

NORTH EAST LINDSEY DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a meeting, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting, of North East Lindsey Drainage Board held on Wednesday, 27th November 2024 in Stallingborough Grange Hotel at 2pm.

Present: Mr E Faulding
Mr J Fussey
Mr L Grooby
Cllr S Harness
Mr J F Hargreaves
Mr P J Hoyes **Chairman**
Cllr E Kaczmarek
Mr R Kirk **Vice Chairman**
Cllr M Patrick
Cllr N Pettigrew

In Attendance: Mr Ian Coupland, Director of Operations.
Ms. Jayne Flower, Executive Assistant
Mrs. Jane Froggatt, Chief Executive
Mr. Steve Larter, Director of Finance & Governance
Mr Martin Shilling, Director of Engineering & Technical Services

1. **Apologies.**

Apologies for absence were received Cllr P Clark, Mr J Finch, Cllr R Hannigan, Cllr S Holland, Cllr D Humphrey, Cllr B Parkinson, Mr S Shepherd and Cllr D Wells.

2. **Declaration of Members' Interests.**

Members nominated by North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils declared interests relating to their respective Councils.

3. **Election of Chairman.**

Mr Philip Hoyes was nominated, seconded and there being no further nominations, duly elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed members to the November Annual Public Meeting and thanked them for electing him once again as Chairman.

Role of Vice Chairman:

He informed members that Lionel Grooby had informed him of his intention not to stand for re-election as Vice Chairman. He was pleased that Lionel would, however, remain a Board Member.

During the 1980s the Board's involvement in conservation was increasing and a close working relationship with Lionel Grooby, then at the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, developed. Lionel was involved in the setting up of the Habrough Marsh Conservation Project with Associated British Ports in 1986 and assisted with the preparation of Water

Level Management Plans. Lionel was subsequently appointed as a Board Member in 1997 and was appointed Vice Chairman in 2014. The current Environment Officer, Mr Nick Downing works closely with Lionel for the recording of bird species and we hope Lionel will continue to undertake these surveys.

The Chairman thanked Lionel for his service as a Board member for 27 years and as Vice Chairman for the past 10 years. He presented Lionel with a small token of appreciation on behalf of the Board, Inter-Rail travel vouchers.

Lionel Grooby thanked members for their support and the unexpected gift.

Board membership:

Following local elections in May 2024 and the NELC AGM held on 23rd May, the Board welcomes 3 new members, nominated by North East Lincolnshire Council:

- Cllr Dan Humphrey
- Cllr Edward Kaczmarek
- Cllr Matthew Patrick

Correspondingly, two members had left the Board, and the Chairman asked that his thanks to them be put on record:

- Cllr Paul Batson
- Cllr Ron Shepherd

(The Board carried a vacancy last year, but with 3 new nominations there was now the full 7 nominations of members from NELC).

There were no changes in nominated members from North Lincolnshire Council.

The Board concluded the 2024 Elections process in October, with a 'Notice of No Poll' being advertised on the website. The Chairman thanked those directly elected members for standing once again as members of the Board. The Board has 2 vacant seats following the elections process.

The new term of office for those directly elected members runs for 3 years from 01st November 2024 to 31st October 2027.

General:

The Board would receive updates on the continued work to ensure recovery from storms Babet and Henk and the heavy rainfall events of last autumn and winter.

In addition to the Statement of Claim to the RFCC last December, the 4 Witham & Humber IDBs have levered in a further £4.1 million for Tranche 1 of the £75 million IDB Fund for Recovery Works, with a national completion deadline of 31st March 2025. The Boards have also had confirmation last week of the funding of further Resilience & Improvement measures submitted as part of Tranche 2, which also have to be completed and paid for by 31st March 2025.

There would be reassurance about the external auditor's closure of last financial year 2023/24, before moving on to this year and how the Board is trading financially at the end of October. The bottom line is the Board is in a healthy position, although this is a one-off and unusual year with additional capital monies coming into the Boards for over 20 recovery schemes, which is very positive news. But it does somewhat distort the

underlying financial risks, as a lot of this income for schemes is for this year only, and we need to look beyond this year to the financial risks facing the Board for the future.

Finally, the Chairman reminded Members who had not already done so, to confirm with Jayne Flower attendance at the Members' Training Half-Day on Wednesday, 04th December 2024 at Witham House. The event will start at 9am and finish with a buffet lunch and an optional tour of Upper Witham IDB's depot at North Hykeham.

5. Election of Vice Chairman

Mr Robert Kirk was nominated by Philip Hoyes, seconded by Lional Grooby and, in the absence of further nominations, duly elected as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Robert thanked members for electing him as Vice Chairman.

6. Election of Joint Services Committee Members.

The current members, namely the Chairman and Vice Chairman were elected to the Joint Services Committee. With Julian Hargreaves having stood down as the third member, and there being no further nominations, members agreed to carry a vacant seat for the third member of the Joint Services Committee. It was impressed upon Members the importance of having representation at JSC and willing volunteers were invited to speak to the Chairman or Jane Froggatt.

7. Election of members to the ADA Lincs Branch Environment Committee

This is an open position across all 4 Boards and Members agreed that, as no nominations were forthcoming, it will remain open and the Environment Officer [& Secretary to the Committee] would advise members of forthcoming meetings.

8. Calendar of Proposed Board Meeting Dates 2025.

Members approved the following dates for 2025:

North East Lindsey IDB (Stallingborough Grange Hotel at 2pm):

Wednesday, 29th January.

Wednesday, 21st May.

Wednesday, 26th November (+APM).

Joint Services Committee Meetings (at 10am, Witham House, Meadow Lane):

Monday, 12th May.

Monday, 14th July.

Monday, 08th December.

Annual Inspection 2024

Thursday, 17th July.

9. Register of Members' Interests.

Members were reminded, in accordance with the Code of Conduct, to complete the annual update to the Register of Members' Interests and submit the completed form to Jayne Flower at the end of the meeting or afterwards to Witham House office.

10. Minutes of the Board meeting held on 22.05.24.

The minutes of the Board's previous meeting, held on Wednesday, 22nd May 2024 were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising, all items being covered by the agenda.

11. Minutes of the Joint Services Committee Meeting 15.07.24.

The minutes of the Joint Services Committee Meeting held on Monday, 15th July 2024 had been circulated with the agenda.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising all items being covered by the agenda.

12. Chief Executive's Report.

The Chief Executive's report circulated with the agenda was presented, with the following items highlighted:

12.1 Elections and Board Memberships.

The 4 Boards each concluded the 2024 Elections process in October, each with a 'Notice of No Poll' being advertised on the website, there being no more candidates in each electoral ward than available seats. The new term of office for directly elected members runs for 3 years from 01.11.24 to 31.10.27. Membership from 01st November 2024 is as follows:

Elected members [10 seats]: Edward Faulding, John Finch, James Fussey, Lionel Grooby, Julian Hargreaves, Philip Hoyes, Robert Kirk and Steven Shepherd.

Two 2 vacant seats remain, namely Brocklesby, Harborough, Keelby, Kirmington, North Killingholme & South Killingholme electoral ward and the Barnoldby, Bradley, Cleethorpes, Humberston, Irby, Laceby, Riby, Waltham, & Weelsby ward.

The elections process does not affect the members of Boards who are nominated by Special Levy paying councils.

12.2 EA Highland Water payments to IDBs, due in September 2024.

The CEO wrote to Leigh Edlin, Area Director for the EA, on 02nd October concerning the lack of full payment of the IDB Highland Water claims by the EA by the 30.09.24 due date.

