, that:

1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice which could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this Board to conduct its business or manage its finances.
4. We have provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Board and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.

This annual governance statement is approved by the Board and recorded as a Board minute, dated Tuesday, 21st May 2024.

Signed on behalf of Witham First District Internal Drainage Board.

Signed by: Mr. David Armstrong, Chairman.....

Date.....

Signed by: Mrs. Jane E. Froggatt, Chief Executive.....

Date:

**The Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts
2023/24**

The Board is required:

- to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this the Board that officer is the Director of Finance & Governance.
- to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of its resources and safeguard its assets.

The Director of Finance & Governance’s Responsibilities:

The Director of Finance & Governance is responsible for the preparation of the Board's Statement of Accounts which is required to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Board at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2024.

In preparing this statement of accounts, the Director of Finance & Governance has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- compiled the accounts in accordance with the UK GAAP Financial Reporting Standard 102 issued by the Financial Reporting Council and has regard to the proper practices published by the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG), a further update to the Practitioners’ Guide having been issued by JPAG in March 2023.
- applied the accounting concept of a "going concern" by assuming that the IDB will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

The Director of Finance & Governance has:

- kept proper accounting records which were up to date and
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Certificate of the Director of Finance & Governance

This Statement of Accounts 2023/24 is that upon which the Auditor should enter their certificate and opinion. It provides a true and fair view of the financial position of the Board as at 31st March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

Certificate of the Chairman of the Board

I confirm that these accounts have been approved by Witham First District Internal Drainage Board at a meeting held on Tuesday, 21st May 2024.

Signed by: Mr. David Armstrong, Chairman

Date:

Statement of Accounting Policies

1. General

This statement of accounts has been prepared in accordance with the UK GAAP Financial Reporting Standard 102 issued by the Financial Reporting Council and has regard to the proper practices published by the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG), a further update to the Practitioners' Guide having been issued by JPAG in March 2023.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the following accounting concepts:

- Accruals
- Relevance
- Consistency
- reliability
- Comparability
- Understandability
- Materiality
- Going Concern.

2. Non-Current Assets

Non-Current Assets are recognised as expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of fixed assets with a value in excess of £5,000 and with estimated useful lives in excess of one year are capitalised on an accruals basis in the accounts valued on the following basis:

- 2.1 land, operational and non-operational buildings are included in the Balance Sheet at historical cost. Pumping Stations are included in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation (reinstatement cost).
- 2.2 vehicles, plant and equipment are included at depreciated historic cost. A depreciation charge is made against the appropriate income and expenditure code and balances created in the renewal funds based on the life and estimated residual value.
- 2.3 disposals are written off at cost less depreciation. Any surplus/deficit arising is charged to the Income and Expenditure Account and transferred to/from reserves.

3. Depreciation

Land and buildings are not depreciated on the grounds that an on-going repairs and maintenance policy results in an extension of useful life and negates the necessity for material depreciation.

A depreciation charge is made against the running costs of plant and equipment and vehicles on a straight-line basis over their useful economic life, if the value of the plant does not negate the necessity for material depreciation.

The following assumptions are made with regards to life cycle of assets:

Plant

Excavators	7 years
Tractors	7 years
Motor Vehicles	6 years
General equipment	between 4 to 10 years

Pumping Stations

Automated Weed Screen Cleaners	30 Years
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Computer Equipment

All computer equipment	4 Years
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4. Debtors and creditors

The revenue accounts of the Board are maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with FRS18, that is, sums due to or from the Board during the year are included whether the cash has actually been received or paid in the year. If the invoice spans two financial years and the apportionment is not material, then this will be charged to the financial year with the larger portion.

There is no provision for bad debts.

In December 2012 the Board drew down a Public Works Loan Board of £354,480 over a period of 14.5 years for the specific purpose of transferring liability and future maintenance responsibility on 18 bridges and culvert structures from the Board to Lincolnshire County Council. The loan is on a fixed Equal Instalments of Principal (EIP) basis. The first repayment was in June 2013 with 6 monthly payments thereafter.

5. Stock

Stocks are valued in the Balance Sheet on the average price basis with no allowance made for obsolescent and slow-moving items. This is a departure from the requirements of FRS102 which require stocks to be shown at actual cost or net realisable value, if lower. The effect of the different treatment is not material. Full stock takes have been undertaken.

