

## **WITHAM THIRD DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

**Minutes of the one-hundred-and-twenty-eighth meeting of Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in Minting Village Hall at 09.30am.**

### **Present:**

Mr J Armstrong  
Cllr T Ashton  
Cllr J Barrett  
Mr I Clark  
Mr J Davie  
Mr C Dixon  
Cllr M Foster  
Cllr W Gray  
Mr R Hairsine  
Mr M Harrison  
Ms J Holland  
Mr M Hoyes  
Cllr R Longbottom  
Cllr D Nannestad  
Mr I Parker  
Miss A Sayer  
Mr D Sempers  
Mr M I Thomas  
Cllr P Vaughan  
Mr R Weightman  
Mr T Williams

**Chairman**

**Vice Chairman**

### **In attendance:**

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

### **3158 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Avison, Cllr B Bushell, Cllr I Fleetwood, Cllr G Hewson, Cllr F M Martin MBE, Cllr P Morris and Mr H Moreton.

### **3159 Declarations of Interest.**

Declarations of interest were received from members nominated by City of Lincoln, West Lindsey District and East Lindsey District Councils in matters relating to their respective Councils. Mr Dean Sempers declared a personal interest in respect of Willingham Fen Marina.

### **3160 Chairman's Announcements.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the January Meeting and advised that the Board would receive updates on recovery works at pumping stations following the Statement of Claim

supported last December by the RFCC for £1.4 million across the 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards, and an update on works funded from the IDB £75 million Fund announced in February 2024.

The Board had levered in £4.1 million in Tranche 1 from the national IDB £75 million Fund, and only on 14th November we had confirmation of a further £6.5million of Tranche 2A schemes from the fund. Both Tranche 1 and Tranche 2A schemes had a national delivery deadline of 31st March 2025. The final, Tranche 2B schemes had to be submitted by IDBs for 31.01.25, for delivery by 31.03.26.

The funding was excellent news, the challenges of delivery were stretching staff across the IDBs and our suppliers and contractors.

Traditionally at the January meeting the focus is to set a financially balanced budget for the forthcoming new financial year from April. This is a legal duty - to set a balanced budget, to publicise this and the drainage rates and special levies for the 3 councils by 15th February each year.

The Chairman highlighted that officers and the Board's Standing Committee were recommending to the Board a 5.00% increase in the Penny Rate. Pleasingly this is lower than the required increase in the last couple of years. A similar 5.00% increase was approved yesterday by Upper Witham's Board. In Witham First and North East Lindsey Boards, a financially balanced budget can be achieved at a recommended 4.00% increase in the Penny Rate, which those Boards will consider at their meetings today and tomorrow respectively.

### **3161 Minutes of the Board meeting and Annual Public Meeting, 19.11.24.**

The Minutes of the Board's previous meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record, subject to one amendment at paragraph 3139, the nominations to membership of the Standing Committee: Cllr John Barrett had been nominated and this was omitted.

#### ***MATTERS ARISING:***

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

### **3162 Minutes of the Joint Services Committee, 09.12.24.**

The Minutes of the JSC held on 09<sup>th</sup> December 2024 had been circulated with the agenda and were NOTED, with no matters arising.

### **3163 Minutes of the Board's Standing Committee, 14.01.25.**

The Minutes of the Board's Standing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed by Terry Williams, seconded by Cllr John Barrett and APPROVED as an accurate record.

#### ***MATTERS ARISING:***

There were no matters arising and Members noted the recommendations and actions from the Standing Committee.

### **3164 Chief Executive's Report.**

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated with the agenda, items highlighted included:

3164.1 Lincolnshire LRF Major Incident: Floods Sunday 05<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to Thursday 09<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Following rainfall of 45-65mm rainfall for a 36-hours period overnight from Sunday 05<sup>th</sup> January into Monday 06<sup>th</sup> January, 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 has 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 in autumn/winter 23/24, which perversely took pressure off the systems.

A major incident was declared by Lincolnshire LRF at 18.30pm on Monday 06<sup>th</sup> 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. Pumping stations were once again operating 24/7 and we did have some pump failures during the period.

