

UPPER WITHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board held on Monday, 27th January 2025 in Witham House Boardroom, North Hykeham, Lincoln at 2pm.

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr D Armiger	via video conference
	Mr T Arnold	via video conference
	Mr William Booth	
	Mr A Buckley	
	Cllr B Bushell	
	Cllr L Bushell	
	Cllr M Green	via video conference
	Cllr G Hewson	via video conference
	Mr J R Hollis	
	Mr P Knight	
	Cllr R Longbottom	
	Mr F H Myers	Chairman
	Cllr D Nannestad	
	Cllr L Pennell	via video conference
	Cllr P Taylor	
	Mr W Timmins	
	Cllr J Wells	via video conference
	Mrs J Wilkinson	Vice Chairman

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

47.24 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Baker, Cllr P Ellis, Cllr A Hagues, Mr E Jackson, Cllr P Morris, Mr R Phillips, Mr M Porter, Cllr A Pritchard, Mr G Rawlings, Cllr L Sanders, Mr J Scarborough, Cllr I Stokes, Cllr P J Vaughan and Mr A Ward.

48.24 Declarations of Members' Interests.

Members appointed by each of the relevant five Councils declared interests relating to those Councils (City of Lincoln, North Kesteven District, West Lindsey District, South Kesteven District and Newark & Sherwood District Councils).

49.24 Chairman's Announcements.

Fred Myers welcomed everyone to the January meeting, traditionally focussed on setting a financially balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year from April. The Board has a legal duty to do so, to publicise our Penny Rate and the drainage rates and special levies for the 5 councils by 15th February each year. The Chairman advised that pleasingly, the proposed increase in the Penny Rate from officers and the Board's Finance & General Purposed Committee is 5.00% for 2025/26, much less than has been needed in the last couple of years to set a balanced budget, due to high-cost pressures like electricity prices.

However, the Board will also receive updates today on recovery works from storms Babet and Henk in October 2023 and January 2024 respectively. Those works are to be completed by 31st March. This is funded across the 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards from the £1.4million Flood Defence Grant in Aid monies supported by the RFCC in December 2023, the IDB Fund Tranche 1 recovery schemes funded at £4.1million to our 4 Boards and a further £6.6 million of IDB Fund Tranche 2A asset resilience and improvement schemes approved on 14th November. These schemes are also to be completed by 31st March 2025.

Members will also be updated on the recent flooding experienced across Lincolnshire in early January, when the Lincolnshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) was one of two nationally to declare a Major Incident between Monday, 06th and Thursday 09th January 2025, due to the impact of flooding from some 45-65mm of rainfall over a 36-hours period.

50.24 Minutes of the Board Meeting & Annual Public Meeting, 25.11.24.

The Minutes of the Board's meeting, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting, held on Monday, 25th November 2024 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record subject to one amendment:

A correction to the attendance list would be made to include Cllr Mary Green, who was confirmed as being in attendance.

MATTERS ARISING:

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

51.24 Minutes of the Joint Services Committee Meeting, 09.12.24.

The minutes of the Joint Services Committee held on Monday 09th December 2024 had been circulated with the agenda for noting.

MATTERS ARISING:

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

52.24 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, 13.01.25.

The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday, 13th January 2025 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed by Cllr Nannestad, seconded by Mrs Wilkinson and APPROVED as an accurate record, with the recommendations from the meeting on 13.01.25 being noted.

MATTERS ARISING:

52.24.1 Flood Major Incident in Lincolnshire 06.01.25-09.01.25. (Minute 5.1 refers).

Lincolnshire Local Resilience Forum [LRF] was one of 2 to declare a major incident last week due to rainfall event and flooding; the other LRF being Leicestershire & Rutland. Internal flooding property numbers to be confirmed but > 100. The major incident was stood down by the SCG on Thursday, 09.01.25 and the response phase moved into recovery.

[Post-meeting note: as at 16:00 on 13.01.25 LCC confirmed to LRF there were 106 residential properties with internal flooding and a possible further 32 TBC. The number of properties with external flooding was 20 confirmed, a further 19 TBC. Of the 106 internally flooded properties, 35 were also flooded in Storms Babet/Henk].

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 river bank breaches, but areas of significant main river bank overtopping and bank seepage [including South Delph out of Lincoln, Barlings Eau, Cricket Till and Till, Witham in Grantham, Witham at Westborough, Billingham Skirth, Carr Dyke]. Cllr Ian Stokes raised the issue of flooding in Grantham.

There followed discussion about how 40-65mm of rainfall over a 36-hour period had resulted in such widespread flooding. Martin Shilling suggested a combination of factors including rainfall on frosty, hard ground conditions, a soil moisture deficit [SMD] of only 1mm in the December published figures and generally saturated catchments, vegetation/trees/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 25 years or so, localised rain profiles etc. The consensus was that the system used to cope better with the volume of water received. It was also highlighted that there had been no main river bank breaches in this flood event, unlike in Storms Babet & Henk in 23/24 when there were 13 bank breaches in Lincolnshire, which perversely took pressure off the system. It was noted that some of the highest recorded water levels were recorded at gauging stations including Claypole, Horseshoe, Langworth and Bardney.

Members discussed the operation of the washlands and what may have changed, although EA representatives had denied any change in operational process. Andrew Buckley stated that the washlands were not working. Roger Hollis asked if the EA would ever come to their senses and admit fault. Will Timmins stated that in the 1950's the Glory Hole in Lincoln had been drained and dredged, circulating a photo around the meeting for Members to view.

52.24.2 Visit of Defra's Secretary of State, Steve Reed, on 14.01.25. (Minute 5.4 refers).

The EA had notified on 09.01.25 that the Secretary of State would be visiting Lincolnshire on Tuesday 14.01.25 and, as part of a very low-key visit, arrangements are being made for him to visit one of the 4 Board's pumping stations affected by flood water last week. This meeting was cancelled, with Officers only being advised by the EA several hours beforehand.

