

## **NORTH EAST LINDSEY DRAINAGE BOARD**

### **Minutes of a meeting of North East Lindsey Drainage Board held on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in Stallingborough Grange Hotel at 2pm.**

Present:

Cllr P Clark	
Mr E Faulding	
Mr J Finch	
Mr J Fussey	
Mr L Grooby	
Cllr R Hannigan	
Mr J F Hargreaves	
Mr P J Hoyes	<b>Chairman</b>
Cllr S Holland	
Mr R Kirk	<b>Vice Chairman</b>
Mr S Shepherd	
Cllr D Wells	

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 from Cllr S Harness, Cllr D Humphrey, Cllr E Kaczmarek, Cllr M Patrick and Cllr N Pettigrew.

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

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

#### **3. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the January Meeting.

He advised Members they would receive updates on continued recovery works from storms Babet and Henk in October 2023 and January 2024 respectively, and the heavy rainfall events of last autumn and winter. Recovery works are well underway, with those funded through the IDB £75 million Fund on a tight completion timescale of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

Members would also be advised about the flooding experienced across the 4 Witham & Humber drainage districts between Sunday, January 05<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 09<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The Lincolnshire LRF was one of 2 nationally to declare a Major Incident, the other was Leicestershire & Rutland Local Resilience Forum. In Humberside the LRF hosted meetings over several days but did not declare a multi-agency Major Incident.

Traditionally at the January meeting the focus is to set a financially balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year from April. IDBs have a legal duty to do so and to publicise

the Penny Rate before 15th February each year, which drives the level of drainage rates payable by the occupiers of land and Special Levies for the 3 Councils.

This year officers were recommending to the Board a 4.00% increase in the Penny Rate. This was pleasingly less of an increase than we have faced in the last couple of years, those increases being largely due to external cost pressures, particularly increased electricity prices.

#### **4. Minutes of the Board meeting & Annual Public Meeting, 27.11.24.**

The minutes of the Board's previous meeting, held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024, were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

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

#### **5. Minutes of the Joint Services Committee Meeting 09.12.24.**

The minutes of the Joint Services Committee Meeting held on Monday, 09<sup>th</sup> December 2024 had been circulated with the agenda.

MATTERS ARISING

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

#### **6. Chief Executive's Report.**

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

##### **6.1 Lincolnshire LRF Major Incident: Floods Sunday 05th January 2025 to Thursday 09th January 2025. (Item 3 refers).**

Following rainfall of 45-65mm rainfall for a 36-hours period overnight from Sunday 05th January into Monday 06<sup>th</sup> January, severe flooding has been experienced across some localities in all four Boards' drainage districts [town, villages and agricultural land]. At several meetings the issue of why catchments responded so quickly to this amount of rainfall had been raised. Reasons include already saturated catchments [Soil Moisture Deficits of only 1mm as of 31.12.24], rain falling on icy frozen ground, vegetation, trees and bushes growing in EA main rivers meant the state of the receiving watercourses was not good, the Lower Witham tributaries having had little maintenance over the last 25+ years, localised rain profiles and potentially that there were no main river breaches on this occasion unlike the 13 in Lincolnshire last autumn/winter which perversely took pressure off the main river systems.

A major incident was declared by Lincolnshire LRF at 18.30pm on Monday 06th January, in response to the flood impacts. This was one of two LRFs to declare a major incident due to flooding, the other being Leicestershire and Rutland. Emergency services had operational responses in place for several ongoing incidents, including multiple road closures and evacuations at properties across

the county because of flooding. At that time there were 34 flood warnings and 29 flood alerts in place across the county, and reports of 62 properties which had been internally flooded. This number rose and as of 16:00 on 13.01.25 there were 106 residential properties with confirmed internal flooding and a possible 32 TBC with internal flooding [of the 106, 35 had also been flooded in Storms Babet/Henk]. Twenty properties had confirmed external flooding with a further 19 TBC.

The Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) met regularly and monitored the situation as it developed because of the potential for more flooding. Crews from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue responded where people had to be evacuated from properties, including schools. There were 25 road closures in place across the county, and this list was being constantly updated. The Humberside LRF did not declare a major incident but also convened relevant meetings throughout the event.

Witham & Humber Drainage Boards' staff and contractors were responding to local problems and routine work was suspended, e.g. conditions were not suitable for bank slip repair works to continue funded from the IDB £75 million Fund. Pumping stations were once again operating 24/7 and we did have some pump failures during the period, not in NELDB.

Levels within the Witham main river system at gauging stations from Claypole, through to Horseshoe, Langworth, Bardney were consistently the highest recorded. Overtopping of the EA raised defences continued over lengths of +100m's downstream of Lincoln as far as Bardney. Sandhill and Heighington Fen Pumping stations [Witham First DIDB] were at risk of inundation. There are several residential properties within Heighington Fen.

At the SCG on Thursday, 09th January at 11:30 the major incident, SCG and TCG were stood down. The LRF moved from response phase to recovery phase and 3 recovery meetings have been held to date, the latest on 20.01.25.