The risk in Canwick & Sandhill Fens was low regarding residential properties at risk of flooding. However, the risk of a breach in the EA's main river system was high [particularly South Delph and Sandhill Beck where the overspill weir was operating once again] and we did have close monitoring of the situation as water levels were rising on Witham First DIDB's Sandhill pumping station, local landowners and Washingborough PC were raising concerns. There was a change in the EA's operation of penstocks in the locality; following litigation claims after

winter 2023/24 the Agency stuck to the December 2006 legal agreement on the operation of penstocks only in the event of a bank breach of Sandhill Beck or South Delph and not for routine operational use. This was lifted at 14:30 on 09.01.25 and the Board was authorised to operate Ferry Lane penstock for the protection of sandhill pumping station.

Levels within the 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 temporary road closures and localised flooding in a list of towns/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].

The multi-agency recovery group continues to meet to review take forward the action plan.

#### 3164.2 EA Highland Water Payments to IDBs.

As reported to Members at the November Board meetings, only 54% of the 80% EA Highland Water payment due for payment by 30.09.24 for the 2024/25 Estimate had been received by the Boards. The EA notified IDBs verbally, via a video-conference 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 to IDBs, potentially from Local Levy, before 31st March 2025.

Following this discussion at the 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.

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 and this is a substantial risk for the future income to the Board. Terry Williams outlined the situation that had arisen in 1983, when the EA's predecessor had sought to avoid making the payment to IDBs for processing water received from upland areas. This involves a properly constituted EA decision not to pay and why, the IDB invoking the Appeals process to the Minister, and the Minister establishing a Local Public Inquiry. On the last occasion in 1983, the subsequent Inquiry Decision Letter of 1985 made clear that the EA should reimburse the IDB [Witham Third DIDB] its reasonable costs incurred and this was the outcome. But although helpful, a Local Public Inquiry outcome does not set legal precedent. Terry

advised that the Board closely monitors the position in order to be prepared with a course of action for the EA's potential non-payment when the next claim is submitted in May 2025.

On 24.12.24 IDBs were asked for revised Highland Water Claim submissions, this was completed and submitted after Christmas. The new contact point for processing the claims is Henry Hammond at the EA. At the RFCC last Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, Eddy Poll the outgoing Chairman commented that he had been advised 'by the upper echelons of the EA' that the decision to pay IDBs from Local Levy was unwise, which he felt was incorrect. This suggests a poor outlook for next year's claim when it is submitted in May. There is a risk IDBs will not have a sympathetic RFCC chairman next year. Much discussion followed on this issue.

Cllr Tom Ashton thanked officers for their work. He stated that IDBs were lucky to have Eddy Poll as RFCC Chairman, he understands the situation in Lincolnshire and was prepared to challenge the decisions by the EA. He expressed concerns as to who would be the RFCC Chair next year. Tom stated that the fundamental point is that IDBS incur the costs of draining water, and they should not be asked to pay again and subsidise those who do not have IDBs in upland areas.

Terry Williams commented that there is NO legal duty for the EA to pay. The wording is very clear in the Land Drainage Act, stating the EA "may" make a payment. It is an entirely discretionary payment.

Members agreed they would monitor the position carefully in relation to Highland Water payments.

#### 3164.3 IDB Fund T1 Asset Recovery Schemes:

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

Although a concerning pressure on time and staff resource across the IDBs to implement these schemes by the deadline of 31.03.25, it is a brilliant opportunity to undertake works not likely to be funded from alternative sources. Ian Coupland is project lead and will give a position update later in the meeting.

#### 3164.4 IDB Fund Tranche 2A, Asset Resilience & Asset Improvement Schemes:

The IDB Fund second tranche of bids for IDB asset improvement and resilience was submitted on 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 received these approvals on 14.11.24, totalling £6.6 million and still with a delivery deadline of 31.03.25.

### **3164.5 IDB Fund Tranche 2B, Asset Innovation Schemes.**

Invitations have been given for IDBs to submit bids for IDB Fund Tranche 2B. The deadline for submissions, where the emphasis is on innovation and sustainability, is 31.01.25. When approved, these schemes will need to be delivered by 31.03.26.