53.24 Chief Executive's Report.

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated with the agenda. Issues highlighted included:

53.24.1 Staffing - Leavers:

Brendan Sheeran, Land Drainage Operative Upper Witham IDB, 25th November 2024.

Neil Maddison, Land Drainage Operative, Witham Third DIDB, 08th December 2024.

Members asked if the vacancies were being filled. It was advised that a member of staff who had been on long-term sick leave had now returned to work, and the vacancies were being placed on hold, pending more certainty about the level of PSCA work being commissioned by the EA in 2025.

53.24.2 Financial Positions:

The overall financial position of all 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards is sound as at 31.12.24, but it is an unusual year to track I&E due to income sources varying so much from a usual year [e.g. due to IDB £75 million Fund and FDGiA schemes] and delays in payments due to the IDBs [e.g. EA payment of Highland Water Claims]. So, peaks and troughs in cash flow are being experienced and to minimise the risk of cyber fraud and to maximise interest paid to the Boards, a series of short-term investments is being made for each Board. Members were advised that risks were increasing.

53.24.3 IDB £75million Fund.

The 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards had secured a proportionately high level of the national funding available to IDBs, announced in February 2024 following the storms and flooding in winter 2023/24. The Boards had received £4.1million in Tranche 1 aimed at recovery works.

A further £6.6million had been confirmed as part of Tranche 2A, for asset improvement and resilience. These schemes were all to be completed by 31st March 2025, which was challenging for our staff but also for our suppliers who are doing their best to gear up short-term to deliver. Although the grant income is very welcome news and a brilliant opportunity to renew IDB assets which do not qualify for funding from other sources, it is proving exceedingly challenging given the short-term deadlines and supplier capacity problems.

It was noted that the final tranche 2B bids, for asset innovation, were to be submitted by 31st January. There will be a progress update today and also at the May Board meeting.

Members received and NOTED the Chief Executive's report and update.

54.24 Corporate Risk Register.

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

The purpose of the Corporate Risk Register (CRR) report is to provide the Boards and the Public with an update of the Corporate Risk Register for the 4 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 statutory Boards within the Witham and Humber group. The CRR details those risks that are significant enough to warrant management and or oversight by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Providing 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.

The risk matrix continues to show an executive summary of the movement of risk. Other aspects for the layout of the report and the Corporate Risk Register remain as previously. 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 the Boards should repairs not be undertaken. The CRR was reviewed internally in August 2024 and again at the end 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. The following was noted:

Changes.

- 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 from which the Board obtains supplies.
- 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 with regard to the new DRS ratings system has stabilised, with positive updates to the position.
- 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 review and discussion, the Board:

- 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 reflects an accurate assessment of the current risks profile.

55.24 Month 9 2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report as at 31.12.24.

A financial monitoring report for the month 9 period 2024/25, as at 31st December 2024 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance.

The financial performance was summarised:

Profiled Budget P9 £	Actual (Surplus)/Deficit £	Variance £
(571,922)	(590,008)	(18,086)
<i>Highland Water owed</i>	<i>(66,046)</i>	<i>(84,132)</i>

The Board currently has a positive £18k surplus variance position against the profiled budget at 31.12.24. However, this is impacted upon 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 £66,046 (after adjustment for IDB reimbursed costs) for the Board. If this is received in full, then the position will increase this positive variance to one of £84,132:

Profiled Budget P9 £	Actual (Surplus)/Deficit £	Variance £
(571,922)	(656,054)	(84,132)

Some of the 'high risk' spend areas can occur (especially electricity) over the remainder of this financial year, so a firm year-end 31.03.25 forecast was not provided.

As it stands, once the outstanding Highland Water monies are received (as agreed by the 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 will provide a one-year 2024/25 benefit.

The main income streams had been posted in terms of Drainage Rates raised (not necessarily paid) at (£358k) and Special Levies income received (£1.286m) for the full year payment from the 5 relevant councils.

Significant grant income had been received for both FDGIA/Flood recovery works (£135k) and IDB Fund schemes (£2,579k). The detail of these schemes was in the Capital Update report later in the meeting agenda.

Rechargeable Works are being undertaken, mainly for the EA through the PSCA. Invoices had been raised up to the end of October (£152k) for PSCA works undertaken and (£25k) in other recharges.

Highland Water claims were submitted to the EA for the balance of the 2023/24 actual costs incurred of (£49,772) and for the 2024/25 Estimated claim of (£282,000). The EA was due to pay 80% of the estimated claim for 2024/25 (£225,600) along with the balance for 2023/24 actual costs incurred (£49,772), i.e., a total of (£275,372). Correspondingly, the balance adjusted for actual 2024/25 costs incurred will be payable by the EA in September 2025.

To date, they have only paid 54% of the 80% of the 2024/25 Estimate. The issue has been raised in several forums including the RFCC on 19th October 2024. At this meeting, 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 monies, 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. This is a key risk for the Board, not just in this financial year but for future financial years.

The main capital scheme undertaken this year is the refurbishment works at Pyewipe Pumping Station, covered in the Engineering report. Most of the works are now complete. A revised scheme was agreed with the EA totalling £713,171 with FDGIA grant awarded of £557,517. The remaining funding is made up of (£141k) of developer funding contribution to meet the cost of the replacement Automatic Weedscreen Cleaner (AWC) and a (£15k) contribution by the Board which was transferred in anticipation to the One-Off Projects reserve in 2021/22. A FDGIA grant of (£553,171) was received to undertake these works. Also, the AWC cost has been recharged to & paid by City of Lincoln Council as a developer contribution of (£154,203). Expenditure so far has been incurred of £684,799.