These claims from the 4 W&HDBs totalled £840,251 [after downwards adjustment for monies received from other recovery sources post winter 23/24], were submitted on 01.05.24 and were due to be paid by 30.09.24, as has been usual practice since the early 1980s.

The EA has paid £530,726 leaving an in-year 24/25 cash shortfall and problem for the 4 IDBs of £309,525. The cash shortfalls are particularly acute for Witham Third DIDB at £145,360 and for Upper Witham IDB at £103,776. The shortfall impact for NELDB is £48,392 and for Witham First DIDB £11,997. Across IDBs in Lincolnshire, the shortfall is circa £0.5 million this year.

Although HW is a discretionary payment by the EA, it is made in recognition of IDBs having no choice but to accept and process water received from upland areas, and of course last winter 23/24 saw IDBs receiving considerable water from upland areas. The sums received are to a mutually agreed formulae, based on percentages on IDB pumping stations and drains, dating back some 40+ years. Concerns include:

- The in-year cash impact on the 4 IDBs [and others in Lincolnshire], as a proportion of total I&E this is a significant financial risk and too late in 24/25 to be covered from other sources.
- The uncertainty as to whether the shortfall monies will be paid at all in 2024/25, but with no further communications from the EA and 30.09.24 having passed, the position was put in writing.
- The extremely short notice of non-payment of a claim submitted on 01.05.24 and the means of communication of intended non-payment. A short-notice MS Teams video conference call was arranged for Friday 13.09.24 and only then were IDBs informed of this intended EA non-payment.
- This had not been raised at any of the regular EA/IDB partnership liaison meetings as an issue, the claim having been live since May. the meeting was called a 2-days' notice and most IDBs managed to field representation. There was no prior notice, and nothing was received subsequently in writing.
- The potential precedent this sets for Highland Water payments for the future, Highland Water claims being one of the key IDB income streams in those IDBs which have no choice but to accept water from upland areas.
- If this is not resolved for this year and certainty given by January 2025 for budget setting next year, the potential impact in IDB budget setting for 2025/26 will be severe. It would seem unreasonable if IDBs are forced into covering shortfalls in EA Highland Water payments by increasing their Penny Rates for 2025/26, as this cost will fall to Drainage Rate account holders in lowland areas [not the beneficiaries of the water we are processing in upland areas] and to those Councils paying Special Levies in lowland areas.

This issue was raised as a risk matter at Lincolnshire's Joint FRM & Water Management Group meeting, colleagues agreed this was an issue to be escalated to the partnership's Strategy Group meeting on 11.10.24 and to the Lincolnshire Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14.10.24. The CEO's colleague Peter Bateson coordinated the data on the HW payments shortfall across all Lincolnshire IDBs, approximately 2/3 of the HW claims relate to the 4 W&HDBs IDBs.

On Friday 18th October the CEO attended the Anglian [Northern] RFCC meeting online where Highland Water Claims, and the financial shortfall on payments due to be paid to Lincolnshire IDBs by 30.09.24, was discussed by the Committee.

Three options were presented by Henry Hammond of the EA to the RFCC members regarding how to deal with the shortfall in payments to IDBs:

- EA Pay the full shortfall to IDBs out of the EA's maintenance budget, with consequent impact [£421,705.40 shortfall across Lincolnshire, of which £309,500 is to our 4 W&HDBs].
- Use the RFCC's Local Levy Fund to pay the IDB shortfall [with reduced funding for RFCC projects]
- Don't pay the IDB HWC shortfall- with the risk that IDBs Appeal the decision and there is a successful legal challenge.

There followed considerable discussion at the RFCC meeting, much of which was supportive to the IDBs' position. Eddy Poll, RFCC Chairman, allowed the CEO to speak for IDBs. The option of waiting to see if there is unallocated sum available in the IDB £75 million Tranche 2 monies was also discussed, as a potential fourth option and one which would avoid local funds being depleted.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the IDBs should be PAID IN FULL the shortfall of £421,705.40, this being from Local Levy before 31.03.25 [noting the payment is overdue now] if national funds are not forthcoming. EA staff will discuss with individual IDBs our in-year cash positions, so that where possible the Local Levy will not be used if there is a possibility of getting the money from the IDB Fund T2 or other national source.

But the reassurance is that that IDBs will be reimbursed that which we are owed in 2024/25. There is no such reassurance yet for Highland Water claims in 2025/26.

12.3 IDB Fund T1 Recovery Schemes:

Since the Boards met in May, the 4 W&HDBs submitted 23 Recovery schemes against the national IDB £75 million Fund, Tranche 1 being £25 million available for Recovery Schemes. We withdrew 1 scheme [alternative funding], had 2 declined and 20 schemes were approved totalling £4.1 million.

This is consuming considerable time and staff resource across the IDBs to implement these schemes by the deadline of 31.03.25. But it is a brilliant opportunity to undertake works not likely to be funded from alternative sources. Ian Coupland is project lead.

12.4 IDB Fund Tranche 2, Resilience & Asset Improvement Schemes:

The IDB Fund second tranche of bids for IDB asset improvement and resilience was submitted 28.06.24, and approvals were anticipated the week commencing 22.07.24, as these too are all schemes which must be completed, invoiced and paid for by 31.03.25.

The 4 W&HDB bids total £11 million. At the time of writing the report, no approvals were given nationally and Defra via the EA who are administering the IDB Fund, asked for an assessment of IDBs' own confidence levels of delivery on each scheme, to be submitted by 11.11.24 [low, medium or high confidence]. This had been done.

The Boards received approvals on the T2 schemes on 14.11.24, which totalled a further £6.6million, all schemes to be completed by 31.03.25.

12.5 Appointment of new Internal Auditors:

The 4 IDBs, together with some other Lincolnshire IDBs and the 3 Bedfordshire Boards, had jointly run a procurement exercise to test the market for Internal Audit services. The existing auditors TIAA were included in the invitation to tender.

The contract was awarded to Lighthouse Consultancy UK Ltd from this year 2024/25 for 5 years to 2028/29 inclusive, with an option to extend by up to 2 years by mutual agreement.

New auditors have arranged the first audit visit to the 4 Boards for 2 weeks from Monday 03.02.25.

12.6 Member training Day on Wednesday 04.12.24:

Following on from some changes to Boards' memberships, either through elections or in council nominations, a training half-day will be held at Witham House for the morning of 04th December. Please book a place through Jayne Flower on Jayney.flower@witham3idb.gov.uk or via 01522 697123.

12.7 Breach Repairs on EA Main Rivers:

At the ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting on 17.10.24 it was confirmed by the EA that 7 of the 13 breaches in Lincolnshire had been repaired, two on Barlings Eau of a temporary 5-year period. An eighth repair of the 2 significant bank slumps on the River Witham at Fiskerton, had now started.

Discussion followed on the apparent change in policy by the EA not to reinstate bank breaches with some urgency. There was sympathy with no national Recovery monies being made available following winter 23/24, but it was a great concern to ADA members that a major change in EA approach/policy had been introduced with no consultation.

12.8 Pay Settlement for 2025/26:

UW's Board member Cllr Lance Pennell is the 4 Boards' representative on the ADA Lincolnshire Pay & Conditions Committee, supported by the CEO. Unison's pay claim for 25/26 was a cash sum of £500 consolidated, then application of the pay formula outcome used in recent years [that formula being: 12 months rolling average of changes in public sector Average Weekly Earnings from July to July, as published in September]. This year that formula result was 5.1%. After discussion, both management and staff sides to the Pay Committee agreed on 03.10.24 that the formula only was appropriate for the settlement, employers agreeing to recommend that to the ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting on 17.10.24 and Unison agreeing to put the resulting 5.1% proposal to a ballot of their members with a recommendation of acceptance.