### **3164.6 Policies & Procedures Review.**

A full review of the current Policies & Procedures has been undertaken, and the key changes were presented to JSC Members at the December 2024 meeting.

Following discussion JSC members agreed to approve the policies on behalf of each Board and further approved that the review timescale be increased from 3 years to 5 years, changes in legislation or relevant guidance notwithstanding.

After full discussion, members received and NOTED the Chief Executive's report and update.

### **3165 Corporate Risk Register.**

A report and a copy of the Risk Register prepared by the Risk Manager had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance & 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 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 within the IDB group, to ensure that Board members are aware of the strategic risks which affect the four 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. 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 or 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 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:

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 regarding the implementation of a new drainage rates 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 pumping 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.

### **3166 Financial Report to 31.12.24, Month 9 of 2024/25.**

A report on month 9 of 2024/25 to 31.12.24 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance.

The financial performance was summarised as:

Profiled Budget P9 £	Actual (Surplus)/Deficit £	Variance £
(342,827)	(356,442)	(13,615)
<i>Highland Water owed</i>	<i>(80,566)</i>	<i>(94,181)</i>

The Board is currently showing a positive variance position of [£13,615] against the profiled budget. However, this is affected by the non-receipt of the full amount of Highland Water monies due from the EA at the end of September 2024. Whilst the Board received the

balance of 2023/24 actual Highland Water claim, it only received 54% of the 80% due for the estimated claim for 2024/25. This is a shortfall of £80,566 (after adjustment for IDB reimbursed costs) for the Board. If this is received in full, then the position would increase this positive variance to [£94,181], as follows:

Profiled Budget P9 £	Actual (Surplus)/Deficit £	Variance £
(342,827)	(437,008)	(94,181)

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

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 Project which means some current budgets may not be utilised in 2024/25 only (e.g. Pump Lifts). Therefore, this is only a one-year 2024/25 benefit.

#### Plant & Machinery Replacement Programme:

A table explained the budgeted purchases and sales for 2024/25, as of 31st December 2024. The Ford Ranger has been sold, achieving (£5k). The tilt rotator for the long reach excavator and the trailer bodies have been received but will be funded via the IDB Fund grant monies, rather than the internal Plant & Machinery Fund. Members were reminded that national funds were being used rather than reserves, wherever possible.

#### Drainage Rates 2024/25:

The 31.12.24 position on the Drainage Rates collected for 2024/25, including previous years' arrears, was a 99.4% collection rate (99.6% @P9 2023/24), very similar to last year's collection rate. First reminders were despatched on 19th August 2024 and final reminders were despatched on 18th October 2024 to account holders. A court date had been set for 27th January 2025 at Boston Magistrates Court. However, due to the small amount outstanding this had been cancelled. All historical outstanding rating queries are now resolved and only land issues raised in-year are now being actioned.

#### Bank Balances:

The balances at 31st December 2024 were set out for information. The current account (NatWest) was held at a minimal level over the Christmas and New Year period to reduce cyber security risk.

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

Due to the receipt of the grant income further investments have been made to achieve an uplift on the Nationwide accounts the Board operates. 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.

The additional investments were shown. Overall, for the 4 Boards investment income from fixed term deposits (so excluding Nationwide) is achieving (£182k) of income as set out:



Interest Earned Per Board from Fixed Term Deposits						Total
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
NEL	£ 6,780.82	£ 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

Members noted and discussed the 2024/25 financial position for the period 01.04.2024 to 31.12.2024.

### **3167 Estimates for 2025/26 and Capital Programme 2025/26 onwards.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance setting out the context to the proposed Estimates 2025/26, the detailed budget breakdowns and why a 5.00% increase in the Penny Rate would enable the Board to set a financially balanced budget for the forthcoming year.

Detailed work has been undertaken to review the actual income and expenditure in 2024/25 as at 31st December 2024. 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 2025/26 compared the 2024/25 approved Budget to the 2025/26 proposed Budget, showing variances.

The summary of the Joint Services Budget 2025/26 was also provided for information, which was recommended for approval by the 4 Boards by the 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 DIBD and 20% each to Witham First DIBD 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 were provided.