The Telemetry scheme has also been agreed by the EA totalling (£118,224) of FDGIA capital grant monies with a (£1k) contribution by the Board. The bulk of the works have now been completed which means the old, hosted Telemetry server can be switched off and several landline and SIM contracts have been cancelled generating future revenue savings to offset against the annual costs of the new system.

The current position of the Drainage Rates income collected for 2024/25 was presented, including previous years' arrears brought forward, as at 31st December 2024. The collection rate stands at 93.2% (95.6% @P9 2023/24) so it is slightly below last year's collection rate. First reminders were despatched to account holders on 19th August 2024 and final reminders were despatched on 18th October 2024. A court date had been set for 27th January 2025 at Boston Magistrates Court. However, this was

cancelled due to there being £25k remaining to be collected, which will be carried over to next year. All historical outstanding rating queries are now resolved and only land issues raised in-year are now being actioned.

The bank balances as at 31st December 2024 were shown. The current account (Lloyds) was held at a minimal level over the Christmas and New Year period as a precautionary measure against cyber security breaches.

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

Due to the receipt of the grant income, further investments had been made to achieve an uplift on the 4 Boards' Nationwide accounts. The rates on these Nationwide accounts have reduced from 2.25% to 2.05% on instant access and from 4.25% to 4.15% for the 95-day notice accounts, from 01st November 2024.

Overall, for the 4 Boards investment income from fixed term deposits (so excluding Nationwide) is achieving (£182k) of income:

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
Total	£ 27,000.00	£130,098.93	£24,534.25	£ -	£ -	£181,633.18

Following discussion Members **NOTED** the Board's 2024/25 financial performance for the 9 months period 01st April 2024 to 31st December 2024, and the Schedules of Expenditure set out within the report.

56.24 Budget Estimates for 2025/26.

A proposed 2025/26 revenue Budget Estimates paper and capital programme for 2025/26 onwards had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance.

Detailed work had been undertaken to review the actual income and expenditure in 2024/25 as at 31st December 2024 (Q3). This position was used to inform the proposed budgets for 2025/26, together with any known cost pressures, necessary developments and known savings.

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

The Capital Programme previously approved in January 2023 for the refurbishment of the Board's 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 were also provided.

Revenue Budget 2025/26:

The context to budget setting 2025/26 was set out, the Board having experienced 2 very challenging years in 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 Board and this continues. Electricity usage was very significant during 2023/24 with some pumps running 24/7 for several weeks and at higher unit rates than those paid in the last major wet weather event in Autumn 2019. Pumping stations had been inundated or running excessively resulting in significant repairs across the 4 Boards. As discussed earlier, this increased the risk level for the Board.

Another significant cost increase experienced over the last couple of years was in 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 had this time increased, giving a net overall increase of £26k for the 4 Boards. Members were shown the increase in electricity standing charges and KVA allowance charges for the 4 Boards between 01.10.19 and 01.10.24:

W&H Pumping Stations Standing Charges						
	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

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	

Whilst many of these cost pressures continue, pleasingly 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 was factored into the Board's financial plans, particularly Reserves levels.

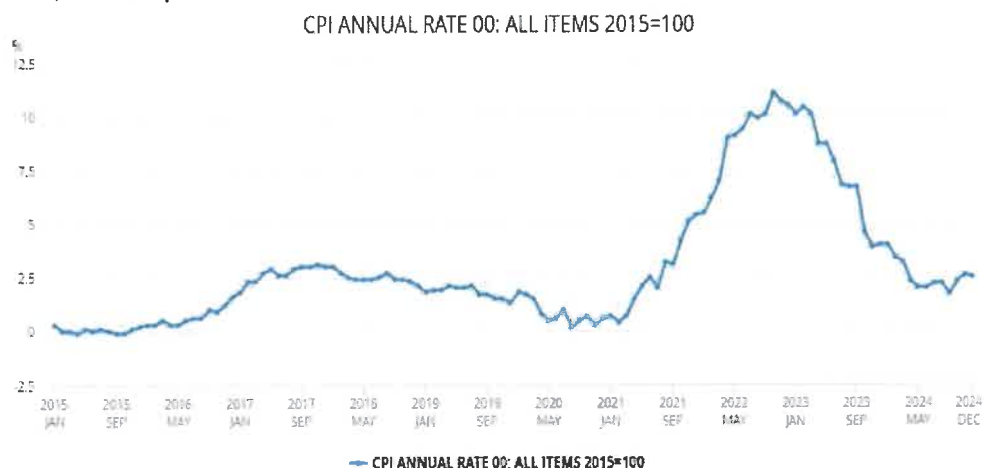
The 4 Boards have been very successful in securing one off grant funding through both Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGIA) and the IDB £75m Fund announced in February 2024. This has only been to repair and reinstate pumping stations and repair bank slips to their previous state [recovery funds]. The need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

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

- Pay Related Costs £41k – The Board faces significant retention and recruitment issues, with much quicker turnover of staff than previously experienced. A 2025/26 pay award of 5.1%, as recommended by the ADA Lincolnshire Branch, was agreed by the Board in November, based on the ONS average changes in public sector pay. This also includes the increase in employers' National Insurance from 13.8% to 15% and the earnings threshold reducing to £5,000 as announced in the Chancellor's Autumn 2024 Budget.
- JSC/Engineering £37k – these pay related issues also feed into JSC recharges, which were apportioned across the 4 Boards in the agreed allocations.
- Insurance costs £14k - The Boards face very significant challenges in procuring suitable insurance cover at realistic prices, and this increases 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 (£17k) – reduction in electricity budget to reflect 01.10.24 reduced unit rates but standing/KVA charges have increased again, and the Board needs to

anticipate more frequent rainfall events where IDB systems are receiving/pumping additional excessive water coming from EA main rivers.