6. Government Grants and Contributions

Government Grants and contributions when received are recognised in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis. Government Grants used for the acquisition of fixed assets have been netted of the asset purchase cost.

7. Leases

The Board has no finance leases. It has entered Operating Leases during 2023/24 that are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account for the period to which it relates for 3 4x4 vehicles and 1 x van.

8. Reserves

A reserves policy was agreed at the Board meeting on 11th February 2014.

- 8.1 Revenue Reserve. The Board's policy is to maintain this balance at approximately 10% to 15% of the annual revenue expenditure.
- 8.2 Plant Renewal Funds. The Board's policy is to build up sufficient funds over the useful economic life of major assets to enable replacement. This is through a depreciation charge as set out in the fixed asset register.
- 8.3 Pumping Station Renewal Fund to update and refurbish pumping stations.
- 8.4 One Off Project reserve is used for any slippage in the financial year for one-off projects that have not yet been completed. The works will then be completed and funded in the following financial year.

Further reserves can be (and have been) agreed by the Board at any Board meeting.

9. Provisions

The Board sets aside provisions where there is a definite liability, but the amount and timing of settlement is not known. Details are given as notes to the accounting statements if a provision has been required.

10. Taxation

Drainage Boards are exempt from Corporation and Capital Gains Tax. Income Tax is paid by employees in the normal way. Value Added Tax is paid/recovered in the usual manner and is only included in the accounts to the extent that it is irrecoverable.

11. Post Balance Sheet Events

Any material post balance sheet events, which did not exist at the date of the balance sheet, have been disclosed as a separate note to the accounts if an event has occurred.

12. Pensions

Pension costs are accounted for on a defined benefits basis.

The Annual Report of Lincolnshire County Council's Superannuation Fund is available from Lincolnshire County Council, Superannuation Section, County Offices, Lincoln, LN1 1YE.

The full Disclosure of Net Pensions Asset/Liability and associated information is contained in the notes to the accounts on an FRS102 basis.

13. Exceptional Items

Any material, exceptional or prior year adjustments will be accounted for once they are known and shown in the accounts and associated notes.

14. Discontinued Operations

The Board had no material operations that it acquired, or which were discontinued in the year.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	Note	31st March 2024 £	31st March 2023 £
Income			
Drainage Rates & Costs		706,850	552,924
Special Levies	1	557,493	426,758
FDGIA Grant/Other Grants	2	37,853	125,625
Highland Water Contributions	2	210,005	23,149
Consents & Enforcement		8,778	8,650
Insurance Claims		0	0
Commutation Payments/Developer Contributions		72,385	0
Rechargeable Works		116,241	123,797
Interest		21,812	4,539
Gains/Losses on the Sale of Surplus Assets		17,200	0
Rent, Wayleaves & Sundry Income		6,522	4,738
Total Income		1,755,139	1,270,180
Expenditure			
Drains		439,338	388,626
Pumping Stations		668,290	257,004
Depot		24,942	15,156
Engineering		85,938	76,194
Conservation		273	273
One Off Schemes		69,513	53,855
Environment Agency Precept		83,031	83,031
Consents & Enforcement		8,778	8,650
Board Administration		20,647	14,936
Joint Administration	7	135,086	122,512
Rechargeable Works		70,976	103,947
Public Works Loan Board Interest	5	26,789	27,372
Contribution to Reserves		112,828	86,770
Wages & Plant Holding Account		16,667	39,316
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)		(24,000)	(55,000)
Total Expenditure		1,739,096	1,222,642
(Surplus)/ Deficit		(16,043)	(47,538)

Signed:




Name: Mr. D. Armstrong

Designation: Chairman

Date: 21st May 2024

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024

	Note	31st March 2024		31st March 2023	
		£	£	£	£
Non Current Assets					
Land & Buildings		2,561,666		2,569,506	
Vehicles and Plant		436,994		332,364	
Other		0		0	
Total Non Current Assets	10		2,998,660		2,901,870
Current Assets					
Stock		0		9,154	
Debtors & Prepayments	11	204,330		93,987	
Short Term Investments		0		0	
Bank & Cash		774,659		811,264	
Total Current Assets			978,989		914,405
Long Term Assets					
LGPS Net Pension Surplus	13	723,000		581,000	
Commuted Sum		85,563		110,010	
			808,563		691,010
Total Assets			4,786,212		4,507,285
Current Liabilities					
Creditors	12	(158,528)		(126,024)	
Short Term Loans		(24,447)		(24,447)	
Total Current Liabilities			(182,975)		(150,471)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			4,603,237		4,356,814
Long Term Liabilities					
Long Term loans		(61,116)		(85,563)	
LGPS Net Pension Liability	13	0		0	
			(61,116)		(85,563)
Total Assets less Liabilities			4,542,121		4,271,251
Represented by:					
Capital Discharged	10		2,998,660		2,901,870
Funds, Balances & Reserves	14		820,461		788,381
Pensions Reserve	13		723,000		581,000
Capital Receipts Unapplied			0		0
Total	14		4,542,121		4,271,251

Signed: .....

Name: Mr. D. Armstrong

Designation: Chairman

Date: 21st May 2024

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1: Special Levies

Special Levies were paid by the following District Councils:

Special Levies	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
City of Lincoln Council	190,538	147,704
North Kesteven District Council	366,955	279,054
	557,493	426,758

Note 2: Government Grants & Contributions

The following grants and contributions were received from the Environment Agency:

Government Grants	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Flood Defence Grant in Aid	27,955	125,625
Other Grants	9,898	0
Highland Water	210,005	23,149
	247,858	148,774

Note 3: Pension Contributions

In 2023/24 the Board paid an employer's contribution rate of 19.3% with no lump sum (19.3% + £0k in 2022/23) of each employee's gross pay into Lincolnshire County Council's Superannuation Fund. This amounted to £52,400 in 2023/24 (£55,729 in 2022/23). Further pension disclosures are shown in the FRS102 Pension Note below.

Note 4: Officers' Remuneration

Remuneration of Employees	2023/24	2022/23
<i>Remuneration band</i>		
80,000 - 89,999	1	0
70,000 - 79,999	0	1
60,000 - 69,999	0	0
50,000 - 59,999	0	0

There is one Officer employed by the Board, the Director of Engineering & Technical Services, who has a gross annual salary in the £80,000 to £89,999 banding and is charged to Engineering. This Officer is also the Director of Engineering & Technical Services for Witham Third District IDB, Upper Witham IDB and North East Lindsey IDB and is recharged in accordance with the Joint Services Agreement of 01st April 2017.

The Chief Executive, who is employed by Witham Third District IDB but provides a service as joint Chief Executive for this Board, Upper Witham IDB, North East Lindsey IDB and Witham Third DIDB, has remuneration in the £90,000 to £99,999 banding and is recharged in accordance with the Joint Services Agreement of 01st April 2017.

There is one Officer employed by Witham Third District IDB, the Director of Finance & Governance, who has remuneration in the banding £80,000 to £89,999. This Officer is the Director of Finance & Governance for this Board, Upper Witham IDB, North East Lindsey IDB and Witham Third DIDB and is recharged in accordance with the Joint Services Agreement of 01st April 2017.

There is one Officer employed by Witham Third District IDB, the Director of Operations, who has remuneration in the banding £80,000 to £89,999. This Officer is the Director of Operations for this Board, Upper Witham IDB, North East Lindsey IDB and Witham Third DIDB and is recharged in accordance with the Joint Services Agreement of 01st April 2017.

There is one Officer employed by Upper Witham IDB, the Head of Engineering & Technical Services, who has remuneration in the banding £50,000 to £59,999. This Officer is the Head of Engineering & Technical Services for this Board, Upper Witham IDB, North East Lindsey IDB and Witham Third DIDB and is recharged in accordance with the Joint Services Agreement of 01st April 2017. This Officer retired in November 2023.

The Joint Services Agreement of 01st April 2017 currently allocates costs of 30% to Upper Witham IDB, 20% to North East Lindsey IDB, 20% to Witham First DIDB and 30% to Witham Third DIDB.

Note 5: Public Works Loans Board.

An application was made to DEFRA for permission to take out a loan in order to transfer, under a legal agreement, future maintenance liability for 18 Bridges and Culvert structures to Lincolnshire County Council [the Highways Authority]. Permission was given in writing by DEFRA on 09th November 2012 and the monies were received on 17th December 2012. This loan is for £354,480 from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and is to be repaid over a period of 14.5 years at an interest rate of 2.41% per annum, the first repayment made in June 2013 and then six monthly thereafter. Agreement was reached with Lincolnshire County Council on the transfer of the future maintenance liability for the bridges and culverts on 19th January 2015 and the sum of £350,981 was transferred on 22nd January 2015 to finalise the matter.