The picture was one of extensive disruption again in Lincolnshire, with 25 temporary road closures and localised flooding in a list of town/villages. There appears to have been no main riverbank breaches, but areas of significant main riverbank overtopping and bank seepage [including South Delph out of Lincoln, Sandhill Beck, Barlings Eau, Cricket Till and Till, Witham in Grantham, Billingham Skirth, Carr Dyke, Timberland Delph].

Cllr Hannigan stated that the Board should grasp the opportunity of devolution and lobby the new incoming Mayor about the importance of flood risk and water management. He suggested the Mayor would be a major influencer of Government policy.

Lionel Grooby asked if there had been a noticeable trend in rainfall figures, and was it increasing? In short, the answer was yes.

There followed much discussion on EA main rivers, rainfall levels, rainfall patterns, attenuation/SuDs not doing the job they were originally designed to do, and that Schedule 3 of the Flood & Water Management Act [2010] had not yet been implemented nationally.

Members were hopeful that maintenance in future would be more organised.

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

As reported to Members at the November Board meetings, 54% only of the 80% EA Highland Water payment due for payment by 30.09.24 for the 2024/25 Estimate had so far been received by the Boards. The EA notified IDBs verbally, via a videoconference meeting on 13.09.24 that they had insufficient budget to meet the IDB claims. The RFCC agreed at its meeting on 18.10.24 to ensure payment is made, potentially from Local Levy, before 31st March 2025.

Following this discussion at RFCC, it was agreed that the IDBs across Lincolnshire should be paid in full the shortfall of £421,705.40, this being from Local Levy before 31.03.25 if national funds are not forthcoming. EA staff were to 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 Tranche 2 or other national source.

But the reassurance from the RFCC is that that IDBs will be reimbursed that which we are owed, but there is no such reassurance yet for HW claims in 2025/26.

On 24.12.24 IDBs were asked to submit additional information for verification, this was completed and submitted after Christmas. The new contact point for processing the claims is Henry Hammond at the EA.

It was anticipated that the claims would be paid before 31.03.25.

**6.3 IDB Fund Tranche 2A, 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&HDBs bids totalled £11 million. No approvals were given nationally prior to the Budget on 30.10.24 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].

The Boards have now received these T2A approvals in November, totalling £6.1 million and still with a delivery deadline of 31.03.25.

Cllr Holland asked if MPs had been requested to lobby the Government? Officers confirmed that yes, all available routes had been explored, and it was hoped that Council representatives on IDBs would be doing the same.

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

**7. Corporate Risk Register.**

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

The purpose of the Corporate Risk Register (CRR) is to provide the Boards and the Public with an update of the Corporate Risk Register for Witham and Humber Drainage Boards. The CRR provides a strategic oversight of the corporate risk management process and the key risks to which WHDBs are exposed.

The CRR is taken to each of the 4 Board Meetings to ensure that Board members are aware of the strategic risks which affect the four (4) statutory Boards within the Witham and Humber group. It details those risks that are significant enough to warrant management and or oversight by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. It Provides detail of the risk control measures in place to reduce the likelihood and/or impact of a risk occurrence where this is felt to be practicable /appropriate.

Witham and Humber Drainage Boards continue to have a robust risk management process, which enables consideration of external and internal risks. By establishing a systematic approach to identification, assessment and management of risk, WHDBs intend to continually improve the 4 Boards' governance, increase accountability and enhance overall performance.

Following the Winter 2023/2024 storms, various funding streams were opened to the IDBs. They are included as 'risk' within the CRR as the Boards continue to manage the works to repair and reinstate. Additionally, the risk of the repair or not of the EA Main Rivers is included, and whilst the Main Rivers are not IDB assets, how this may impact upon our Boards should repairs not be undertaken.

The CRR was reviewed internally in August 2024 and again at the end of December 2024 / early January 2025, as part of the ongoing risk management process. This was following the January 2025 rainfall event, which resulted in the Lincolnshire LRF declaring a 'major incident' for the period 06.01.25 to 09.01.25. The CRR continues to be presented to the Boards annually, in January meetings. However, if required, due to significant risk or significant changes to management, the CRR would be presented more often.

Changes were outlined, as follows:

Ref 1 – General update to reflect the position. References have been updated to reflect the impact of Storm Babet and the inundation following main river breaches, overtopping and significant seepage. Whilst the risk rating has remained, the 'trend' has increased due to the potential for increase in the future.

Ref 2 – Additional information added to the risk consequence added to include the risk of a failure of any key contract provider or supplier of which the Board obtains supplies from.

Ref 3 – General update to reflect the claims submitted following the Winter 2023/2024 storms and damage to IDB assets following several main river breaches.

Ref 4 – Review and general update to reflect the position as is now. Also included the addition of Highland Water receipts and the potential for late or non-payments.

Ref 5 – NEW RISK added. Due to the grants made available to IDBs (£75m), the risk to non-completion of works, resulting in loss of full or partial payment and or non-reimbursement are acknowledged and have been added until a time those works are completed in line with the deadlines provided and all monies are drawn down.

Ref 8 – General update to reflect staff and retention. Reduction in the inherent risk following general review.