### **Revenue Budgets 2025/26:**

The Board had experienced 2 very challenging years for Budgets 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 had 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 have been inundated or running excessively resulting in significant repairs across the 4 Boards. In January 2025 a major incident was declared in Lincolnshire 06.01.25 to 09.01.25, following 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 had this time increased, giving a net overall increase of £26k for the 4 Boards. The following table summarised for members 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
<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>	£ 246.75	£ 214.47	£ 189.04	£ 168.49	£ 73.00	£ 72.31
<b>Max</b>	£ 13,692.21	£ 15,188.94	£ 9,411.86	£ 3,092.10	£ 756.37	£ 735.38
<b>Average</b>	£ 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
<b>NEL</b>	£ 2,014.80	£ 1,076.40	£ 1,076.40	£ 1,048.80	£ 1,146.84	£ 1,119.24
<b>UW</b>	£ 15,772.32	£ 9,998.88	£ 8,905.92	£ 8,406.24	£ 8,240.28	£ 7,934.28
<b>W1</b>	£ 35,955.36	£ 21,903.84	£ 19,424.16	£ 18,184.32	£ 17,268.84	£ 18,197.88
<b>W3</b>	£ 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**

<b>NEL</b>	£ 938.40	£ -	£ 27.60	-£ 98.04	£ 27.60	
<b>UW</b>	£ 5,773.44	£ 1,092.96	£ 499.68	£ 165.96	£ 306.00	
<b>W1</b>	£ 14,051.52	£ 2,479.68	£ 1,239.84	£ 915.48	-£ 929.04	
<b>W3</b>	£ 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
<b>NEL</b>	-£ 430.57	£ 5,449.63	£ 6,018.73	£ 3,202.11	£ 259.33
<b>UW</b>	£ 2,128.61	£ 16,754.23	£ 17,075.39	£ 8,286.34	£ 626.14
<b>W1</b>	£ 5,369.30	£ 32,707.98	£ 35,501.11	£ 16,103.47	-£ 974.23
<b>W3</b>	£ 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 were 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 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 had been addressed in the proposed 2025/26 budgets and include:

- Pay Related Costs £159k – the Board is facing significant retention and recruitment issues with a much quicker 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 Board in November, based on the ONS average changes in public sector pay. This also includes the April 2025 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 (£85k) – these pay related costs also feed into JSC recharges, which are apportioned across the 4 Boards in the agreed allocations.
- Insurance costs £15k - 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 (£15k) – a proposed £15k reduction in the electricity budget to reflect reduced unit rates but standing/KVA charges have increased again, and the Board needs to anticipate more frequent rainfall events with IDB systems 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 £13k – 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, and 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 2025 onwards.

To mitigate some of these cost pressure increases, where possible we have frozen budgets. Significantly, we have also deferred major plant purchases, where practicable. 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 now since April 2017, considerably reducing management costs for each Board.

After much discussion between Officers and Members of the Standing Committee at the meeting held on 14th January 2025, a balanced budget position can be achieved for 2025/26 based on these assumptions and a **recommended 5.00% penny rate increase**.

Additionally, there will be the land movements from agricultural land to 'other developed land'

under the Land Drainage Act 1991, for the period 01.01.24 to 31.12.24, which impact on each individual Special Levy paying Council.

It was noted that a 1% change in the penny rate equates in cash terms to £15,118 for 2025/26.

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 Member discussions and a desire to increase the General Reserve to 20% in the coming years, as resources allow.

It was therefore proposed that 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*	(387,641)	(437,641)	(437,641)
Emergency Event	(35,000)	(246,053)	(291,053)
Insurance	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)
One Off Projects**	(110,179)	(0)	(0)
Office/ICT Renewal	(11,978)	(14,132)	(16,286)
Commuted Sum	(10,400)	(10,400)	(10,400)
Capital Programme Funding			
Plant & Machinery	(414,343)	(515,268)	(441,139)
Pumping Station Refurbishments	(290,649)	(294,363)	(294,363)
AWC Renewals	(203,113)	(216,391)	(216,391)
PS Capital Programme	(50,000)	(105,000)	(165,000)
Balance	(1,548,303)	(1,874,248)	(1,907,273)

The Revenue Reserve 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 19.53% 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 be reported to the Board in May 2025.