Note 6: Audit Fees & Expenses

The fees paid to the Board's external auditors (PKF Littlejohn LLP) for 2023/24 are £2,100 (£2,100 in 2022/23).

Note 7: Joint Services

The Board is party to a Joint Services Agreement of 01st April 2017 between Upper Witham IDB, North East Lindsey IDB, Witham First DIDB and Witham Third DIDB for the provision of certain functions. Recharges are made for the Chief Executive, Finance and Administration Services, GIS & Environment Officer, Engineering Services and Director of Operations & Engineering on the following proportions: 30% to Upper Witham IDB, 20% to North East Lindsey IDB, 20% to Witham First DIDB and 30% to Witham Third DIDB.

Joint Services	Total Charge for 2023/24				
	UW 30.0%	NEL 20.0%	W1 20.0%	W3 30.0%	TOTAL 100.0%
	£	£	£	£	£
Joint Administration					
Witham House (UW)	13,957	9,305	9,305	13,957	46,524
Joint Admin (UW)	16,629	11,086	11,086	16,630	55,431
Joint Admin (W1)	172,043	114,695	114,695	172,042	573,475
Total Joint Admin	202,629	135,086	135,086	202,630	675,431
Engineering & Operational Services					
Engineering & Operational Services (	36,506	24,337	24,337	36,505	121,685
Engineering & Operational Services (	96,265	64,177	64,177	96,266	320,885
Engineering & Operational Services (	23,783	15,855	15,855	23,783	79,276
Total Engineering & Operational	156,554	104,369	104,369	156,554	521,846
Total Inter Recharges between Boards	359,183	239,455	239,455	359,184	1,197,277

Note 8: Related Party Transactions

Board Members are either elected by and represent the occupiers and ratepayers of land in the Board's area (and are ratepayers) or are nominated by City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven District Council who pay Special Levies.

Land is rented by the Board to Mr Peter Gilbert and an irrigation dam to Mr Steve Cobb both of whom were Board Members during the financial year.

Note 9: Post Balance Sheet Event

There are no post balance sheet events that are material to the accounts and require disclosure.

Note 10: Non-Current Assets

Non Current Assets	Land & Buildings	Depot	Plant & Vehicles	Office Equip	Pumping Stations	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£	£
Closing Balance 31/03/23	82,160	25,910	988,208	0	2,607,725	3,704,003
Additions			212,675			212,675
Reclassification						0
Disposals			(128,710)			(128,710)
Closing Balance 31/03/24	82,160	25,910	1,072,173	0	2,607,725	3,787,968
Depreciation						
Opening Balance 01/04/23	0	0	655,843	0	146,290	802,133
Depreciation Charged			96,046		7,839	103,885
Reclassification						0
Disposals Written Out			(116,710)			(116,710)
Closing Balance 31/03/24	0	0	635,179	0	154,129	789,308
Net Book Value 31/03/23	82,160	25,910	332,365	0	2,461,435	2,901,870
Net Book Value 31/03/24	82,160	25,910	436,994	0	2,453,596	2,998,660

The above Capital has been financed as follows:

Capital Discharged	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Capital Receipts Applied	60,765	60,765
Revenue Contributions	2,562,751	2,562,751
Renewals Fund	981,392	897,427
Revaluation Reserve	183,060	183,060
less Depreciation	(789,308)	(802,133)
	2,998,660	2,901,870

Note 11: Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors & Prepayments	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Drainage Ratepayers	2,599	5,912
Sundry Debtors & Prepayments	115,333	55,382
HMRC	86,398	32,693
	204,330	93,987

Note 12: Creditors and Receipts in Advance

Creditors & Receipts in Advance	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Drainage Ratepayers	(101)	(101)
Sundry Creditors	(152,907)	(120,117)
HMRC	(5,520)	(5,806)
Payroll Deductions	0	0
	(158,528)	(126,024)

Note 13: FRS102 Pensions

The following disclosures are based upon the 'March 2024 FRS102 Report' prepared by Barnett Waddingham LLP, the fund Actuaries for the Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund (previous Actuaries were Hymans Robertson LLP).