Ref 10 – General update to reflect current position. It is welcomed and noted that the position regarding the implementation of a new DRS ratings system has stabilised, with positive updates to the position as the new system is developed for 2025/26.

Ref 11 – General update to reflect current position and recognition of the 2023/24 storms which impacted upon the IDBs assets.

Ref 12 – NEW RISK – insurance added as a stand-alone risk, due to the changes in premiums over the last few years, and the property insurance noting some pump stations are not covered for flooding. The mitigation covers the works being done to support and reduce the risk, such as looking with the Brokers for the best way to cover assets where currently the cover is not provided (exemptions to cover e.g. for flood risk).

Following discussion Members:

- Approved the addition of Ref 5 and 12 to the CRR, whilst these risks remain high or very high.
- Approved the amendments to the CRR to reflect the current risk position.
- Confirmed the revised CRR reflected an accurate assessment of the current risks profile.

## 8. **Financial Report to 31.12.24, month 9 of 2024/25.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance. The financial performance as 31.12.2024 was summarised as:

<b>Profiled Budget P9 £</b>	<b>Actual (Surplus)/Deficit £</b>	<b>Variance £</b>
(353,604)	(376,746)	(23,142)
<i>Highland Water owed</i>	<i>(37,109)</i>	<i>(60,251)</i>

The Board is currently showing a positive variance position of (£23,142) surplus against the profiled budget. However, this is affected by 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 the 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 £37,109 (after adjustment for IDB reimbursed costs) for the Board. If this is received in full, then the position would increase this positive variance to a (£60,251) surplus, as follows:

<b>Profiled Budget P9 £</b>	<b>Actual (Surplus)/Deficit £</b>	<b>Variance £</b>
(353,604)	(413,855)	(60,251)

Members were reminded that some of the 'high risk' spend areas may occur (especially electricity) over the remainder of this financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

As it stands, once the outstanding Highland Water monies are received (as agreed by RFCC on 19th October 2024) 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 grant/fund money provides a one-year 2024/25 benefit.

#### Income (£213k):

The main income streams had been posted in terms of Drainage Rates raised (not necessarily paid) at (£31.6k), and Special Levies received at (£842k) for the full year from the 3 relevant councils. Ongoing action is taking place against unpaid drainage rate account holders.

Grant income had been received for both FDGIA scheme at Mawmbridge PS (£128k) and IDB Fund schemes (£61.9k).

Rechargeable Works are being undertaken, mainly for the EA through the PSCA. Invoices had been raised with the EA up to the end of October (£156k) for PSCA and (£1k) in other recharges.

Highland Water claims had been submitted to the EA for the balance of the 2023/24 actual costs incurred of (£25,019) and for the 2024/25 Estimated claim of (£131,500). The EA was due to pay 80% of the estimated claim for 2024/25 (£105,200) along with the balance for 2023/24 actual costs incurred (£25,019), i.e., a total of (£130,219). Correspondingly, the balance adjusted for actual 2024/25 costs incurred will be payable by the EA in September 2025. To date, the EA had only paid 54% of the 80% of the 2024/25 Estimate. The issue has been raised in several forums including the RFCC which met on 19th October 2024. The RFCC agreed that the Highland Water claims would be paid in full by the end of the financial year 31st March 2025, potentially from Local Levy, and that discussions would take place with individual Boards on the cash flow impact and timing of these payments as well as a reconciliation with monies received from IDB Fund for Storm Recovery costs. The net shortfall of £37,109 had not been paid yet. This is a key risk for the Board, not just in this financial year but for future financial years as well.

Members were advised about the current position of the Drainage Rates collected for 2024/25 including previous years' arrears as of 31st December 2024. The collection rate stands at 93.5% (compared with 95.2% @P9 2023/24), so it is slightly behind last year's collection rate. 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 only land issues raised in-year are now being actioned.

#### Bank Balances:

The balances as of 31st December 2024 were shown. The current account (Barclays) was held at a minimal level over the Christmas and New Year period.

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 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 income, further investments had been made to achieve an uplift on the Nationwide accounts the Boards operate. The rates on these Nationwide accounts had 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 (£182k) of income as follows:

Interest Earned Per Board from Fixed Term Deposits						Total
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
NEL	£ 6,780.82	£ 19,625.89	£ 6,133.56	£ -	£ -	£ 32,540.27
UW	£ 6,739.73	£ 42,024.82	£ 6,133.56	£ -	£ -	£ 54,898.11
W1	£ 6,739.73	£ 24,759.73	£ 6,133.56	£ -	£ -	£ 37,633.01
W3	£ 6,739.73	£ 43,688.49	£ 6,133.56	£ -	£ -	£ 56,561.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 27,000.00</b>	<b>£130,098.93</b>	<b>£24,534.25</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£181,633.18</b>

#### Electricity:

The increase in unit rates and standing charges from 01st October 2024 was reported to the Board at the last meeting. The October and November invoices had now been paid, at these new rates.