Following discussion Members agreed to:

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

### **3168 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.

#### **Annual Values:**

The Annual Values start with those brought forward from last year's rate setting, with the movements for land that has been developed between 01.01.24 and 31.12.24 applied and is therefore to come out of Drainage Rates to be allocated to Special Levies for the appropriate

Council. The Annual Values at 31st December 2023 were:

	<b>Annual Values 31.12.22 £</b>	<b>Land Transfers 2023 £</b>	<b>Annual Values 31.12.23 £</b>
Drainage Rates	2,003,741	43,959	2,047,700
City of Lincoln	2,776,055	0	2,776,055
East Lindsey DC	3,819,584	285,494	4,105,078
West Lindsey DC	2,221,275	0	2,221,275
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,820,655</b>	<b>329,453</b>	<b>11,150,108</b>

The land movements between 01.01.24 and 31.12.24 that require transfer from Drainage Rates to Special Levy are transferred at the development rate of £4,287.44 per hectare. The land movements were set out, summarised as follows:

<b>Area ha</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Developed for</b>
1.781	Halham	ELDC	Glamping site - Thoughtfully Outdoors
0.22	Tattershall Thorpe	ELDC	Part of Quarry site
4.95	Tattershall Thorpe	ELDC	Part of Quarry site
0.868	Tattershall Thorpe	ELDC	Part of Quarry site
1.42	Tattershall Thorpe	ELDC	Part of Quarry site
0.46	Tattershall Thorpe	ELDC	Part of Quarry site
0.8	Horncastle	ELDC	Part of Polypipe depot, Horncastle
0.497	Horncastle	ELDC	Jehovah's Witness Centre, Horncastle
0.73	Horncastle	ELDC	Part of Polypipe depot, Horncastle
1.185	Newball	WLDC	Part of Woodside Wildlife Park expansion
2.21	Dunholme	WLDC	Spitfire Drive / Hurricane Close, Welton
0.093	Wood Enderby	ELDC	House and garden
0.1	Horncastle	ELDC	Footpath adjacent to Polypipe depot
5.836	Woodhall Spa	ELDC	Land off Gleneagles Drive, housing development
0.22	Woodhall Spa	ELDC	Land off Gleneagles Drive, housing development
0.76	Woodhall Spa	ELDC	Land off Gleneagles Drive, housing development
0.555	Woodhall Spa	ELDC	Land off Mill Lane Woodhall Spa, housing development
2.933	Woodhall Spa	ELDC	Land off Mill Lane Woodhall Spa, housing development
1.862	Kirkby on Bain	ELDC	Solar farm

This results in the following Annual Values as at 31st December 2024:

	<b>Annual Values 31.12.23 £</b>	<b>Land Transfers 2024 £</b>	<b>Annual Values 31.12.24 £</b>
Drainage Rates	2,047,700	-2,597	2,045,103
City of Lincoln	2,776,055	0	2,776,055
East Lindsey DC	4,105,078	103,263	4,208,341
West Lindsey DC	2,221,275	14,556	2,235,831
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,150,108</b>	<b>115,222</b>	<b>11,265,330</b>

#### Penny Rates:

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

	<b>Penny Rate (pence)</b>
Current	13.4261
Proposed	14.0974

#### Drainage Rates:

The increase to the 'penny rate' will provide a net increase in the income to the Board generated from Drainage Rates, from £274,926 in 2024/25 to £288,306 (+£13,380) in 2025/26.

#### Special Levies:

The 5.00% increase to the 'penny rate' will have the following impact on Special Levies, including the rebasing of the Annual Values for the land transfers for each of the 3 Councils:

	<b>Current £</b>	<b>Proposed £</b>	<b>Difference £</b>	<b>Increase %</b>
<b>City of Lincoln</b>	372,715.92	391,351.58	18,635.66	5.00
<b>ELDC</b>	551,151.85	593,266.66	42,114.81	7.64
<b>WLDC</b>	298,230.60	315,194.02	16,963.42	5.69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,222,098.37</b>	<b>1,299,812.26</b>	<b>77,713.89</b>	<b>6.36</b>

In summary, income to the Board increases by a net total of £91,094 for 2025/26 (being an increase of £77,714 in Special Levy income and a net increase in Drainage Rates income of £13,380).