- Fuel (£10k)– fuel costs have reduced, so some budget reductions have been included which have been reinvested in additional repair, maintenance and servicing costs.
- Pump Lifts, Repairs & Maintenance (R&M)/Servicing £10k – further budget increases on R&M/servicing of plant budgets have been included for 2025/26, to reflect the reality of increasing costs. Pump lift budgets have been retained as 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 £2k – 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. These will feed into ICT, mobile phones and other CPI based contracts from April 2024 onwards.



Source:

Other changes included in the budget included:

- Election costs (£1k) – removed as no elections in 2025/26 (next one is October 2027).
- Depreciation £0k – budget updated to reflect the approved plant programme.
- Contribution to Reserves £5k – The Capital Programme contribution has been uplifted by £5k from £55k pa to £60k pa.

To mitigate some of these cost pressure increases, where possible we have frozen budgets. Significantly, we have also deferred where possible major plant purchases, which will have a further impact on our service and maintenance costs. Where capacity allows, we are also sharing staff and machines across the Boards to reduce external costs. We have reviewed our main spend areas and achieved savings for items such as mobile phones and by standardising the supplier base across the 4 Boards. In terms of back-office functions and costs as a proportion of turnover, the 4 Boards have worked together in a voluntary partnership since April 2017, considerably reducing management costs for each Board.

Capital Programme 2025/26 Onwards:

The Pumping Station Capital Programmes were approved by the Board in January 2023. The latest version reflects the latest approvals of FDGIA, the rephased schemes following a national review of the overall FDGIA programme and updates in cost estimates.

To deliver the Pumping Station Capital Programme in the medium term (10 years), the Board needs to make an annual contribution from its Revenue Budget to the programme, to make it affordable and deliverable. Therefore, in the draft Revenue Estimates an additional contribution of £5k per annum was provided, increasing the existing £55k pa budget to £60k pa.

Summary of Revenue Budget Proposals 2025/26:

After much discussion between Officers and Members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at the meeting on 13th January 2025, a balanced budget position can be achieved for 2025/26 based on these assumptions and a recommended increase of 5.00% in the penny rate.

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 the proposed 5% Penny Rate increase the Board cannot set a balanced budget and 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. A 1% change in the penny rate equates to £16,528 for 2025/26.

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 10-15%], and that the balance be held in 'earmarked reserves' for specific requirements. This concurs with a previous recommendation from the F&GPC to increase the General Reserve to 20% in the coming years, as resources allow.

It is 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*	(282,480)	(403,454)	(403,454)
Emergency Event	(25,000)	(55,000)	(85,000)

Pumping Stations	(29,102)	(36,377)	(43,652)
Commuted Sum	(49,500)	(49,500)	(49,500)
Depot	(12,000)	(24,000)	(36,000)
One Off Projects**	(104,986)	(0)	(0)
Capital Programme Funding			
Plant & Machinery	(379,219)	(476,248)	(340,338)
Pumping Station Refurbishments	(75,000)	(130,000)	(190,000)
Balance	(957,287)	(1,174,579)	(1,147,944)

**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 18.78% 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, 31st March 2025 will be part of the Outturn report, to be reported 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. During 2019/20, due to the significant rainfall events, the reserve was fully depleted. However, it was fully replenished to the agreed £25k level in 2020/21. There is now an annual contribution of £30k to this reserve given the increased risks and members' wish to mitigate these.

Pumping Stations/AWCs:

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

One Off Projects:

This reserve holds the balance of any FDGIA monies received and not yet fully utilised (e.g., Pyewipe Scheme, Telemetry Replacement, etc). It is assumed all schemes will be completed in 2024/25 but if not, any balances will be held in this Reserve until required.

Commuted Sums:

This reserve holds commuted sums received which are then released to the revenue account, to meet the costs of maintenance. This currently holds monies for the Teal Park commuted sum agreement.

Depot Reserve:

This reserve receives contributions from depreciation charges to fund future repairs and replacements at the depot/office site.

Plant and Machinery (Capital):

This reserve funds future purchases of Plant, Machinery and Equipment and

depreciation charges. Sales income replenish this fund on an annual basis to fund future purchases. In future, this reserve will require additional resources to meet the increasing cost of Plant, Machinery & Equipment.

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.

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

Following discussion Members:

- **APPROVED** the financially balanced Estimates for 2025/26, based upon a 5.00% increase in the penny rate.
- **NOTED** the outcome of this report determined the level of penny rate, drainage rates and Special Levies to be set for 2025/26.

57.24 Annual Value as at 31.12.24 and setting of the Penny Rate, Drainage Rates and Special Levies for 2025/26.

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

The Annual Values must be formally approved by the Board. These start with those brought forward from last year's rate setting, as of 31st December 2023, with then the movements during the 2024 calendar year 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 [there being 5 relevant funding Councils for UW].

The Annual Values as of 31st December 2023 were:

	Pumped £	Gravity £	Total £
Drainage Rates	798,973	1,526,001	2,324,974
City of Lincoln	36,830	6,530,829	6,567,659
North Kesteven DC	238,628	2,725,982	2,964,610
South Kesteven DC	0	1,987,207	1,987,207
West Lindsey DC	215,146	163,211	378,358
Newark & Sherwood DC	41,596	50,534	92,130
Total	1,331,173	12,983,764	14,314,937

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

Account	Area ha	Parish	Council	Developed for	Pump/ Gravity
0727	1.734	North Scarle	NKDC	Holiday lets	P
0415	3.731	Great Gonerby	SKDC	Karting Track	G

0478	6.659	Great Gonerby	SKDC	Bio Energy Plant	G
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This results in the following Annual Values as of 31st December 2024:

	Pumped £	Gravity £	Total £
Drainage Rates	798,806	1,524,931	2,323,737
City of Lincoln	36,830	6,530,829	6,567,659
North Kesteven DC	245,299	2,725,982	2,971,281
South Kesteven DC	0	2,049,609	2,049,609
West Lindsey DC	215,146	163,211	378,358
Newark & Sherwood DC	41,596	50,534	92,130
Total	1,337,677	13,045,096	14,382,773

Penny Rates:

The following 'penny rates' will be applicable if the proposed 5.00% increase is agreed:

	Pumped (pence)	Gravity (pence)
Current	25.7494	10.0272
Proposed	27.0369	10.5286

This will increase, net of the listed land movements, the income generated from Drainage Rates from £358,746 in 2024/25 to £376,526 (+£17,780) in 2025/26.