#### Inflation:

Members will be aware of the inflationary pressures that the country has experienced, over recent years, CPI peaking at 11.1% in October 2022. CPI had subsided to 1.7% in September 2024 but is now back to 2.5% for December 2024. However, the recent Autumn Budget and world events may stimulate inflation again. But this is something to be aware of in setting the budget for 2025/26.

Members NOTED the financial performance for the 9 months period 01<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 of 2024/25.

### **9. Budget Estimates for 2025/26 and Capital Programme 2025/26 onwards.**

The proposed Budget Estimates for the 2025/26 financial year had been circulated with the agenda and were presented by the Director of Finance.

Detailed work had been undertaken to review the actual income and expenditure in 2024/25 as of 31st December 2024 (Q3). This position had then been used to inform the proposed budgets for 2025/26, together with any known cost pressures, necessary developments and known savings. The summary Estimates position compared the 2024/25 approved Budget to the 2025/26 proposed Budget and showed variances.

The summary of the Joint Services Budget was also provided for information, which was recommended for approval by the 4 Boards' JSC meeting on 09th December 2024. These costs had been allocated between the 4 Boards on the agreed proportions of 30% each to Upper Witham IDB and Witham Third DDB and 20% each to Witham First DDB and North East Lindsey IDB.

The Capital Programme previously approved in January 2023 for the refurbishment of the 4 Boards' Pumping Stations, including potential grant funding available from the Flood Defence Grant in Aid [FDGIA] resource funded by DEFRA via the EA, along with the already approved Plant Programme was provided.

#### Revenue Budgets 2025/26:

The Board had experienced 2 very challenging years preparing Budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25, due to significant increases in electricity costs, inflationary impacts on pay, insurance costs, fuel, service and maintenance costs, etc and especially following the heavy rainfall events since October 2023, including Storms Babet and Henk. Dealing



with the significant additional water entering IDB systems from EA main river breaches, overtopping and excessive seepage has given significant financial uncertainty to the 4 Boards, and this continues. Electricity usage was very significant during 2023/24 and at higher unit rates than those paid in the last major wet weather event in Autumn 2019. Pumping stations have been inundated or running excessively resulting in significant repairs across the 4 Boards. Then 2025 started with a major incident declared in Lincolnshire between 06.01.25 to 09.01.25, with further flooding.

Another significant increase experienced over the last couple of years is the electricity standing charges, which in cash terms had risen to nearly £200k by 01.10.23 from £15k on 01.10.20 (£245k including KVA charges as well) across the 4 Boards. These costs are incurred whether the pumps are running or not. Although the standing charge has not increased from 01st October 2024 (for the 12 months until 30th September 2025), indeed there is a small reduction of (£17k) for the 4 Boards, the KVA allowance charges have increased, giving a net overall increase of £26k for the 4 Boards. The following table summarised the increase in electricity standing charges and KVA allowance charges for the 4 Boards between 01.10.19 and 01.10.24:

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

**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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 73,520.88</b>	<b>£ 46,741.92</b>	<b>£ 41,578.08</b>	<b>£ 39,234.96</b>	<b>£ 38,059.56</b>	<b>£ 38,394.60</b>

**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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 26,778.96</b>	<b>£ 5,163.84</b>	<b>£ 2,343.12</b>	<b>£ 1,175.40</b>	<b>-£ 335.04</b>	

**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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 9,704.14</b>	<b>£ 77,110.05</b>	<b>£ 78,875.10</b>	<b>£ 37,570.26</b>	<b>£ 962.79</b>

Whilst many of these cost pressures continue, in preparing the 2025/26 Budgets we are not aware of any further significant additional issues which will affect the Board from April 2025 onwards. However, the Board is still carrying a significant amount of additional financial risk compared to what it was carrying a few years ago, and this must be factored into the Board's financial plans, particularly Reserves levels.

The 4 Boards have been very successful in securing one off grant funding through both Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGIA) and from the IDB £75m Fund announced in February 2024, but this has only been to repair and restore pumping stations and repair bank slips to their previous state [recovery funds]. The need for ongoing annual maintenance and repairs continues and costs are rising.

Cost pressures due to inflation, market changes and contractual arrangements have been addressed in the proposed 2025/26 budgets and include:

- Pay Related Costs £5k – The Witham & Humber Boards are facing significant retention and recruitment issues with a more turnover of staff than has previously been experienced. A 2025/26 pay award of 5.1%, as recommended by the ADA Lincolnshire Branch, was agreed by the 4 Boards in November 2024, based on the ONS average changes in public sector pay. This also includes the increase in Employers' National Insurance contributions from 13.8% to 15% and the earnings threshold reducing to £5,000, as announced in the Chancellor's 2024 Autumn Budget.
- JSC/Engineering £26k – these pay related issues also feed into JSC recharges, which are apportioned across the 4 Boards in the agreed allocations.
- Insurance costs £0.2k - The Boards are facing very significant challenges in procuring suitable insurance cover at realistic prices, and this continues to increase with continued wet weather events. Following discussions with our advisors, The Risk Factor, we have assumed the renewal costs budget for July 2025 will be the costs of the July 2024 renewals plus 10%. However, some covers may be reduced or withdrawn, so we are reviewing our insurance arrangements with our advisors.