ADA's Branch adopted the pay settlement on 17.10.24 and this will form the basis of the ADA White Book from 01.04.25.

The Unison ballot result was notified on 08.11.24 and, on a turnout of 83% of members, 95% of returned votes supported the recommended pay settlement.

Pay awards and whether to adopt the ADA Lincolnshire Branch recommended settlement is a matter reserved to individual Boards. **Following discussion Members APPROVED the recommended pay settlement of 5.1% for 2025/26.**

The Chief Executive's report and update was received and NOTED.

13. External Auditor's Notice of Closure on the IDB Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24.

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance & Governance.

The Annual Return 2023/24 was agreed at the Board meeting on 22nd May 2024, subsequently published on the Board's website for public inspection and despatched to the Board's appointed External Auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP on 07th June 2024. The public inspection period was from 10th June until 19th July 2024. The Board had until 30th June 2024 to approve and submit its Annual Return 2023/24.

The External Auditor has a statutory deadline of 30th September to complete their external audit and publish the formal Completion of Audit Certificate (Section 3 of Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)). This was issued and received on 06th September 2024.

Part 2 of section 3 of the AGAR has been completed as follows:

'On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met'.

Under the section 'Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority' external audit has reported:

'In the completion of the Annual Internal Audit Report, and their detailed report, the internal auditor has drawn attention to weaknesses in relation to out of date policies, risk management strategy and the debt recovery procedure. The smaller authority must ensure that action is taken to address these areas of weakness in a timely manner'.

This therefore completes the External Audit for 2023/24 and this Board, along with the other 3 Boards in the Witham & Humber Drainage Boards group, have all received similar Audit opinions.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit was issued on 09th September 2024 and has been displayed as required at the Board's depot, on the Board's website and at Witham House office.

Members NOTED the External Audit Notice of Closure on the IDB Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2023/24.

14. Financial Report to 31.10.24, month 7 of 2024/25.

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of

Finance. The financial performance as 31.10.2024 was summarised as:

Profiled Budget P7 £	Actual (Surplus)/Deficit £	Variance £
(527,749)	(534,155)	(6,406)

The Board is currently showing a small positive variance position against the profiled budget. However, this is solely due to the non-receipt of the full amount of Highland Water monies that were due from the EA at the end of September 2024. Whilst the Board received the balance of 2023/24 actual Highland Water claim it only received 54% of the 80% due for the estimated claim for 2024/25. This is a shortfall of **£48,392** for this Board. If this is received in full, then the position would increase the positive variance.

Members were reminded that some of the 'high risk' spend areas can occur (especially electricity) over the remainder of this financial year.

As it stands, once the outstanding Highland Water monies are received (as agreed by RFCC on 19th October 2024) then the Board is in a reasonable financial position for 2024/25. Some of this is due to the delivery of a significant amount of Capital Projects which means some current budgets may not be utilised in 2024/25 only (e.g. Pump Lifts) therefore this is only a one-year 2024/25 benefit.

The current position of the Drainage Rates collected for 2024/25, including previous years' arrears, as at 31st October 2024 was presented. The collection rate was 92.9% (89.5% @P7 2023/24), so it is slightly ahead of the previous year's collection rate at the same point. First reminders were despatched on 19th August 2024 and final reminders were despatched on 18th October 2024. A court date has been set for 17th March 2025 at Grimsby Magistrates Court. Most historical outstanding rating queries are now resolved and land issues raised in-year are now being actioned.

Bank Balances.

The balances as at 31st October 2024 were outlined. The current account (Barclays) is high, due to receiving the second tranche of Special Levy income in November.

Bank Balances & Investments					
As at 31st October 2024 (P7)				Latest Interest Rate	
Barclays Bank plc					
Payments Account (prior to investment 05.11.2024)		£	104,690.48		0.00%
Receipts Account (prior to investment 05.11.2024)		£	421,871.09		0.00%
General Deposit Account		£	184,000.00		1.50%
Developer Contributions Account		£	134,931.19		1.50%
Nationwide Instant Access		£	559,887.32		2.05%
		Total	£ 1,405,380.08		
Cherley & District BS	364 days	20/10/2023	18/10/2024	£ 250,000.00	6.00%
Chorley & District BS	364 days	18/10/2024	17/10/2025	£ 250,000.00	4.50%
Principality BS	30 days	05/11/2024	05/12/2024	£ 500,000.00	4.83%

A replacement £250k 1-year fixed term cash deposit was made on 18th October 2024 with Chorley & District Building Society at 4.5% (previously 6%). This was in combination with the other 3 Boards (although 4 separate investments were made of £250k each Board) to achieve this rate, with a combined investment of £1m. This will generate (£11.25k) interest for each of the Boards.

Due to the receipt of the grant and Special Levy income, further investments have been made to achieve an uplift on the Nationwide accounts the Board operates. The interest rates on these Nationwide accounts have reduced from 2.25% to 2.05% on instant access and 4.25% to 4.15% for 95-day notice account from 01st November 2024. Overall, for the 4 Boards investment income from fixed term deposits (so excluding Nationwide) is achieving (£133k) of income as set out:

Interest Earned Per Board from Fixed Term Deposits						Total
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
NEL	£ 6,780.82	£15,289.73	£ 6,133.56	£ -	£ -	£ 28,204.11
UW	£ 6,739.73	£21,270.68	£ 6,133.56	£ -	£ -	£ 34,143.97
W1	£ 6,739.73	£15,289.73	£ 6,133.56	£ -	£ -	£ 28,163.01
W3	£ 6,739.73	£29,996.58	£ 6,133.56	£ -	£ -	£ 42,869.86
Total	£ 27,000.00	£81,846.71	£24,534.25	£ -	£ -	£133,380.96

Electricity

Members were reminded of the significant increases in electricity rates from October 2022 via the ESPO Electricity Framework that the Board uses, with unit prices averaging 30p/KWH and Standing Charges increasing from £14k to £34k p.a. for the Board and from £51k to £128k for the Witham and Humber group. However, these unit rates did not increase as significantly as the market, where rates peaked at over 70p/KWH.

Due to the 'forward buying' model used by ESPO it did mean that further increases would feed through in the following year from 01.10.23 with average unit rates of 33.5p/KWH and standing charges increasing again to £44.5k p.a. for the Board and £200k across the Witham and Humber group.

Budgets for 2024/25 were calculated based upon these October 2023 rates, along with the new standing charges for 6 months and an anticipated +10% for the final 6 months. However, these budgets were predicated on an 'average' rainfall year/usage, not a 'dry' year or a 'wet' year such as 2019/20 and 2023/24.

The electricity Budgets approved for 2024/25 for the Boards were [2023/24 and 2022/23 included as a comparator]:

	Budget 2024/25	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2022/23
NEL	£ 90,000	£ 90,000	£ 15,000
UW	£ 192,000	£ 192,000	£ 48,000
W1	£ 335,500	£ 305,000	£ 69,000
W3	£ 220,000	£ 220,000	£ 69,000
Total	£ 837,500	£ 807,000	£ 201,000

For the period of this report (first 6 months for electricity, to 30.09.24 as paid in October) these budgets have been sufficient with some modest underspends to the end of September invoices.