The impact on the Balance Sheet is:

Balance Sheet	31/03/24	31/03/23
	£000's	£000's
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(1,873)	(1,806)
Fair value of Fund assets (bid value)	2,596	2,387
Net (Under)/Overfunding in Funded Plans	723	581
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities	0	0
Unrecognised Past Service Cost		
Net Asset/(Liability)	723	581
Amount in the Balance Sheet		
Liabilities		
Assets	723	581
Net Asset/(Liability)	723	581

The Fair Value of the Employer Assets can be analysed as follows:

Balance Sheet	31/03/24	31/03/23
	£000's	£000's
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(1,873)	(1,806)
Fair value of Fund assets (bid value)	2,596	2,387
Net (Under)/Overfunding in Funded Plans	723	581
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities	0	0
Unrecognised Past Service Cost		
Net Asset/(Liability)	723	581
Amount in the Balance Sheet		
Liabilities		
Assets	723	581
Net Asset/(Liability)	723	581

The impact on the Income and Expenditure Account is:

Recognition in the income and expenditure account	31/03/24	31/03/23
	£000's	£000's
Current Service Cost	74	109
Net interest on the defined liability (asset)	(30)	(1)
Administration expenses	2	2
Total	46	110

The Defined Benefit Obligation consists of:

Reconciliation of Defined Benefit Obligation	31/03/24	31/03/23
	£000's	£000's
Opening Defined Benefit Obligation	1,806	2,368
Current Service Cost	74	109
Interest Cost	84	60
Change in financial assumptions	1	(646)
Change in demographic assumptions	0	(75)
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	0	81
Liabilities assumed / (extinguished) on settlements	0	0
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(113)	(111)
Past service costs, including curtailments	0	0
Contributions by Scheme participants and other empl	21	20
Unfunded pension payments	0	0
Closing Defined Benefit Obligation	1,873	1,806

The Fair Value of Employee Assets consists of:

Reconciliation of Fair Value of Employee Assets	31/03/24	31/03/23
	£000's	£000's
Opening Fair Value of Employer Assets	2,387	2,369
Interest on assets	114	61
Return on assets less interest	137	(55)
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	0	49
Administration expenses	(2)	(2)
Contributions by employer including unfunded	52	56
Contributions by Scheme participants and other employers	21	20
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(113)	(111)
Settlement prices received / (paid)	0	0
Closing Fair value of Fund assets	2,596	2,387

The following assumptions have been used by the Actuary in making their valuation as at 31st March 2024:

Assumptions	31/03/24	31/03/23
<i>Financial Assumptions</i>		
Discount Rate	4.85%	4.80%
Pension Increase Rate	2.90%	2.95%
RPI Inflation	3.30%	3.30%
Salary Increase Rate	3.30%	3.95%
<i>Mortality (future life expectancy at age 65)</i>		
Current Pensioners (Male)	19.9 years	19.8 years
Current Pensioners (Female)	23.0 years	22.9 years
Future Pensioners (Male)	21.2 years	21.1 years
Future Pensioners (Female)	24.5 years	24.1 years

The following table sets out the likely impacts if certain assumptions are changed:

Sensitivity Analysis	Approx increase to Employer Liability %	Approx Monetary Amount £000's
<i>Change in assumptions at 31 March 2024</i>		
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	1.12%	21
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0.05%	1
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	1.07%	20
Adjustment to life Expectancy Assumptions +1 Year	3.74%	70