Special Levies:

The increase in Penny Rate will have the following impact on Special Levies for 2025/26, including the rebasing of the Annual Values for the land transfers 01.01.24 to 31.12.24, for each Council as follows:

	Current £	Proposed £	Difference £	Increase %
City of Lincoln	664,342.69	697,562.44	33,219.75	5.00
NKDC	334,785.04	353,329.01	18,543.97	5.54
SKDC	199,261.20	215,795.13	16,533.95	8.30
WLDC	71,764.43	75,352.78	3,588.35	5.00
N&SDC	15,777.87	16,566.79	788.92	5.00
Total	1,285,931.23	1,358,606.17	72,674.94	5.65

In summary, income to the Board increases by a total of £90,455 (being an increase of £72,675 in Special Levy income and a net increase in Drainage Rates income of £17,780 including transfers of agricultural land to other developed land).

Following discussion Members **AGREED**:

- The transfer of land from Drainage Rates to Special Levy be approved.

- The land valuations as of 31st December 2024 upon which Drainage Rates and Special Levies are calculated be set at £14,382,773.
- The 'penny rate' be increased by 5.00% to 27.0369 pence for Pumped and 10.5286 pence for Gravity/Urban catchments.
- The Special Levies 2025/26 be agreed for each of the 5 Councils as:

City of Lincoln	£697,562.44
North Kesteven District Council	£353,329.01
South Kesteven District Council	£215,795.15
West Lindsey District Council	£75,352.78
Newark & Sherwood District Council	£16,566.79

- The Chairman and Chief Executive be authorised to sign the 'Rate Book', apply the seal of this Board and publicise the revised penny rates, estimated Drainage Rates and Special Levies before 15.02.25.

58.24 Operations Report, including the Health & Safety and Risk Update.

An Operations report, including the Health and Safety update, had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations.

Between the 4 Boards, there had been 3 reported Incidents since the last Board meetings, but none were in the Upper Witham Board workforce.

Regarding the annual maintenance programme, Operatives had completed the annual weed cut. Bushing works and de-silting works alongside other recovery works have now all commenced.

The long reach excavator is due to be replaced as part of the plant replacement programme. The tender process for this purchase has been completed. The item to be purchased is a JCB 220x from TC Harrisons at a value of £156,750. This was the most cost-effective tender submitted. As a comparison the most expensive tender submission received was the Volvo at £226k. The 5k-hour extended warranty and service package have also been purchased. The Board achieved a £28k trade in price for the current long reach excavator.

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.

Public Sector Cooperation Agreement [PSCA] works:

We have provided estimates to the EA for a similar amount of PSCA work to be undertaken in 2025/26 as in previous years on all 4 of the Boards. We await confirmation from the EA regarding acceptance of the estimates as to what they wish to commission next financial year. The value to this Board is £216k.

Other rechargeable works:

UW workforce is due to start work at Stapleford soon, on a rechargeable job for LCC.

Members received, discussed and NOTED the Operations report and update.

59.24 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.

Capital Programme Refresh – Indicative Allocation September 2025:

We are waiting for the Grant in Aid allocation for 2025-2026 to be confirmed by the EA.

Early indications are that FDGiA funding may be reduced or removed in 2025/26 onwards. However, further details are awaited.

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 31st 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 31st March 2026. No indication has been given as to what the future funding is likely to be, or 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 these changes to the programme vary considerably from previously available grant levels.

Saxilby Pumping Station Refurbishment:

IDB No

EA National Project No ANC501E/000A/205A

GIA Claim No TBC

GIA Approval Amount £65,000 (awaiting approval)

Project Stage Outline Business Case Development

An FCERM 7 has been approved by the EA. This project is now in jeopardy, it is potentially being pulled.

An asset inspection of the 1958 pumping station identified the civils elements of the structure are in very poor condition and require significant remedial work or replacement. The M&E equipment is all beyond the design life and the pumps are not fish friendly. The recommendation is to replace the M&E elements at this station.

Discussions with contractors are ongoing to identify a potential replacement pumping station, site visits have been undertaken, and we are awaiting cost estimates to determine if this is a feasible option. The information will be used to inform an OBC.

The benefits assessment has been undertaken and the process approved by the EA, this will be used to develop the OBC.

Only staff time has been incurred on this project to date with no direct income/expenditure.

<u>Saxilby PS FDGIA Scheme</u>		Budget	Actual	Variance
Income		(£65,000)	(£65,000)	£0
Expenditure		£65,000	£0	(£65,000)
Net		£0	(£65,000)	(£65,000)

Pyewipe PS Refurbishment:

IDB No	UD 220-2013-PRO
EA National Project No	ANC403I/002A/010A
GIA Claim No	IDB 0464
GIA Approval Amount	£557,517 (+ Board £15k and developer £154k contributions)
Project Stage	Delivery

Discussions are ongoing with the Canals and Rivers Trust [CRT] to agree the repairs and timings of the works to the access track although this is now progressing. CRT have proposed measures to restrict unauthorised access to the track. A height limiting barrier is to be installed adjacent to their depot with a locked barrier across the track at the limit of their residential moorings. All residents will have an allocated parking space at their depot car park. Whilst the Board is willing to comply with the agreement which saw the construction of the track by the Board in 1999, it is not willing to maintain an asset to which others allow unrestricted public access. Once these access controls are in place the remedial works to the access track can be completed.