New rates were received from ESPO applicable from 01st October 2024. The good news is that due to the buying strategy used by ESPO, the hourly rates are reducing to an average of 20p/KWH for day rates and 17.5p/KWH for night rates. This reflects the significant reduction in rates as seen in the market. Members were reminded that, due to the way that ESPO 'buy ahead' blocks of units of electricity there has been a lag in the reduction. However, when looking across the last 2 years, unit rates have peaked at 33.5p which are far less than the large increases seen over the last 24 months.

Day Rates (p/KWH)							Y-O-Y Change				
	Oct-24	Oct-23	Oct-22	Oct-21	Oct-20	Oct-19	24 to 23	23 to 22	22 to 21	21 to 20	20 to 19
Min	18.4123	31.7739	27.9015	12.4119	11.0647	12.8496	-42.05%	13.88%	124.80%	12.18%	-13.89%
Max	20.7269	35.3702	32.1291	16.8755	22.2900	22.2900	-41.40%	10.09%	90.39%	-24.29%	0.00%
Avg	20.0778	34.2874	30.6964	14.9267	13.6598	14.7974	-41.44%	11.70%	105.65%	9.27%	-7.69%

Night Rates (p/KWH)							Y-O-Y Change				
	Oct-24	Oct-23	Oct-22	Oct-21	Oct-20	Oct-19	24 to 23	23 to 22	22 to 21	21 to 20	20 to 19
Min	16.7177	31.2170	27.0600	11.6027	9.9769	10.3882	-46.45%	15.36%	133.22%	16.30%	-3.96%
Max	17.8229	33.1785	28.9451	12.3624	17.6400	17.6400	-46.28%	14.63%	134.14%	-29.92%	0.00%
Avg	17.4477	32.5520	28.2408	12.0977	10.6157	10.8729	-46.40%	15.27%	133.44%	13.96%	-2.37%

For standing charges there is a slight reduction overall from 01.10.24. However, this is offset (and more) by increases in KVA allowance charges. The following table shows how standing charges are reducing by (£17k) however this follows 3 years of significant increases. Four years ago, in October 2020 the 4 Boards' standing charges were £14,989.73 compared with an increase to £199,862.78 from 01.10.23:

W&H Pumping Stations							
	Oct-24	Oct-23	Oct-22	Oct-21	Oct-20	Oct-19	
NEL	£ 14,750.78	£ 16,119.75	£ 10,670.12	£ 4,678.99	£ 1,378.84	£ 1,147.12	
UW	£ 40,836.67	£ 44,481.50	£ 28,820.22	£ 12,244.51	£ 4,124.13	£ 3,803.99	
W1	£ 76,169.02	£ 84,851.25	£ 54,622.95	£ 20,361.68	£ 5,173.69	£ 5,218.87	
W3	£ 51,031.49	£ 54,410.29	£ 33,803.27	£ 14,099.40	£ 4,313.06	£ 3,521.91	
Total	£ 182,787.96	£ 199,862.78	£ 127,916.57	£ 51,384.58	£ 14,989.73	£ 13,691.90	
Increase							
NEL	-£ 1,368.97	£ 5,449.63	£ 5,991.13	£ 3,300.15	£ 231.73		
UW	-£ 3,644.83	£ 15,661.27	£ 16,575.71	£ 8,120.38	£ 320.14		
W1	-£ 8,682.22	£ 30,228.30	£ 34,261.27	£ 15,187.99	-£ 45.19		
W3	-£ 3,378.80	£ 20,607.02	£ 19,703.87	£ 9,786.34	£ 791.15		
Total	-£ 17,074.82	£ 71,946.21	£ 76,531.98	£ 36,394.86	£ 1,297.83		
Min	£ 246.75	£ 214.47	£ 189.04	£ 168.49	£ 73.00	£ 72.31	
Max	£ 13,692.21	£ 15,188.94	£ 9,411.86	£ 3,092.10	£ 756.37	£ 735.38	
Average	£ 3,808.08	£ 4,163.81	£ 2,664.93	£ 1,070.51	£ 312.29	£ 285.25	

Unfortunately, this year we have seen an increase in the KVA allowance charges which more than offsets the reduction in standing charges. This is a result of another 'cost shift' from unit rates and standing charges for elements of the network and distribution costs:

KVA Rates						
	Oct-24	Oct-23	Oct-22	Oct-21	Oct-20	Oct-19
NEL	£ 2,014.80	£ 1,076.40	£ 1,076.40	£ 1,048.80	£ 1,146.84	£ 1,119.24
UW	£ 15,772.32	£ 9,998.88	£ 8,905.92	£ 8,406.24	£ 8,240.28	£ 7,934.28
W1	£ 35,955.36	£ 21,903.84	£ 19,424.16	£ 18,184.32	£ 17,268.84	£ 18,197.88
W3	£ 19,778.40	£ 13,762.80	£ 12,171.60	£ 11,595.60	£ 11,403.60	£ 11,143.20
Total	£ 73,520.88	£ 46,741.92	£ 41,578.08	£ 39,234.96	£ 38,059.56	£ 38,394.60

Y-O-Y Increase						
NEL	£ 938.40	£ -	£ 27.60	-£ 98.04	£ 27.60	
UW	£ 5,773.44	£ 1,092.96	£ 499.68	£ 165.96	£ 306.00	
W1	£ 14,051.52	£ 2,479.68	£ 1,239.84	£ 915.48	-£ 929.04	
W3	£ 6,015.60	£ 1,591.20	£ 576.00	£ 192.00	£ 260.40	
Total	£ 26,778.96	£ 5,163.84	£ 2,343.12	£ 1,175.40	-£ 335.04	

Net Increase in KVA & Standing Charges						
	Oct-24	Oct-23	Oct-22	Oct-21	Oct-20	
NEL	-£ 430.57	£ 5,449.63	£ 6,018.73	£ 3,202.11	£ 259.33	
UW	£ 2,128.61	£ 16,754.23	£ 17,075.39	£ 8,286.34	£ 626.14	
W1	£ 5,369.30	£ 32,707.98	£ 35,501.11	£ 16,103.47	-£ 974.23	
W3	£ 2,636.80	£ 22,198.22	£ 20,279.87	£ 9,978.34	£ 1,051.55	
Total	£ 9,704.14	£ 77,110.05	£ 78,875.10	£ 37,570.26	£ 962.79	

These large increases are due to the national 'OFGEM Targeted Charging Review'. The Targeted Charging Review was initiated by OFGEM to investigate how network charging (DUoS (Distribution) and TNUoS (Transmission) costs) could be made fairer across all consumer groups. The concern was that the costs of maintaining the grid have been steadily increasing over recent years, yet they were passed on to a reducing number of users.

The objective of the OFGEM TCR was supposedly to reinstate fairness for everyone involved; while making sure network operators recover the revenue, they need to maintain the transmission and distribution systems.

OFGEM believes the most effective way to make sure everyone contributes fairly is through a fixed per/day charge (standing charge). In 'normal' times the day/night unit rates will have reduced, due to these charges coming out of the unit rates and into the standing charges. Unfortunately, we are not seeing this increase in standing charges with corresponding reduction in unit rates due to the increases in day and night unit rates for other reasons. The level of charge paid is determined by the TCR Band each site is allocated, an allocation that is carried out by the distribution networks. ESPO's flexible energy contract meant that customers started to see the changes from 01st October 2021, with the beginning of the new scheme starting from April 2022 onwards.