Following discussions, Members AGREED:

- **The transfer of land from Drainage Rates to Special Levy be approved.**
- **The land valuations as at 31st December 2024 upon which Drainage Rates and Special Levies are calculated is set at £11,265,330.**
- **The 'penny rate' is increased from 13.4261 pence to 14.0974 pence in the pound (+5.00%) for 2025/26.**

#### **3169 Operations Report, including the Health & Safety Update.**

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

Between the 4 Boards, there had been 3 reported Incidents, all within Witham Third DIDB:

- (W3) – Near Miss - LDO raised query on seatbelt in a van. MOT had been recently passed with no issues; however, van taken out of use until seatbelt was replaced by garage as precautionary measure.
- (W3) – Incident - LDO was walking over culvert and 'tested' the top and went through the culvert. No injury and the culvert was made safe until repair.
- (W3) – Incident - LDO was getting out of watercourse, cut elbow on a rock. Laceration. Phoned 111 for advice and had tetanus and stitches. Did not go directly to hospital, not RIDDOR.

The year started with another heavy rainfall event from 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.

#### Annual Maintenance:

Witham Third had finished the annual programme of vegetation maintenance and will be starting de-silting and bushing works imminently. Overtime is being undertaken now where daylight hours allow.

#### Staffing:

Gordon Hodson had joined Witham Third in a Floating role but has moved to Witham First in a permanent role. Gordon worked for Witham First DIDB some years ago, so has good district knowledge.

The Operative on long term sickness leave has now left the Board's employment, by mutual agreement.

The vacancies will be held for now, until an update is received for the 2025 PSCA works.

#### Plant and Machinery:

The tilt rotator we ordered for the Volvo long reach excavator has now been fitted and is working as it should. This was ordered to aid the recovery work and bank slip repairs, at a cost of circa £35,000. IDB Fund grants are being utilised wherever possible to ensure the monies are spent.

The Tender documentation we sent out to suppliers for a replacement flailing machine has now been returned, we have assessed all the information provided and have placed an order for a new Energreen Alpha self-propelled flail at a cost of circa £273,000, for delivery in 2025/26 as per the Board's approved plant replacement programme. A budget of £260k had been set and this was exceeded by all submitted tenders.

#### Stamp End Pumping Station:

There remains a delay in the legal work to transfer this station from LCC (Lincolnshire County Council) to Witham Third DIDB. This is mainly due to a change of land ownership to land adjacent to the pumping station and an easement agreement needs to be arranged with National Grid. The Board's legal fees are being met by LCC.

#### 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 2025:

We have provided estimates for a similar amount of PSCA work in 2025/26 as in previous years, on all 4 Boards. We await news from the EA regarding acceptance of the estimates as to what they wish to commission next financial year.

Other rechargeable works:

Witham Third have completed ditch works at Cherry Willingham on behalf of LCC.

Members received and NOTED the Operations Report and update.

**3170 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.

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 this changes the programme considerably from previously available grant levels and what is set out in the following sections.

Woodhall PS Refurbishment:

IDB No	TD-1251-2014-PRO
EA National Project No	ANC403I/003A/017A
GIA Claim No	IDB
GIA Approval Amount	£1,704,400 Construction
	£1,013,640 Contingency
	£2,718,040 Total
Project Stage	Detail Design / Tender

Work to progress the refurbishment of Woodhall pumping station is continuing.

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

<b><i>Woodhall PS Refurbishment</i></b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Income	(£2,718,040)	(£500,000)	£2,218,040
Expenditure	£2,718,040	£40,119	(£2,677,921)
<b>Net</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>(£459,881)</b>	<b>(£459,881)</b>



Telemetry (W3):

IDB No	JA-1583-2014-ASS
EA National Project No	ANC501E/000A/189A
GIA Claim No	IDB 0553
GIA Approval Amount	£112,500 (including £18,750 contingency)
Project Stage	Delivery

Contractors Xylem and Paktronic are working at various sites to make modifications to the Nexicon panels and set up the new ultrasonic heads. One of the Nexicon panels is soon to be commissioned. Paktronic will then commission all remaining units in the same way.