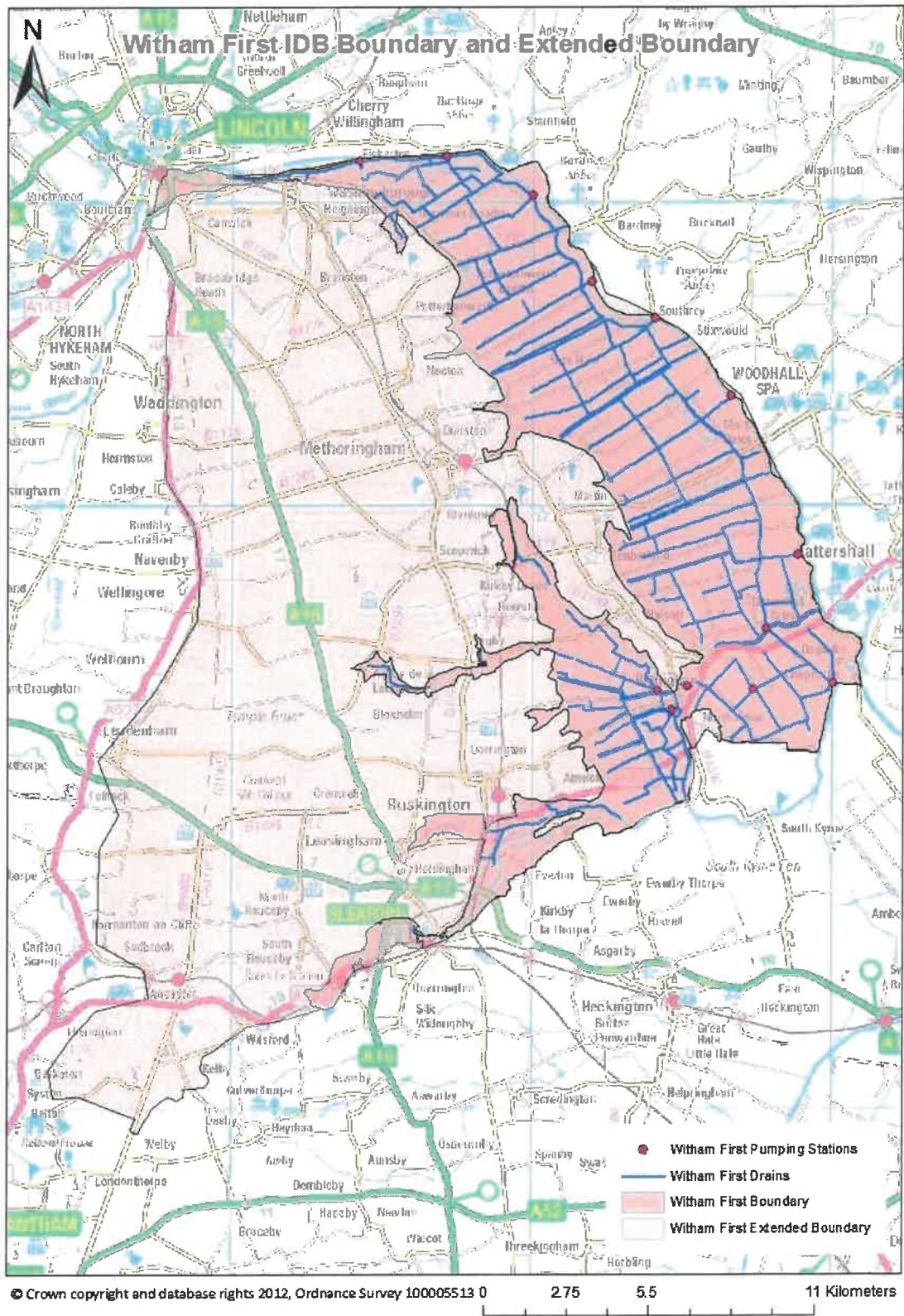
Projected pension costs: The estimated Employer's contribution for the period to 31st March 2024 is approximately £57,000.