- Electricity (£5k) – reduction in electricity budget to reflect reduced unit rates but standing/KVA charges have increased again, and the Board needs to be mindful of more frequent rainfall events, where IDB systems are receiving/pumping additional excessive water coming from EA main river.
- Pump Lifts, Repairs & Maintenance (R&M) – Pump lift budgets have been retained as is, whilst works have been undertaken that have been grant aided in 2024/25, a programme of pump lifts will need to be restarted in 2025/26 onwards.
- General inflation £3k – whilst overall inflation has reduced from its peak in 2023, it is still unstable and some of the impacts of the Autumn 2024 Budget are still feeding through, so we are still experiencing increased costs in many areas of the 4 Boards' spending. These will feed into ICT, mobile phones and other CPI based contracts from April 2024 onwards.

Officers recommended that a balanced budget position could be achieved for 2025/26 based on these assumptions and a recommended **4.00% penny rate increase**. Each 1% increase in the Penny Rate equates in cash terms to £8,753 for 2025/26.

The following table set out for members the 'penny rate' increases that the Boards have set in recent years:

### Historic Penny Rate Increases

<u>Increase in penny rate</u>												<i>Proposed</i>
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
NEL	1.37%	0.00%	0.00%	2.50%	0.00%	1.00%	2.00%	2.00%	5.00%	15.00%	14.00%	4.00%
UW	1.89%	1.75%	1.50%	1.25%	2.00%	2.00%	2.40%	2.50%	6.25%	15.00%	16.00%	5.00%
W1	2.00%	1.75%	1.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.00%	2.50%	6.50%	29.00%	20.00%	4.00%
W3	2.00%	1.75%	1.25%	0.75%	2.00%	0.50%	2.00%	2.50%	5.00%	15.00%	14.96%	5.00%
<u>Average increase since 2014/15</u>												
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
NEL	1.37%	0.69%	0.46%	0.97%	0.77%	0.81%	0.98%	1.11%	1.54%	2.89%	3.90%	3.91%
UW	1.89%	1.82%	1.71%	1.60%	1.68%	1.73%	1.83%	1.91%	2.39%	3.65%	4.78%	4.80%
W1	2.00%	1.88%	1.75%	1.31%	1.05%	0.88%	1.46%	1.59%	2.14%	4.83%	6.20%	6.02%
W3	2.00%	1.88%	1.67%	1.44%	1.55%	1.38%	1.46%	1.59%	1.97%	3.28%	4.34%	4.39%

Without this proposed 4.00% Penny Rate increase the Board cannot set a balanced budget and endeavour to secure its financial stability. Additionally, there will be the land movements from agricultural land to 'other developed land' under the Land Drainage Act 1991, which impact on each individual Special Levy paying Council. These land movements were set out in the following report and members considered the 2 reports in tandem.

### Funds and Reserves:

The revised Financial Regulations approved at JSC in December 2024 agreed a policy of holding a general 'Revenue Reserve' for emergencies of 15% to 20% of turnover [previously the policy was to hold 10-15%], and that the balance be held in 'earmarked reserves' for specific requirements. This concurs with previous discussions by Members and a wish to increase the General Reserve to 20% in the coming years, as resources allow.

It was proposed the fund balances be allocated on the following basis:

Reserve	Actual 2023/24 b/f £	Estimated 2024/25 c/f £	Estimated 2025/26 c/f £
Revenue Reserve*	(148,349)	(187,132)	(187,132)
Emergency Event	(75,000)	(112,350)	(149,850)
Pumping Stations	(312,147)	(315,594)	(319,041)
Conservation	(11,634)	(11,634)	(11,634)
Rosper Road Pits	(6,839)	(6,839)	(6,839)
One Off Projects (Grant monies) **	(170,140)	(0)	(0)
<b>Capital Programme Funding</b>			
Development Contributions	(101,566)	(101,566)	(101,566)
Pumping Station Refurbishments	(50,000)	(95,000)	(145,000)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>(875,675)</b>	<b>(830,115)</b>	<b>(921,062)</b>

\*Assumes year end balanced position for 2024/25.

\*\* Assumes all FGDGIA schemes completed in financial year.

#### Revenue Reserve:

This is the general 'contingency' reserve and will be utilised for any unexpected or emergency purposes which cannot be contained in the revenue budget. This assumes a balanced position on the Revenue Account at the end of this financial year 2024/25 on 31.03.24.

The 2025/26 balance is estimated to be 16.51% of estimated turnover, so is within the Board's updated approved Policy on Reserves of holding 15% to 20% of turnover. The actual position for 2024/25 as of 31st March 2025 will be part of the Outturn report to the Board in May 2025.

#### Emergency Event:

This reserve can be used for funding emergency expenditure incurred if a flooding event takes place, additional electricity usage is incurred at the pumping stations or for preventative/remedial action to help deal with emergency events. There is now an annual contribution of £37.5k to this reserve.

#### Pumping Stations/AWCs:

This reserve receives the depreciation charges from the Automatic Weedscreen Cleaners (AWCs). This fund will fund future one-off emergency works at Pumping Stations/AWCs.