The reason for this is the nature of energy generation and consumption has changed radically in recent times. Energy efficiency measures, embedded generation and load shifting have all meant that a growing number of consumers can minimise or even avoid any reliance on the grid, and therefore their exposure to the current charging regimes of DUoS and TNUoS.

These standing/KVA charges put significant pressure on the 4 Boards' cost of electricity based on a 'normal usage' year. After two years of large increases in the penny rates to accommodate the significant electricity increases, it is pleasing that further increases in Standing Charges haven't been experienced again but that this is offset by increases in

KVA allowance rates. Further information will be supplied on this issue in the Budget Report to the Board in January 2024.

We have raised our concerns regarding this further significant increase in Standing/KVA Charges with both ESPO as the Framework provider and ADA, the IDBs' membership body, who nationally is aware of the pressures this place on IDBs and have been lobbying OFGEM on this issue.

Inflation

Members were aware of the inflationary pressures that the country has experienced, over recent years but pleasingly this is now subsiding (CPI 1.7% in September 24). However, the recent budget and world events may stimulate inflation again going forward. More information will be provided in the budget report at the January Board meeting.

Members were requested to review the write-off of drainage rates proposed in relation to under £2.50 accounts which are uneconomical to collect and one uncollectable account:

Under £2.50	£27.38
Uncollectable Account 0198	£3.24
TOTAL	£30.62

The Board has a policy for writing off drainage rate demands under the value of £2.50. There were 16 accounts outstanding as at 31st October 2024 totalling £27.38.

There was one uncollectable account on which to request write off. Account 0198 had been returned as "Gone Away" by Royal Mail. Further investigation and land registry searches show who the new landowner is, and the parcel of land has been transferred to their account. Unfortunately, there are some small arrears that are now uncollectable as there is no forwarding address for the former occupants. The balance is £3.24.

Members **AGREED** to the write off of the accounts as described to a total value of **£30.62**.

Members **NOTED** the financial performance for the period 01st April 2024 to 31st October 2024, month 7 of 2024/25.

15. Operations Report.

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations.

Incidents (as of 16, October 2024).

Between the 4 Boards, there had been 10 reported Incidents but pleasingly none were for NELDB.

Work Programmes.

The annual vegetation maintenance programme started in late June and is well underway. The challenge this year for the Witham Boards has been the number of new starters in the last year. We started the season with 9 Operatives for whom this was their first season.

The challenges have been met head on, and the 4 Boards are well on with the annual vegetation maintenance and in an improved position to complete this year's programme

by early-January. The annual vegetation maintenance undertaken by Carnaby contractors on the Board's behalf is almost complete, with only some mopping up bits to do and some short handwork sections.

A contractor has been employed to work in each Board through the season to start the bank slip repair work needed following the flood events of last October and January. When the vegetation maintenance season is complete, we will add some teams of our own to ensure we get as many bank slips repaired as possible while the national IDB funding is available.

Oldfleet

The Board has overseen Carnaby's in the de-silting of the Oldfleet Drain on behalf of the EA under the PSCA agreement, work quoted @ £12,000. We have been asked to arrange for a machine to go back and move some of the silt that was deposited in the agreed place, as the EA are concerned it may slip down onto water vole habitat.

Mawmbridge Pumping Station

A request was made of the Board to de-silt the gravity outfall at Mawmbridge. This was undertaken in September 2024 by Carnaby's. The outfall is once again silted up and not working.



Fleet Vehicles and 4x4's

Officers will review the current fleet vehicles. Some are owned and some are leased from different sources. There were 20 vehicles due to be returned in May 2025 and currently 9 vehicles off the road, broken down and awaiting repair. There is just the 1 vehicle within the NELDB fleet.

Double Cab Taxation

The Director of Operations raised the issue of the triple tax on Double cab pick-ups announced on 30.10.24 in the Budget and the problems this will give the Boards and Staff. Across the group there were 20 Double-cabs and 14 were taken home by the Operatives (for example the pump Operatives who respond to issues at the stations), who may suddenly be hit by a tax liability that is 3 times the current tax payable. If Operatives can no longer afford to take vehicles home the Boards will lose operating time by potentially having to change our working practices, i.e. when an Operative has

to come to the depot to pick up a vehicle instead of going from home to site. But the biggest impact will be the reaction speed to flood events if staff are required to attend a depot to collect vehicles. This will also have a cost implication to the Boards, as these vehicles will no longer be classed as 'light commercials' meaning the road tax payable could double or more, so we will have to look at the type of vehicles we have within the fleet.

Public Sector Cooperation Agreement [PSCA] works.

The PSCA work the 4 Boards undertake for the EA has gone better than anticipated this year. There had been some areas where lack of access has prevented works due to main river bank breaches or unsafe banks, but Operatives have completed the majority of works the EA commissioned from the Boards. NELDB have completed their PSCA works.

Currently it is not anticipated that the Board will be asked to quote for undertaking any winter PSCA work from the EA this year. Efforts therefore will be concentrated on bank slip repairs on Board maintained watercourses, from the IDB Recovery £1.5 million awarded.

Officers are unsure what next year will hold for EA PSCA work as they have reduced maintenance budgets and may not know until January what monies are available for maintenance works from April.

Members NOTED the Operations report and update.

16. Capital Programme Report.

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was jointly presented by the Director of Finance & Governance and the Director of Engineering & Technical Services.

Following the programme refresh in June 2024, the EA had reviewed all the bids for funding across the country and have given an indicative allocation for the remaining two years of the 6-year capital programme. There had been a significant reduction in the number of projects funded across the country and the EA national team had reduced the amount of over programme local areas are allowed. In Lincs & Northants the over programme has always been in the region of 35% however this has now been reduced to a required maximum of 5%.

This has resulted in a number of projects being delayed and pushed back into the next 6-year programme, that starts in April 2027. Individual Boards had been given an allocation of funding and a target of OM2's (residential properties) for the next two years, the directive from the EA is not to go above the monetary allocation or below the target number of OM2's, but it is allowed to move funding around between projects within the individual Boards allocation.

A schedule of projects was presented.

Members were informed that some funding bids did not receive funding in the indicative allocation, and they would therefore be delayed until the next 6-year programme. Officers would continue to discuss with the EA the need for these projects and to try to determine if any could be brought into the current programme over the next two years.

Mawmbridge PS Refurbishment

IDB No	ND-3990-2018-PRO
EA National Project No	ANC501E/000A/064A
GIA Claim No	IDB 0543
GIA Approval Amount	£224,458
Project Stage	OBC Development
Consultant	Stantec

Progress

This project has not been given an indicative allocation by the EA in the remaining two years of the current 6-year programme. The construction phase of this has been pushed back to start in 2027/28.

The Outline Business Case continues to be developed by Stantec, an outline design for two options is being developed:

- combining the gravity discharge and pumped outfalls and utilising the existing inlet structure and reconstruction the discharge pipes and utilising the 1990's outfall for the pump discharge and reconstructing the original outfall for use as gravity discharge.
- Constructing a new combined gravity discharge and pumping station on the site of the current gravity discharge.

We are working with a contractor to determine the buildability of the options, in particular the first option as there will be some significant challenges to undertake this work. The working window of any construction works will be constrained by Natural England due to the location on the edge of the Humber estuary this will be fed into the programme of the contractor.

Discussions are ongoing with the EA with regard to the overlap with the Stallingborough III scheme.