Income and spend as at 31st December 2024:

<u>Pyewipe PS FDGIA Scheme</u>		Budget	Actual	Variance
Income		(£713,171)	(£722,374)	(£9,203)
Expenditure		£713,171	£694,799	(£18,372)
Net		£0	(£27,574)	(£27,574)

This scheme cost will be close to the budget upon completion.

Telemetry (UW):

IDB No	JA-1583-2014-ASS
EA National Project No	ANC501E/000A/190A
GIA Claim No	IDB 0554
GIA Approval Amount	£118,224 (+ Board contribution £1k)
Project Stage	Delivery

All telemetry software has been updated. The only sites left for new telemetry hardware are the 3 level monitoring bollard sites.

Income and spend as at 31st December 2024:

<u>Telemetry FDGIA Scheme</u>		Budget	Actual	Variance
Income		(£119,224)	(£98,353)	£20,871
Expenditure		£119,224	£73,596	(£45,628)
Net		£0	(£24,757)	(£24,757)

Storm Babet Recovery – FDGIA Schemes:

Following Storm Babet in October 2023, recovery work to 18 locations across three of the 4 Boards [not NELDB] was approved via the FDGIA funding route.

Statement of Claim FDGIA Capital Works Monitoring Sheet

						Grant Received	
Asset	Grant Approval Number	Board	Cost	60%OB	Total Cost	Received in Bank	Balance to Receive (Excl Contingency)
Blankney	IDB 0598	W1IDB	£ 111,000	£ 67,000	£ 178,000	£ 111,000	£ -
Farroway	IDB 0597	W1IDB	£ 59,000	£ 36,000	£ 95,000	£ 59,000	£ -
Sandhill Beck	IDB 0596	W1IDB	£ 49,000	£ 30,000	£ 79,000	£ 49,000	£ -
Heighington	IDB 0590	W1IDB	£ 111,000	£ 67,000	£ 178,000	£ 111,000	£ -
SUB TOTAL W1			£ 330,000	£200,000	£ 530,000	£ 330,000	£ -
Stamp End	IDB 0895	W3IDB	£ 10,000	£ 6,000	£ 16,000		£ 10,000
Greetwell	IDB 0589	W3IDB	£ 95,000	£ 57,000	£ 152,000	£ 95,000	£ -
Stainfield	IDB 0587	W3IDB	£ 100,000	£ 60,000	£ 160,000	£ 100,000	£ -
Bardney Fen	IDB 0593	W3IDB	£ 35,000	£ 21,000	£ 56,000	£ 35,000	£ -
Southrey	IDB 0601	W3IDB	£ 140,000	£ 84,000	£ 224,000	£ 140,000	£ -
Duckpool & Stixwould	IDB 0599	W3IDB	£ 85,000	£ 51,000	£ 136,000	£ 85,000	£ -
Marsh Lane	IDB 0600	W3IDB	£ 90,000	£ 54,000	£ 144,000	£ 90,000	£ -
Dogdyke	IDB 0591	W3IDB	£ 10,000	£ 6,000	£ 16,000	£ 10,000	£ -
Coningsby Ings	IDB 0602	W3IDB	£ 210,000	£126,000	£ 336,000	£ 210,000	£ -
SUB TOTAL W3			£ 775,000	£465,000	£1,240,000	£ 765,000	£ 10,000
Coulson	IDB	UWIDB	£ 20,000	£ 12,000	£ 32,000	£ 70,000	£ -
Boultham		UWIDB	£ 50,000	£ 30,000	£ 80,000		
SUB TOTAL UW			£ 70,000	£ 42,000	£ 112,000	£ 70,000	£ -
Sub Total Schemes Approved			£ 1,175,000	£ 707,000	£ 1,882,000	£ 1,165,000	£ 10,000
Schemes Now Funded via IDB Fund							
Short Ferry	IDB 0588	W3IDB	£ 100,000	£ 60,000	£ 160,000		
Stainfield (new)	IDB 0592	W3IDB	£ 25,000	£ 15,000	£ 40,000		
Bardney Abbey	IDB 0594	W3IDB	£ 30,000	£ 18,000	£ 48,000		
Sub Total Schemes Approved			£ 155,000	£ 93,000	£ 248,000	£ -	£ -
Overall Total			£1,330,000	£800,000	£2,130,000	£1,165,000	£ 10,000

Three schemes have been withdrawn (shaded orange in the table) from this funding route, as they are being funded separately via the IDB Fund.

Upper Witham IDB- Boultham Pumping Station:

The 2 x motors at Boultham PS require refurbishment. One has been away for repair and has been reinstated; the second should be removed today after running the first one for a week to allow for any issues to show. A gantry is to be constructed to allow easier access to the Southern weed screen deck.

All Boards – IDB £75 million Fund 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 additional costs incurred during the winter 2023/24 storm events, over and above 'business as usual' costs. 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 was received.

Bank Slip Repairs:

As part of Tranche 1, £1.5million was awarded to the 4 Boards for bank slip repairs. Slip repairs are currently being undertaken by contractors on all 4 Boards. On North East Lindsey we have Carnaby's (their 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 we have Mill Farm Services. We supply 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.

We will soon be in a position where we can add our own teams into the mix, to ensure more slips get repaired. But we will use contractors where practicable to maximise the work done by the 31st March 2025 deadline.

There are some larger repairs to undertake from this funding in Minting Village, also on Minting /Gautby Beck downstream of the village, All Hallows Drain, Tillbridge Lane and Stainfield roadside.