Note 14: Funds & Reserves

W1st DIDB Schedule of Funds & Reserves as at 31st March 2024

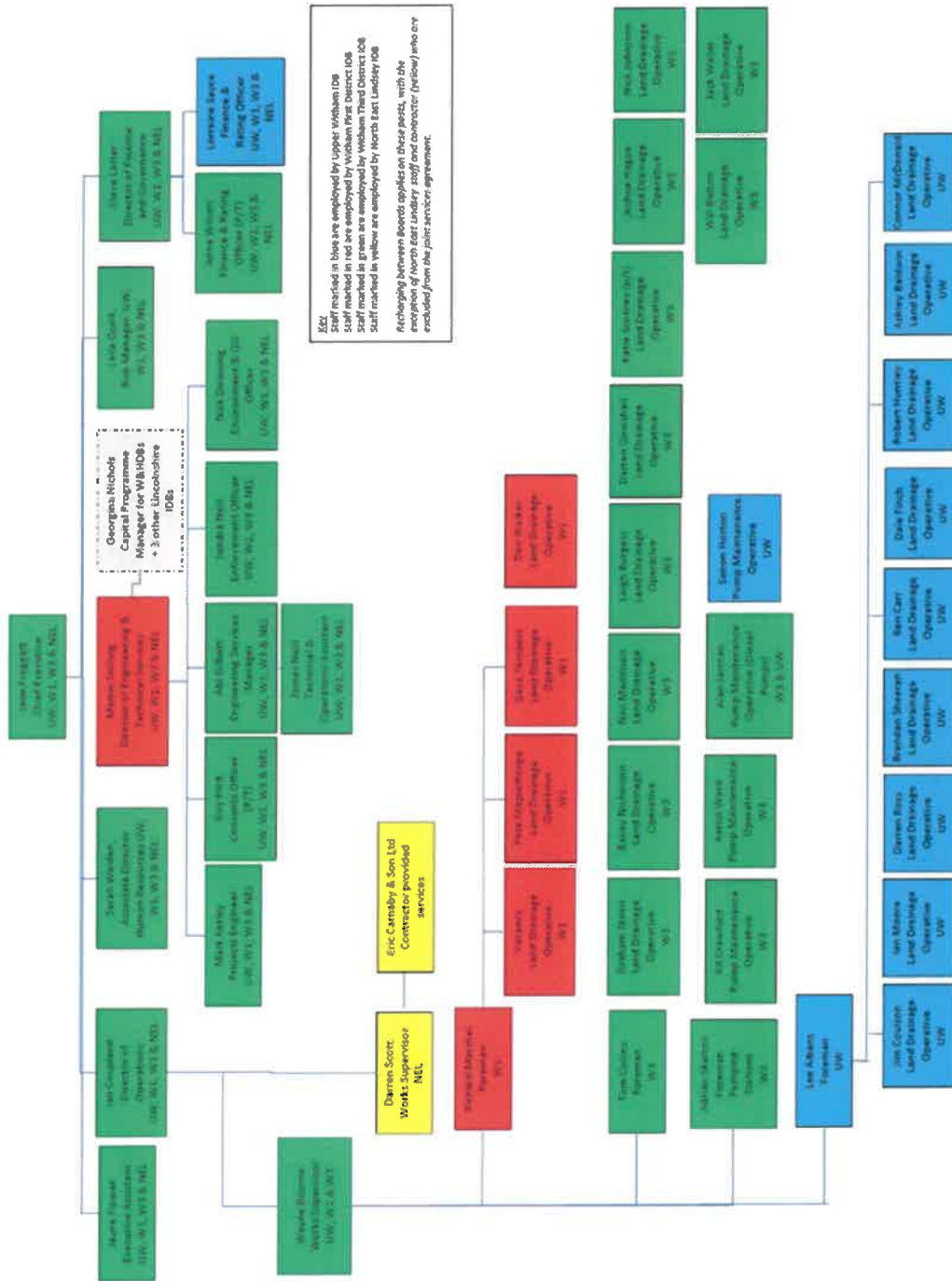
Movement on Reserves	Capital Discharged	Pensions Reserve	Revenue Reserve	Plant & Machinery Reserve	Pumping Station Reserve	One Off Projects Reserve	Commutated Sums	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 31 March 2023	(2,901,870)	(581,000)	(189,071)	(348,123)	(65,003)	(153,514)	(32,670)	(4,271,251)
Depreciation	103,885			(96,046)	(7,839)			0
Capital Purchases	(212,675)			212,675	0			0
Capital Disposals	12,000			(12,000)				0
Pension Interest Cost (Net)		(142,000)						(142,000)
Contributions In				(32,000)	(50,000)	(27,955)	(72,385)	(182,340)
Contributions Out						69,513		69,513
Transfers								0
(Surplus)/Deficit on I&E			(16,043)					(16,043)
Balance as at 31 March 2024	(2,998,660)	(723,000)	(205,114)	(275,494)	(122,842)	(111,956)	(105,055)	(4,542,121)