Income and spend as at 31st October 2024:

<u>Mawmbridge Catchment Study</u>	Approved	Actual	Variance
Income	(£224,548)	(£96,600)	£127,948
Expenditure	£224,548	£119,045	(£105,503)
Net	£0	£22,445	£22,445

Immingham PS Refurbishment

IDB No	ND 3987-2018-PRO
EA National Project No	ANC501E/000A/058A
GIA Claim No	IDB 0546
GIA Approval Amount	£175,000
Project Stage	OBC Development
Consultant	Stantec

Progress

The development of options for the refurbishment of Immingham pumping station is progressing with consultants Stantec.

An outline design for the pumping station has been developed considering the requirements of the maintenance requirements, improved resilience to flooding from main river and tidal inundation and the need for new fish friendly pumps at the site. Modelling work is ongoing to determine the capacity of pumps required at the site.

The outline business case is likely to be submitted to the Environment Agency in January 2025.

Income and spend as at 31st October 2024:

Immingham Pumping Station Refurbishment	Approved	Actual	Variance
Income	(£175,000)	(£175,000)	£0
Expenditure	£175,000	£127,643	(£47,357)
Net	£0	(£47,357)	(£47,357)

Storm Recovery Costs:

Witham First DIDB Storm Recovery Costs	AT1-065	£215,663
Witham Third DIDB Storm Recovery Costs	AT1-064	£166,053
Upper Witham DIDB Storm Recovery Costs	AT1-066	£120,975
North East Lindsey IDB Storm Recovery Costs	AT1-067	£ 20,900

These schemes were to reimburse the Boards for additional costs incurred during the storm events of winter 2023/24 over and above 'business as usual'. The Witham & Humber Boards also had to offset the income they had received via the Statement of Claim and those costs they would receive via the usual Highland Water claim. As these costs had already been incurred then the full grant amount has been received.

Slip Repairs

Slip repairs are currently being undertaken by contractors on all the Boards. On North East Lindsey we have Carnaby's (the current main contractor), on Upper Witham we have Steve Hill contracting and Will Timmings Contractors, on Witham First we are using Maine Agri and Spence Bros and on Witham Third Mill Farm Services. We are supplying all the materials and currently have in stock, timber 5' stakes, 10' & 14' fir piles, back boarding, frost proof lump stone, clay and top soil. On top of the stock, we hold in the depot we have had deliveries direct to site for contractors to use.

There are some larger repairs to undertake from this funding in Minting Village [W3rd], also on Minting /Gautby beck, All Hallows Drain, Tillbridge Lane [UW] and Stainfield roadside.

Mobile Pumps

We have placed an order for some additional mobile pumps, for 1 x 4" pump, 1 x 6" pump and 1 x 8" pump on road towable trailers in quiet canopies, with telemetry, all required hoses and fittings and 2 x fish /eel baskets. We have also purchased some flat big-ab roll on roll off trailer bodies to put our older pumps on and 2 x 900 litre fuel cubes to assist with running the pumps during an event. All this at a cost of £197,215

Tranche 2 Asset Improvement Applications

The following is a summary of the asset improvements projects applied for in Tranche 2, submitted to the EA's IDB Fund team on 28th June 2024 for approval.

<i>All Boards</i>

Additional Mobile Pump Capacity	All Boards (UW)	AT2-0055	£1,128,000
Replacement Archimedes Screw Pumps at Fen Lane, North Kyme & Decoy Pumping Stations	All Boards (UW)	AT2-0042	£1,725,000
Water Level Control Structures & Penstock Automation at various locations	All Boards (W1)	AT2-0051	£675,000
Automatic Weedscreens	All Boards (UW)	AT2-0052	£1,415,000
<i>Witham First DIDB</i>			
Branston Pumping Station Syphon Breakers	Witham First District IDB	AT1-061 AT2-0011	£79,000
Sandhill Beck Pumping Station additional pump	Witham First District IDB	AT2-0038	£1,220,000
<i>Witham Third DIDB</i>			
Coningsby Ings Automatic Weedscreen Replacement	Witham Third District IDB	AT1-059 AT2-0019	£175,000
Shortferry Pumping Station additional pump	Witham Third District IDB	AT2-0032	£800,000
Southrey Pumping Station additional pump	Witham Third District IDB	AT2-0031	£550,000
Bardney Fen relocate MCC to Bardney Abbey	Witham Third District IDB	AT2-0036	£240,000
Gantry Installation at Coningsby Ings and Duckpool Pumping Stations	Witham Third District IDB	AT2-0037	£74,000
Marsh Drain Breach Repair (PSCA)	Witham Third District IDB	AT2-0033	£400,000
Fiskerton & Stixwould replacement electric motors (1 each of 2)	Witham Third District IDB	AT2-0035	£1,335,000
<i>Upper Witham DIDB</i>			
Coulson Road	Upper Witham IDB	AT2-0039	£1,050,000
<i>North East Lindsey IDB</i>			
Access Platforms & weedscreen	North East Lindsey IDB	AT2-0040	£82,000

There is a substantial amount of work being delivered across a small team of Officers, and all teams are involved in its delivery, over and above the usual maintenance works and PSCA works which are also ongoing. The Boards' have been very successful in securing this level of funding and Tranche 2 detail is now being discussed, approvals having been received on 14.11.24 after Board reports were written. There is a reliance on external suppliers and contractors who are required to deliver within the tight timescales, particularly on the IDB Fund projects. But this also brings in a risk in that the Boards are reliant on these suppliers and contractors to deliver.

Members NOTED the Capital Programme Report and verbal update.

14. Engineering Services Report.

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Engineering & Technical Services.

Flood Events

The Boards' staff are still working on the Statement of Claim and IDB Fund Tranche 1 Recovery schemes, with completion dates on assets of 31st March 2025.

Section 19 Flood Investigations.

The Boards have received the final reports for the following Section 19 investigations from flooding incidents which occurred in Storms Babet [Oct 23] and Henk [Jan 24].

Beyond the geographical boundaries of LCC, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council have the role of Lead Local Flood Authority in Greater Lincolnshire.

North Lincolnshire Council.

There are currently no outstanding actions for North East Lindsey Drainage Board for Section 19 investigations. No information has been requested and there have been no reports to comment on since the last meeting.

The Board has not been made aware of any requests for input to investigations arising from Storms Babet or Henk. Final reports are now being issued.

North East Lincolnshire Council.

No information has been requested and there have been no reports on which to comment since the last meeting. The Board has not been informed of any Section 19 investigations arising from Storms Babet or Henk.

Killingholme Marshes Pumping Station (ND-3267-2017-PRO)

The Board's Chief Executive and Director of Engineer met with Able UK Ltd, [AUK] on 05th March 2024 via Teams to discuss progress on the site. AUK advised the Board of a change in site management with Graham Shepherdson taking up the role of Site Manager. They also advised the Board of their decision to operate the pumping station directly and therefore would not be entering in to any arrangements whereby the Board operated it on AUK's behalf.

The installation of the railway culvert crossing was programmed to be finished by the end of April and the excavation of the outfall channel serving the pumping station being undertaken between May and July of this year. Once complete, this would allow the final commissioning of the pumping station to be performed. The Board received an invitation to attend the commissioning which was expected to take 1 – 2 days.

AUK also advised that the NELDB would have access to the site as and when required.

The Board has provided final comment on the revised Operation and Maintenance Manual for the site following the change in operational arrangements previously discussed.

Environment Agency

Stallingborough 3 Sea defence improvements - NE Lindsey IDB liaison (ND-5362-2020-ASS)

This project will see the placing of lump stone, and other defence repairs, along a 4.5km reach of the Humber Estuary tidal defences. The current years construction period has now ceased, and work will recommence in the spring. The Board has worked with the Environment Agency to ensure access to the pumping stations at Mawmbridge and Middle Drain remain accessible at all times.