#### Conservation:

Reserve to facilitate conservation initiatives within the Board's area.

#### Rosper Road Pits:

Balance of the contributions received for the Rosper Road Pits project, to be utilised in developing and maintaining this scheme in future.

#### One-Off Projects:

This reserve holds the balance of any FDGIA monies received and not yet fully utilised (e.g., Immingham and Mawmbridge Pumping Station refurbishments, etc). It is assumed

all grant income will be utilised in 2024/25 but if not, any balances will be held in this Reserve until expenditure is required.

Developer Contributions:

Balance of the contributions received for various development contributions, which will meet future maintenance and improvement costs as required.

Pumping Station Refurbishments (Capital):

Annual contributions are made to this reserve to fund the Pumping Station Refurbishment Capital Programme. These contributions will be held in this reserve until required. Following the national review of the overall FDGiA programme, this is on hold until further notice.

Members were reminded that they can reallocate resources between these reserves at any time, should the need arise.

Following discussion, Members were content to:

- **APPROVE** the financially balanced Budget Estimates for 2025/26, based upon a 4.00% increase in the penny rate.
- **NOTE** the outcome of this report determined the level of penny rate, drainage rates and Special Levies to be set for 2025/26.

**10. Annual Value, Drainage Rates and Special Levies 2025/26.**

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

The Annual Values are set out in the first part of this report and must be formally approved by the Board. These start with the brought forward from last year's rate setting as at 31st December 2023, with then the movements during the calendar year 01.01.24 to 31.12.24 required for land that has been developed or is no longer used for agricultural purposes. This land transfers out of Drainage Rates and is allocated to the Special Levy for the appropriate Council.

The Annual Values as at 31st December 2023 were:

	<b>Total £</b>
Drainage Rates	582,704
North Lincolnshire Council	4,043,918
North East Lincolnshire Council	11,197,057
West Lindsey DC	84,775
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,908,454</b>

The land movements between 01.01.24 and 31.12.24 that require transfer from Drainage Rates to Special Levy were:

<b>Council</b>	<b>Area ha</b>	<b>Annual Value</b>
Drainage Rates	-2.13	-£194
North Lincolnshire Council	0.61	£2,133

North East Lincolnshire Council	1.52	£5,298
West Lindsey DC	0.00	£0
<b>Total (Net)</b>		<b>£7,237</b>

The land is removed from Drainage Rates at the known Annual Value and transferred to Special Levy at the 'Developed Land' rate, as calculated on 1993 values, of £3,485.74 per hectare. The developed land rate calculated on the 1993 values is as follows:

	Acres	Hectares	Annual Value	Rate per Hectare
Agricultural	18,930	7,661	671,801	£87.69
<b>Developed</b>	<b>8,881</b>	<b>3,594</b>	<b>12,527,747</b>	<b>£3,485.74</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,811</b>	<b>11,255</b>	<b>13,199,548</b>	

The changes set out results in the following Annual Values as at 31st December 2024

	<b>Total £</b>
Drainage Rates	582,510
North Lincolnshire Council	4,046,051
North East Lincolnshire Council	11,202,355
West Lindsey DC	84,775
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,915,691</b>

'Penny Rates':

The Penny Rate drives Drainage Rates and Special Levies. The following 'penny rates' for 2025/26 will be applicable if the proposed 4.00% increase is agreed:

	<b>Penny Rate (pence)</b>
Current	5.4967
Proposed	5.7166

This will increase, net of land movements, the Board's income generated from Drainage Rates from £32,029 in 2024/25 to £33,299 (+£1,270) in 2025/26.

The changes will have the following impact on Special Levies, including the rebasing of the Annual Values for the land transfers for each Council, as follows:

	<b>Current £</b>	<b>Proposed £</b>	<b>Difference £</b>	<b>Increase %</b>
<b>NLC</b>	222,282.04	231,296.55	9,014.51	4.06
<b>NELC</b>	615,468.63	640,393.83	24,925.20	4.05
<b>WLDC</b>	4,659.83	4,846.25	186.42	4.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>842,410.50</b>	<b>876,536.63</b>	<b>34,126.13</b>	<b>4.05</b>

In summary, income to the Board increases by a total of £35,396 (being an increase of

£34,126 in Special Levy and a net increase in Drainage Rates of £1,270 due to transfer of agricultural land to other developed land).

Following discussion Members AGREED:

- The transfer of land from Drainage Rates to Special Levy as set out is approved.
- The land valuations as at 31st December 2024, upon which Drainage Rates and Special Levies are calculated, is set at £15,915,691.
- The 'penny rate' is increased by 4.00% to 5.7166 pence in the pound for all areas of the Board's Drainage District.
- The Special Levies 2025/26 be agreed and set for each of the 3 Councils as:

North Lincolnshire Council	£ 231,296.55
North East Lincolnshire Council	£ 640,393.83
West Lindsey District Council	£ 4,846.25
- The Chairman and Chief Executive be authorised to sign the 'Rate Book', apply the seal of this Board and publicise the revised Penny Rate, estimated Drainage Rates and Special Levies before 15.02.25.