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

Witham and Humber Drainage Boards' Organisational Structure Chart

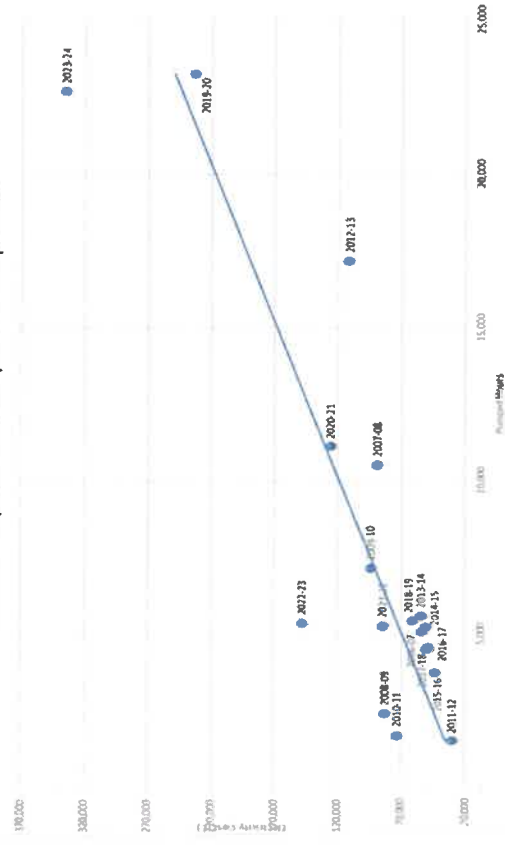


Appendix 3

Witham First DIB: Interrelationship between Rainfall, Pumped Hours and Electricity Costs

Pumping Station	2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23			2023-24		
	Rainfall (mm)	Pumped Hours	Electricity Costs (£)	Rainfall (mm)	Pumped Hours	Electricity Costs (£)	Rainfall (mm)	Pumped Hours	Electricity Costs (£)	Rainfall (mm)	Pumped Hours	Electricity Costs (£)	Rainfall (mm)	Pumped Hours	Electricity Costs (£)
Biltingway	-	-	£ 312.87	0.05	£ 369.20	492.00	0.03	£ 412.35	0.02	£ 446.79	34.47	£ 1,350.46			
Blarney	2,085.67	£ 32,611.07	897.03	£ 16,052.76	482.00	413.69	£ 10,667.11	452.50	366.00	£ 18,485.62	824.00	1,896.58	£ 49,574.24		
Branston	2,296.03	£ 20,151.49	1,168.43	£ 10,602.97		717.65	£ 7,313.79		756.80	£ 13,590.45		2,204.81	£ 29,245.21		
Chapel Hill	1,295.05	£ 23,418.05	705.60	£ 14,032.72		252.90	£ 8,733.60		250.76	£ 16,398.90		1,310.98	£ 31,898.03		
Digby	2,109.40	£ 15,093.83	606.50	£ 5,729.34		242.90	£ 3,665.54		266.90	£ 6,833.15		1,804.90	£ 19,980.47		
Farroway	4,270.39	£ 27,449.76	2,214.81	£ 14,091.26		1,013.67	£ 6,585.24		440.50	£ 13,673.98		3,629.84	£ 29,703.86		
Heighington	2,420.03	£ 18,232.95	1,130.34	£ 9,782.91	468.50	668.73	£ 6,194.25	480.50	807.46	£ 12,536.12	772.50	2,874.53	£ 30,446.26		
Metheringham	1,758.82	£ 20,178.64	528.50	£ 9,756.14	511.50	491.03	£ 7,775.07	500.50	412.92	£ 12,766.19	710.00	1,773.12	£ 29,496.05		
Noctons	1,234.74	£ 24,467.19	579.95	£ 13,812.02		307.01	£ 11,031.15		265.07	£ 19,474.56		944.12	£ 38,150.27		
North Kyme	1,508.72	£ 4,694.89	701.54	£ 2,159.86		143.70	£ 1,659.18		147.06	£ 1,570.12		1,219.26	£ 3,956.84		
Ringmoor	974.70	£ 381.59	380.50	£ 230.94		74.10	£ 839.16		126.70	£ 290.77		976.46	£ 901.81		
Sandhill Beck	1,018.48	£ 9,116.87	662.25	£ 6,306.86		486.24	£ 4,556.91		482.04	£ 8,191.68		884.63	£ 12,393.57		
Timberland	782.00	£ 2,284.68	581.00	£ 1,303.54	523.50	534.18	£ 14,803.14	519.50	549.64	£ 23,320.85	776.40	3,146.14	£ 58,402.99		
Total	782.00	23,260.71	£ 233,858.44	11,140.62	£ 125,715.42	498.88	5,285.83	£ 84,236.49	478.70	£ 147,585.18	773.48	22,699.84	£ 395,500.00		

Interrelationship between Electricity Costs and Pumped Hours



Interrelationship between Rainfall and Pumped Hours