Mobile Pumps:

We have placed an order for some additional mobile pumps. These being 1 x 4" pump, 1 x 6" pump (delivered) 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 (now delivered) to put our older pumps onto and 2 x 900 litre fuel cubes to assist with running the pumps during a flood event. All this at a cost of £197,215. We have taken delivery of the 4" and 6" pumps along with the trailer bodies and the fish screens.

Aubourn Pumping Station:

We are replacing the 2 x cannister pumps with new pumps, following a lot of discussion with EA fisheries about fish & eel regulations compliance, at a cost of circa £70,000. A final survey quote will be with us soon and work will start soon afterwards, hopefully within the next two weeks.

Sandsyke Pumping Station:

We are replacing the 2 x cannister pumps with new pumps following a lot of discussion with EA fisheries, at a cost of circa £80,000. A final survey quote will be with us soon and work will start soon afterwards, within the next two weeks.

Burton Pumping Station:

1 x Pump and motor have undergone refurbishment but still have some issues, the second will follow. The Weed screen has been replaced with a new one, due to damage and the outfall pipe is to be re-lined on 17th February due to seepage when used. The works are quoted at £35,798 (subject to survey).

Pyewipe Pumping Station:

The old automatic weed screen cleaner is having a full refurbishment, this work started mid- November. Work will be completed before 31.03.2025.

North Hykeham Pumping Station:

We are installing a new motor and inverter drive at £36,268 and a new control panel at £35,711. This station also needs the outfall pipe relining due to seepage, which is quoted at £25,774. Work will be undertaken on 17th February 2025.

Torksey Syke Pumping Station:

Then new pumps we hoped to install here are no longer deliverable in the time scales available, so we have opted for pump rebuilds. This work will be completed before the end of March. A new control panel at circa £125,375 and a new automated weed screen cleaner at circa £148,000.

IDB £75 million Fund, Tranche 2A- Additional pump capacity UW:

We have placed orders for an additional 4 x 6", 5 x 8" and 2 x 12" mobile pumps complete with all pipework and fittings, 6 x big ab trailer bodies, 2 x mobile lighting towers and a mobile crawler crane. Of the £1,128,000 allocated, we have currently spent circa £900,000.

IDB £75 million Fund, Tranche 2A - automated Weedscreens:

We have currently ordered weedscreens for Coningsby Ings and Torksey Syke pumping stations at a cost of circa £330,000 for both. We have other sites where we could install similar structures, but no one can deliver them in time.

IDB £75 million Fund, Tranche 2A- Coulson Road UW:

We have placed orders for 2 x new cannister pumps to be installed to replace the existing pumps and a third pump to be installed in the empty chamber as a backup pump, this work is currently on target for delivery in the time scales given.

Tranche 2B Asset Resilience & Innovation Applications

At the ADA conference on 13th November 2024, it was announced that a second phase of Tranche 2 will be launched (to be known as Tranche 2B), and this will have an extended timescale of project completion by 31st March 2026. Whilst this is welcome news, it would have greatly assisted the Boards if all projects (particularly Tranche 2A) were extended to this deadline, and we are 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 (now known as Tranche 2A) and @£19m which will be earmarked for 'innovative' scheme submissions to be known as Tranche 2B for delivery by 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. We are looking at resubmitting the unsuccessful T2A bids and perhaps a scheme for Stainfield Pumping Station[W3rd] to improve its resilience and future proof

it together with potential Archimedes screw pump replacements.

Members received, discussed and noted the Capital Programme Report.

60.24 Engineering Services Report.

The Engineering Services Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Engineering Services.

The Boards' staff are continuing with work in relation to the Statement of Claim, IDB Fund Tranche 1 Recovery & Tranche 2 Resilience schemes, with completion dates on assets of 31st March 2025.

The Boards' staff in all teams have been actively engaged with the Lincolnshire LRF, as on 06.01.25 a Major Incident was declared in Lincolnshire due to flooding, this being stood down by the SCG at 11:30 on Thursday 09.01.25. The LRF then moved from response phase to recovery. This was one of two LRFs to declare a Major Incident nationally, the other was Leicestershire & Rutland.

The third multiagency recovery co-ordination meeting was held on 20.01.25, the next is on 28.01.25.

Section 19 Flood Investigations:

The Boards have received the final reports for the following LCC Section 19 investigations from flooding incidents which occurred in Storms Babet [Oct 2023] and Henk [Jan 2024). There are five within the UW district.

Location	S19 Code
Butt Lane, Goulceby	S19-786
Brecks Lane, Stapleford	S19-833
Welbourn	S19-907
Boston Road, Horncastle	S19-873
Langworth	S19-708
Minting	S19-731
Scothern	S19-707
Saxilby	S19-687
Sleaford	S19-642
Horncastle	S19-729
Digby	S19-650
Waddington	S19-664
Branston Booths	S19-667
Wood Enderby	S19-739
Old Wood, Skellingthorpe	S19-659
Westborough	S19-633
Ingham	S19-689

Following the high rainfall events on 20th October 2023 and 02nd January 2024 the Flood & Water Team at Lincolnshire County Council has received 800+ reports of internal flooding to residential properties within the County. In accordance with LCC's role as the Lead Local Flood Authority [LLFA] for Lincolnshire, these have been assessed, prioritised and investigated where appropriate within local timescales, as Section 19 Investigations under the Flood & Water Management Act [2010]. LCC's Flood Team was in the process of reducing the number of outstanding Section 19 cases. These reports have been generated by external consultants working on behalf

of the council and they contain a variety of recommendations. Many call for further investigations on a catchment basis with the relevant Board being asked to participate in this work. The report often recommends a Board should consider whether or not their existing maintenance regime is appropriate given the circumstances and scenarios experienced in since 2023. The reports on prior instances of flooding have been revised, and the recent cases have been much shorter, concise and timelier.