## **11. Operations Report.**

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

Between the 4 Boards, there have been 3 reported incidents, all within W3rd Board.

The year started with another heavy rainfall event 06th to 09th January when Lincolnshire LRF was one of two nationally to declare a Major Incident, due to the impact of flooding. This took priority over other works and meant the watercourses and banks were not accessible to carry on with regular maintenance. This rainfall event saw all four Boards affected with watercourses out of bank in several areas, and several EA main rivers significantly overtopping into our IDB systems. Once levels dropped, annual maintenance resumed and the contractors repairing bank slips have been able to continue. We currently have Carnaby Contractors in North East Lindsey, Maine Agri and Spence in Witham First, Mill Farm Contractors and Spence in Witham Third with Timmins Contractors and Hill Contractors covering Upper Witham. These works are under the auspices of the £1.5 million awarded from the IDB Fund for bank slip repair works.

The annual vegetation maintenance undertaken by E Carnaby & Son Ltd on the Board's scheduled and maintained watercourses had been completed, they are currently concentrating on bank slip repairs for the Board.

### **Mawmbridge pumping Station:**

One of the pumps at Mawmbridge has failed, both pump and motor are to be removed and repaired. We are just waiting to hear which company can undertake the work the soonest. Mawmbridge gravity outfall is currently working well and seems to be improving currently.

#### Fleet Vehicles and 4x4's:

We are still reviewing the fleet vehicles, with a view to placing orders for any new vehicles needed before the April deadline on crew cab pick-ups. The works supervisor, Darren Scott, drives a crew cab currently and will be exempt for 2 years until the 2029 deadline for the implementation of the new tax regulations announced in the Autumn 2024 Budget.

#### Public Sector Cooperation Agreement [PSCA] works:

We have provided estimates for a similar amount of PSCA work to be undertaken for the EA in 2025/26 as in previous years on all the Boards. We await news from the EA regarding acceptance of the quotations and confirmation of what they wish to commission next financial year. This is a value of £156k for this Board.

Members discussed and NOTED the Operations report and update.

## **12. 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 Operations.

The Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) programme is administered by the Environment Agency (EA) on behalf of Defra and applications to claim GIA are approved by the EA. The Capital Programme Refresh exercise is to be undertaken, with Indicative Allocations in September 2025

We are waiting for the Grant in Aid allocation for 2025/2026 to be confirmed by the EA, but early indications are that FDGiA funding may be reduced or removed in 2025/26 and 2025/26 will be now the final year-5 of what had previously been a 6-year Capital Programme to 31.03.27.

The indicative allocation for 2025/26 was received from the EA on 16 January 2025. This is significantly less than the request for funding we made in May 2024. We have been told the six-year programme to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027 is now a five-year programme, so the 2025/26 allocation is the final funding allocation for this capital programme which now ends 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. No indication has been given as to what the future funding is likely to be or in what format it will take.

The funding received is as follows:

Witham 1st	Timberland PS	£511,079
Witham 3rd	Woodhall Spa PS	£513,640
Upper Witham		£0
North East Lindsey		£0

We are currently in discussion with the EA to determine how we continue to progress our capital programme, given this changes the programme considerably from previously available grant levels.

#### 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  
Consultant

OBC Development  
Stantec

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

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

- 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.

Additional ecological surveys are required to inform the OBC these will be commissioned and undertaken over the next two years. An FCERM 4 will be drafted to cover the increase in cost.

**Income and spend as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024:**

<b>Mawmbridge Catchment Study</b>			<b>Approved</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Income			(£224,548)	(£224,548)	£0
Expenditure			£224,548	£142,531	(£82,017)
Net			<b>£0</b>	<b>(£82,017)</b>	<b>(£82,017)</b>

**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

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 was intended to be submitted to the EA in January 2025. The Project is currently on hold, given the funding announcement.

**Income and spend as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024:**

<b>Immingham Pumping Station Refurbishment</b>			<b>Approved</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Income			(£175,000)	(£175,000)	£0
Expenditure			£175,000	£144,570	(£30,430)
Net			<b>£0</b>	<b>(£30,430)</b>	<b>(£30,430)</b>

#### IDB Recovery Fund:

In February 2024 the government announced a £75 million funding pot to assist IDBs in recovering from the flooding over the winter of 2023/24. This fund is provided through DEFRA and is being administered by the Environment Agency.

The funding was allocated to two tranches, the first of approximately £25m being focused on recovery works to assets damaged by the storms and the second of approximately £50m to the improvement of assets to provide better resilience to flooding. The original timescale for bids and approvals is set out below:

21 May	Issue of funding prospectus & EOI forms & Application window opened.
7 June	Application deadline Tranche 1
28 June	Application deadline Tranche 2
End June	Award of Tranche 1 projects
End July	Award of Tranche 2 projects [subsequently delayed to 14.11.24]
End March 2025	Completion of Works

Witham & Humber Drainage Boards bid for 23 projects totalling £4.4m in tranche 1 and a further 13 projects totalling £10.7m in Tranche 2. The Boards were awarded £4.1m in tranche 1 and £6.6m in what became tranche 2A. All works to be completed and paid for by 31.03.25.