The Board has also worked with the Agency and their contractor to promote the desilting of the 2 gravity outfalls that most effect the Boards system along this reach, at Mawmbridge PS and Oldfleet Drain. The Boards contractor has also undertaken the de-silting of the Oldfleet Drain on behalf of the EA.

Unfortunately, because of the relatively dry conditions experienced over recent weeks, gravity flows have been insufficient to keep the outfalls clears of accumulated silt and they have quickly become blocked, again.

This project has a budget cost of £29 million.

[Barton to New Holland Sea Defence Improvements - NE Lindsey IDB liaison \(ND-5613-2021-GEN\)](#)

The EA is advancing the development of the scheme to improve the tidal defences and outfalls along the frontage from Barton to New Holland. The project considers the next 25-30 years, options will be considered against the assessed benefits for the areas behind the Humber Banks.

Regular consultation meetings are held with the local community due to the sensitivity of the area in which this work will take place.

Newsletters and further information are available on the Citizen Space Link:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/lincolnshire-and-northamptonshire/barton-to-new-holland-flood-alleviation-scheme>

Members received and NOTED the Engineering report and update.

18. Consents & Enforcements Report.

A report had been circulated and was presented by the Director of Engineering.

There were no items to highlight to members on this occasion.

Members NOTED the update.

19. Planning & Consultations.

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Engineering & Technical Services.

The Board received several consultations and has commented on various planning applications to various planning authorities and there were two issues to highlight to members:

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE TO ERECT 1NO. DWELLING

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF OLD OAK TREE DRIVE, KEELBY, GRIMSBY, DN41 8FP
The Board Objects to the above application

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. The site is within the North East Lindsey Drainage Board area and adjacent to the Board maintained North Beck/Caddle Beck (7A).

The Board OBJECTS to the current application.

Reason; -The applicant has failed to include the area that cannot be built on due to the Board's Byelaw distance of 9m from the top of the bank of the adjacent watercourse, North Beck/Caddle Beck, that is required to be kept clear of all obstructions. The plans should be amended identifying this area and showing the available area left for any buildings.

Under the terms of the Board's Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures in, under, over or within the byelaw distance (9m) of the top of the bank of a Board maintained watercourse. At this location the full byelaw distance is required to be kept clear of all obstructions to allow maintenance with heavy plant. A consent will also be required for any outfalls.

I would also like to inform you that this location is subject to high ground water and springs and the ground conditions are waterlogged for prolonged periods, soakaways are not suitable. The EA surface water flood maps also show a risk from surface water flooding.

No development should be commenced until the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority has approved a scheme for the provision, implementation and future maintenance of a surface water drainage system. Surface water run-off must be limited to the greenfield rate.

All drainage routes through the Site should be maintained both during the works on Site and after completion of the works. Provisions should be made to ensure that upstream and downstream riparian owners and those areas that are presently served by any drainage routes passing through or adjacent to the Site are not adversely affected by the development.

Drainage routes shall include all methods by which water may be transferred through the Site and shall include such systems as "ridge and furrow" and "overland flows". The effect of raising Site levels on adjacent property must be carefully considered and measures taken to negate influences must be approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Note there are two surface water sewers from the highway running though the plot.

OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION FOR A CHANGE OF USE OF EXISTING VACANT BROWNFIELD COMMERCIAL LAND TO RESIDENTIAL HOUSING LAND AND ERECT UP TO 34 DWELLINGS AND ASSOCIATED ROADS, DRIVEWAYS, GARDENS, LANDSCAPING AND BOUNDARY TREATMENTS WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION - AMENDED SUBMISSION OF A NOISE ASSESSMENT, UPDATED VIABILITY ASSESSMENT, NEW INDICATIVE LAYOUT, INDICATIVE FLOOR PLANS, INDICATIVE ELEVATIONS, INDICATIVE STREET SCENES AND AMENDED DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT.

51-55 WATERSIDE ROAD (FORMER OSGERBY HAULAGE AND WAREHOUSING)
WATERSIDE ROAD, BARTON UPON HUMBER, DN18 5BH
The Board Objects to the above application

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. The site is within the North East Lindsey Drainage Board area.

The Board OBJECTS to the proposed application.

The amended lay out drawing, Proposed Indicative Site Block Landscape Drainage & Levels Plan 202308-03 Rev J, does not provide adequate access for maintenance of the watercourse on the western side of the site. It is essential that this watercourse is maintained to an appropriate standard in order to reduce flood risk to the proposed and surrounding properties.

As previously commented.

A permanent undeveloped strip of sufficient width should be made available adjacent to the top of the bank of all watercourses on Site to allow future maintenance works to be undertaken. Suitable access arrangements to this strip should also be agreed. Access should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority, LLFA and the third party that will be responsible for the maintenance.

A new pumping station and extensive planting is now shown adjacent to the watercourse which will prevent access.

The site is in Zone 2/3 on the Environment Agency Flood Maps and at flood risk. It is noted a Flood Risk Assessment is included in the Application which includes house construction with living accommodation on the 1st floor and above with flood resistant construction to the ground floor.

No development should be commenced until the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority has approved a scheme for the provision, implementation and future maintenance of a surface water drainage system

- As this is a brownfield site, any discharge from the site must be at 70% of the current actual discharge rate
- Where Surface Water is to be directed into a Mains Sewer System the relevant bodies must be contacted to ensure the system has sufficient capacity to accept any additional Surface Water.
- Any discharge (or other works) into a watercourse will require a consent from the Board under the Land Drainage Act.

Members noted the report on planning and consultations.

20. Environmental Annual Report.

A report had been prepared by the Environment Officer, circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Engineering & Technical Services.

Surveys

With the increase in works during late summer/early autumn (particularly bank slip repairs) many of the Board's maintained watercourses had ecological surveys carried out prior to the works starting. The surveys looked to identify and species that would be at risk due to works and develop a methodology to mitigate these. Due to most of the

works including bank slip repairs, the notable species at risk are badgers and water voles but the Environmental Officer also looked to identify other UKBAP species. An eel habitat assessment has recently been conducted in the Immingham catchment, which included a Fish eDNA survey with the results expected from the lab imminently.

The watercourses surveyed include but is not limited to:

- 1C – Little Buck Beck Branch 3
- 8A – Immingham Pump Drain
- 4C – Mawmbridge Drain Branch 3
- 8 – Habrough Marsh Drain
- 16D – Barton Drain Branch 1
- 12G – Skitter Beck Branch 6

Potential Enhancements

Within the Board's capital programme there is funding available for ecological enhancements to pumping stations and the surrounding compound. The environment officer will work closely with the operational team to look for opportunities that do not hinder operational activity. These may include but will not be limited to artificial nesting habitats, grass snake nesting habitat and pollinator opportunities.

Barn Owls

As in previous years the Board continues to monitor and maintain a network of Barn Owl and Kestrel boxes across the district. During the summer the environment officer along with the Wildlife Conservation Partnership surveyed 30 boxes. The species found during the box inspection that were of appropriate size were ringed and recorded. A condition assessment of the box was used to inform the Board's replacement programme. This year has been a difficult one for much of Lincolnshire's wildlife, due to the exceptional rainfall experienced through the winter. Despite this the Board managed to record 16 Kestrel and Barn Owls. The condition assessment identified three boxes requiring replacement which have been ordered, and these will be replaced during the winter months.