Further information on Section 19 investigations, including an interactive map and spread sheet, can be found on the LCC website:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/flood-risk-management/flood-investigations>

Western Growth Corridor, WGC (UD-128-2013-PLN) (UD-4618-2019-PLN):

At the Board meeting in June 2013 the Board confirmed its objection in principle to the development within flood plain. However, it was agreed that Officers would continue to co-operate and take part in multi-agency meetings to safeguard the Board's interests and minimise the impact on the pumped drainage system maintained by the Board.

The Board has recently commented upon a planning application required in relation to the foul & surface water schemes in so far as they relate to the overarching strategy principles and first tranche of work on the site.

In particular, the construction details of the platforms upon which areas of development will take place and confirming od details of the open channel system were of interest to the Board.

The Board seeks satisfaction that the development platform designs are of the correct level and that their footprint does not adversely affect the breach flow paths. It also seeks clarification that the open channel design has sufficient capacity throughout the network and that design flood levels are not raised.

The 4 Boards' officers meet on a regular basis [every 3-4 weeks] with Lindum and City of Lincoln Council who are the developers for the project. These meetings relate specifically to the design of the surface water drainage system, access to it for future its future maintenance and operation and being able to comment on elements of detailed design. Recent topics covered are proposed changes to routes, widths of access required and the planting of trees, maintained water levels and the format of bridge crossings [clear span rather than multi-pipe layout]. Officers met last Thursday and Guy Hird provided a response to their drainage strategy. Discussion took place on all points and Officers raised the issue of change to Special Levy rates and requested an updated plan.

Pyewipe Pumping Station:

Canal & Rivers Trust (CRT) are installing barriers along the access route. This work has taken over a year to agree and an enormous amount of work has been completed to clear the site of debris.

North Hykeham Relief Road, NHRR (Southern Bypass Link) (UD-3579-2017-PLN):

This is a proposed new highway to complete the Bypass around Lincoln from the A46 to the A15. Meetings have been held in 2024 with Lincolnshire County Council's consultant engineers, who are designing the road and the associated structures. These meetings have discussed the arrangements required by the Board for continuity of the maintained watercourses and access for maintenance access. Also, the Board's

requirements for consenting of both temporary and permanent works.

The detailed design has now commenced, and the Board continued to work closely with the developer to protect the Board's interests. The Board's last correspondence regarded the consenting requirements for the various works involved within the project. There are no updates to report, there have been no meetings held since the middle of June 2024.

Skellingthorpe Pump Drain Cable Route:

Head of Terms have been agreed with a developer to allow the installation of a cable in land occupied by Upper Witham IDB adjacent to the Skellingthorpe Pump Drain. This cable is to connect a proposed solar farm to the national grid.

The cable shall be laid in such a manner so as to not interrupt the Board's maintenance activities or future access. The Board has agreed a sum of £40,000 for this easement.

The Board has been advised that an adjacent landowner is to apply for the registration of land in their ownership that the Board had previously registered. They have evidence of deeds & conveyance details that confirm its purchase in 1941. This registration would take priority over the Board's possessory title granted in 2015. We are unsure as to why this did not come to light in 2015, although there is no issue for the Board. If access is maintained, bylaws apply and we would lose the easement payment however, Officers see no negative aspect with this new registration.

Members received and NOTED the Engineering report and update.

61.24 Consents and Enforcements Report.

The Director of Engineering & Technical Services presented the Consents and Enforcements Report, which had been circulated with the agenda, and set out the position both within the drainage district and in the extended rainfall catchment where the Board acts for and on behalf of LCC, as the LLFA.

Members received and NOTED the report on consents and enforcement cases.

62.24 Planning and Consultations Report.

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

There were no recommendations to the Board on this occasion, the information within the report was for information.

The Board had received several consultations and commented on various planning applications to the different Local Planning Authorities [LPAs]. A full schedule was provided.

Members NOTED the report.

63.24 Environment Update.

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

ADA Lincolnshire Environment Committee Meeting & Environment Day:

The next committee meeting will be in late April date TBC in the Welland & Deeping IDB district, which will include a site visit. If any Board members would like to attend, then they were encouraged to contact the 4 Boards' Environment Officer on email: nick.downing@witham3idb.gov.uk

ADA is hosting an Environment Day on 06th February. This free in-person event aims to provide an insightful day of talks on a range of topics relevant to the management of the lowland watercourses and the freshwater environment. The day will cover everything from peat soils to invasive species, and aquatic flora to local nature recovery. Booking can be found on the ADA website for those interested, the event will be held at Park Farm, Thorney, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

Lincoln University Student:

The Board had been awaiting confirmation that a 2nd year Geography student from Lincoln University would join the Board for 12 weeks from January until April 2025. The student would assist the Boards in a range of activities and projects. Unfortunately, there was no interest from any of the students, despite a place being offered.

Members noted the contents of the report.

64.24 Any Other Business.

64.24.1 Solar Farms

William Booth raised a query regarding solar farms, asking if consideration had been given to the type of land they were being installed on. The land is very heavy for example at the Tillbridge site and if developers were to compact the land during development had the potential for rain run off been adequately considered.

Fred Myers, Chairman, declared an interest at this point as this site does cover parts of his land. He confirmed that the land being used is currently mainly grass and therefore is ideally suited for this type of development.

Discussion took place and Cllr Paul Taylor said that this had been a major issue in his district in Newark & Sherwood District Council. He recommended that building a relationship with developers was advantageous as 50k trees were being planted by the developers in that area.

There were no further items of business, and the meeting closed at 16.00.

65.24 Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Board was confirmed for Monday, 19th May 2025 at 2pm in Witham House. Video Conference facilities will be available to enable attendance at a hybrid meeting.

 Chairman 19 May 2025 Date
UW BM 27.01.25.