We have been successful in gaining approval for 20 projects in Tranche 1 with a total of £4.1m. The full approval for 10 of these 20 projects where repairs to pumps or new pumps were required was delayed until October, due to the requirement for the Fish & Eel regulations compliance to be approved by the EA. One project was withdrawn, and this W1st scheme (Heighington) has remained under the FDGIA funding regime, due to concerns of completion by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 if left in T1. Two other Tranche 1 schemes were not approved but were resubmitted for consideration for Tranche 2 funding.

#### All Boards – Tranche 1: 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 the additional costs incurred during the storm events over and above 'business as usual'. The Witham & Humber Boards also had to offset the income they had received via the Statement of Claim to the RFCC 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.

#### Bank Slip Repairs:

Bank 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 Timmins 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 topsoil. In addition to the stock we hold in the depot, we have had deliveries direct to site.

#### Tranche 2A - Asset Resilience Schemes:

At the ADA Conference on 13<sup>th</sup> November, Floods Minister Emma Hardy MP, who the Boards hosted for a visit on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 when she was then Shadow Floods Minister, announced that the Tranche 2 schemes would be progressing. We subsequently received confirmation on 14<sup>th</sup> November of the schemes that had been approved, now known as tranche 2A approvals.

#### Tranche 2A Access platforms:

We are currently on target to deliver new access platforms and weedscreens at Barrow, Barrow Haven and Foxes outfall. These are now being project led by Carnaby Contractors, following the previous contractor pulling out.

#### Tranche 2B Asset Resilience & Innovation Applications:

At the ADA conference on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024, it was announced that a second phase of Tranche 2 would be launched (to be known as Tranche 2B) and this would have an extended timescale of project completion by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Whilst this was welcome news, it would have greatly assisted the Boards if all projects (particularly Tranche 2A) were extended to this deadline, and officers were lobbying Defra, ADA and the EA on this issue. It is understood the circa £50m pot for Tranche 2 has been split into @£31m for the current Tranche 2A schemes by 31.03.25 and @£19m which will be earmarked for 'innovative' scheme submissions to be known as Tranche 2B schemes for 31.03.26.

The prospectus has now been issued (known as Tranche 2B) and schemes must be submitted by 31.01.2025. The focus of these submissions is 'innovation'. More detailed information is also required over and above what was submitted for T2A schemes.

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. The Boards have been very successful in securing this level of funding for Tranche 1 and Tranche 2A schemes. There is a reliance on external suppliers and contractors to deliver within 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 by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 deadline.

Members NOTED the Capital Programme Report and verbal update.

### **13. Engineering Services Report.**

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

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

The Board's officers have been advised that work continues on the site towards the commissioning of the pumping station. The main elements of this work are:

- the finishing off of works to the outfall structure,
- the removal of temporary bunds within the open channel system and,
- the blocking up of the existing gravity outfall. There is a need to obtain a further licence from the EA for this operation and it will also be subject to the Board prior

written consent as it requires the blocking up of existing open channels maintained by the Board.

It is expected that these works will not be complete until the end of March 2025.

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 is now complete.

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.

Stallingborough 3 Sea defence improvements - NELDB liaison (ND-5362-2020-ASS):

This project involves the placing of lump stone, and other defence repairs, along a 4.5km reach of the Humber Estuary tidal defences. The current construction period has now ceased, and work will recommence in the spring. The Board has worked with the EA to ensure access to the pumping stations at Mawmbridge and Middle Drain remains 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 affect the Board's system along this reach, at Mawmbridge PS and Oldfleet Drain. The Board's contractor has also undertaken the desilting of the Oldfleet Drain on behalf of the EA.

This project has a budget cost of £29 million.

Works are programmed to recommence in the spring as per the Agency's licence conditions to work within the Humber Estuary.

Barton to New Holland Sea Defence Improvements - NELDB 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 following Citizen Space Link:

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

Humber 2100+ - Step 1 Endorsement Report:

The multi-agency project considering the flood risk within the Humber Estuary is to issue a report seeking all partners' endorsement of Step 1 of the overall strategy. This initial

step is seeking to gain acceptance of various fundamental issues relating to flood risk in the catchment, building acceptance of the magnitude and consequence of the risk and how we communicate it to those it affects.

All professional partners have been issued with a copy of this report for comment and use in briefing their Councillors and others to help them understand the outputs and secure endorsement.

A presentation was then given on this work.

The following link can be used for land owners to request to subscribe to their Humber Landowner Newsletter.

[Hstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Hstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Members received and NOTED the Engineering report and update.

**14. 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.

**15. Planning & Consultations.**

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

Members noted the report on planning and consultations.

**16. Environment Update.**

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

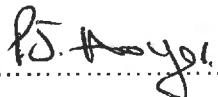
Members NOTED the update.

**17. Any Other Business.**

There were no further items of business, and the meeting closed at 16.30.

**18. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.**

The next meeting of the Board was confirmed for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 at 2pm in Stallingborough Grange Hotel.

.......... Chairman..... 21.5.25..... Date

NELDB BM 29.01.25.