Mink eradication project:

This has now been expanded to cover the whole of Greater Lincolnshire (previously it was just the South of the county). Since January 2024 there have been a total of 411 mink captures in the County of Lincolnshire, this makes Lincolnshire the highest county in terms of captures and makes up 26% of all captures across England and Wales. Within the Board's district the number of Mink trapped as of 04/11/2025 is 1 across 8 active traps. This is an increase from previous years with no records of trapped Mink in previous year (private traps not included). In past eradication schemes a good metric for measuring the success is the sex ratio of captures. At the start of these schemes the catch rate is dominated by males (~90%) and this begins to drop as trapping efforts increase. This has been seen in Norfolk who have completely eradicated breeding Mink statistics showing a rapid decrease in Male captures. The male sex ratio in Lincolnshire has shown the first signs of reduction with this trend expected to continue in the coming years, this shows the Mink trapping project has been a success thus far. The Board has taken the stance to not do any trapping or dispatching in house but to support the project where we can through education and using our close ties with landowner to assist the project in recruiting volunteers. The Board has assigned some of the funds from the environmental budget to help support the project. The remoti traps used by the Waterlife Recovery Trust send a text message when active meaning the traps do not need to be regularly monitored and only need to be checked once triggered. If anyone would like to

become part of the project and host a Mink raft on their land, please contact the Board's Environment Officer

Beavers:

Following the releases of Beaver into an enclosed 70-acre enclosure in Northern Lincolnshire (outside the Board's boundaries) ADA have been pursuing guidance with regards to training and licensing for when Beavers interrupt IDB routine operations in the future. A two-day training event has been scheduled by ADA in association with the EA, Natural England and the River Stour IDB. The training will look at the opportunities and challenges the species presents and the legislation around the animal's management. The Boards' Environment Officer will attend and will feedback.

Species Recording:

Over the recent summer season, the Board has trialled a new species recording system to replace the previous iRecord due to better integration with our mapping system. The new recording system utilises QR codes to allow Operatives to quickly fill out information about the sighting as well as automatic location data. The trial has had a positive response from many operational staff with constructive feedback to improve the system in readiness for the summer maintenance in 2025. The reporting system has identified; 9 badger setts, 7 water voles, 2 grass snakes as well as a number of bird species that have been added to the Board's historical species records that will be fed in to the Lincolnshire species record centre. In addition to the operative recordings, sightings from walkovers of drains have been recorded by the Environment Officer, including UKBAP species, reed bunting, water vole, skylark and lapwing. Incidental sightings of barn owl, new badger setts and mink sightings have also been recorded

Members were presented with graphs that showed species recordings from within the Board's area that are stored within the Lincolnshire species records centre hosted by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership. This was just a selection showing the species that appear on the 4 Boards' nature strategy or are common in or around maintained watercourses. A general downward trend of species sightings across the district with Water Voles continuing to be a concern could be seen. There is evidence to suggest that the decline in Water Vole populations is due to the increased presence of Mink. There is hope, thanks to increased trapping across the county, that Water Vole number will begin to rebound

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and the 4 Boards' Nature Strategy (formerly BAP):

LNRS' are designed as tools to drive more coordinated, practical, and focussed action to help nature. The Board has been involved in the consultation for the strategy with the current Nature Strategy (formally BAP) providing guidance and direction for the LNRS. The strategy is due to be released in the Spring 2025 and will directly influence the update to the 4 Boards' Nature Strategy. The Board will use the LNRS to prioritise and target certain areas to work towards the goals that the strategy will provide. The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership who are developing the LNRS are hosting their annual conference in November where it will become clearer with regards to the impact on the Boards Nature Strategy. With the renewal of the Boards' current Nature Strategy required by the end of 2026 the development of the strategy is currently ongoing with the Board looking into options for enhancements through physical changes or the development of maintenance strategies at key environmental areas

ADA Lincolnshire Branch Environmental Committee

During the ADA committee meeting in April there was a distinct lack of representation from Board members. One of the actions from the meeting was a call for IDBs to boost Board members attendance. The committee is used to discuss anything environmental related to IDBs and meets twice annually. Following the request for Board members, the subsequent meeting pleasingly had a large number of members in attendance. If any members would like to attend the group or receive meeting minutes, please email the committee secretary (nick.downing@witham3idb.gov.uk).

Lincoln University Placement

Following the successful placement of a second year Lincoln University earlier this year, the Boards have agreed to host another student this year. Although not finalised, the student's project will be based on historical flooding and the impacts this, and future events have on IDB assets. Assuming a suitable student applies for the place they will be joining us for 12 weeks (one day a week) from January to May 2025.

Members NOTED the update.

21. Request for the Adoption of Watercourse, Pioneer Park Drain from North East Lincolnshire Council.

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Engineering & Technical Services.

The Board has received a request from North East Lincolnshire Council for the Board to place a riparian watercourse on to its list of Maintained Watercourses.

The watercourse in question is a continuation of the Middle Drain pumped system and involves the extending of the maintained reach of Middle Drain Branch No.5 [Drain 6E]. The watercourse serves an area to the south of Immingham, adjacent to the Kiln Lane, Pioneer Park Industrial Estate and what is currently arable land that has been designated for future development.

The watercourse serves an area to the north of the watercourse which has been developed as Pioneer Business Park and this area is due for further expansion. The land to the south of Kiln Lane has been the subject of numerous development proposals and is allocated for 'non-agricultural' use.

The proposal is to extend the Board's maintained reach from its existing limit by a further 645m to provide a suitable outfall to the Business Park's surface water system outfall. The Board would adopt the open watercourse only and not accept responsibility for any existing structures on, in or over the watercourse.

To maintain a continuous access route, an access culvert would need to be installed. Should this be installed to the Board's specification, then it may accept adoption of the watercourse and scheduling for future maintenance, being the sole beneficiary. By placing this reach of watercourse on to its Maintenance Schedule, then the Board's Byelaws will apply. This will make secure the access required for all future maintenance of this watercourse, which will serve further industrial and business development within the catchment.

North East Lindsey Council has agreed, and is currently commissioning work, to place the watercourse into an adoptable condition and install the required access culvert.

Policy:

The Board has a policy of adopting watercourses where it is, or has the potential to be, a primary drainage route and there is obvious benefit to those occupiers of land within the catchment. The catchment it serves is already developed and is to be developed further in the future and so control over access to the watercourse and its maintenance provides discernible benefits to all rate payers within the catchment.

The proposed additional reach is a continuation of the Board's existing system and will provide benefit to multiple occupiers of land.

Options

There are 2 options to be considered:

1. To not schedule the watercourse. The maintenance of the watercourse would remain the responsibility of the adjacent riparian land owner[s].
2. Adopt the watercourse length and Schedule the reach of watercourse for maintenance as requested, the Board placing it on its Schedule of Maintained Watercourses.

Subject to the watercourse being placed in to an acceptable condition and the access culvert being installed to the Board's specification and satisfaction, it was recommended by Officers that the Board agrees to adopt the addition reach of 645m of open watercourse of Drain 6E, Middle Drain Branch No.5. Maintenance of the watercourse would be included within the Board's annual vegetation maintenance programme from July 2025, or other date once continuous access is provided.

Members AGREED to adopt the watercourse and schedule it for maintenance, subject to the conditions stated.

22. Any Other Business.

There were no further items of business, and the meeting closed at 16.31.

23. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Board was confirmed for Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 2pm in Stallingborough Grange Hotel.

.......... Chairman..... 29.1.25..... Date

NELDB BM 27.11.24.