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

<b><i>Telemetry</i></b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Income	(£118,000)	(£118,000)	£0
Expenditure	£118,000	£41,259	(£76,741)
<b>Net</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>(£76,741)</b>	<b>(£76,741)</b>

Storm Babet Recovery – FDGIA Schemes:

Following Storm Babet recovery work to 18 locations across three of the 4 Boards [not NELDB] was approved via the FDGIA funding route. This was summarised in the following table:

## 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	£ -
<b>SUB TOTAL W1</b>			<b>£ 330,000</b>	<b>£200,000</b>	<b>£ 530,000</b>	<b>£ 330,000</b>	<b>£ -</b>
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	£ -
<b>SUB TOTAL W3</b>			<b>£ 775,000</b>	<b>£465,000</b>	<b>£1,240,000</b>	<b>£ 765,000</b>	<b>£ 10,000</b>
Coulson	IDB	UWIDB	£ 20,000	£ 12,000	£ 32,000	£ 70,000	£ -
Boultham		UWIDB	£ 50,000	£ 30,000	£ 80,000		
<b>SUB TOTAL UW</b>			<b>£ 70,000</b>	<b>£ 42,000</b>	<b>£ 112,000</b>	<b>£ 70,000</b>	<b>£ -</b>
<b>Sub Total Schemes Approved</b>			<b>£ 1,175,000</b>	<b>£ 707,000</b>	<b>£ 1,882,000</b>	<b>£ 1,165,000</b>	<b>£ 10,000</b>
<b>Schemes Now Funded via IDB Fund</b>							
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		
<b>Sub Total Schemes Approved</b>			<b>£ 155,000</b>	<b>£ 93,000</b>	<b>£ 248,000</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>			<b>£1,330,000</b>	<b>£800,000</b>	<b>£2,130,000</b>	<b>£1,165,000</b>	<b>£ 10,000</b>

Three schemes were withdrawn (shaded in the table) from this funding route, as they are being funded via the IDB Fund. There is no deadline on these FDGiA schemes, they can roll into next year.

### Greetwell Pumping Station:

These works are now complete. The Board owned transformer was replaced with a new one. The plinth the transformer sits on was replaced as it had started to lean towards the watercourse @ a cost of £64,660 for both elements of work. The track has also been levelled.

### Stainfield (Old) Pumping Station:

The pump and motor have been refurbished and have had some resilience built in, this is in the form of a pedestal between motor and pump to hopefully keep the motor out the water, it has also had an external grease point fitted all at a cost of £29,450. There is a large slip close to the mouth of the pumping station but also very close to the highway, talks are ongoing to engage highways in the repair of this slip. A 12" electric mobile pump has also been purchased.

#### Bardney Fen Pumping Station:

The panel at Bardney Fen had water ingress and needed repairs, these have all been undertaken at a cost of £4,456 and we are considering how we can raise the cabinet further to prevent this occurring again. The access track has also been levelled.

#### Southrey Pumping Station:

The motor on no.2 pump has had to be refurbished at a cost of £43,000 and is back in and running. The Board owned transformer has been replaced with a new one and a new plinth has been constructed at bank top level for resilience at a cost of £103,650 for both elements of work. These works are complete.

#### Duckpool Pumping Station:

Duckpool needs the pump and motor refurbishing, this work is programmed in when a supplier becomes free.

#### Stixwould Pumping Station:

Stixwould needed repairs to the weed screen, these turned out to be minor repairs and have been completed.

#### Marsh Lane Pumping Station:

Marsh Lane currently has had one pump and motor out for repair at a cost of £25,500 and the second one will follow shortly. The steps to the weed screen have been undermined by the water and are dangerous, these are due to be replaced at a cost of circa £12,000.

#### Coningsby Ings Pumping Station:

This station was completely flooded from the Coningsby River Bain bank breach in October 2023. The control panel is currently being built at a cost of £87,407; this includes repair to our domestic electrics [bench test of new panel was 16.01.25]. The motors have been repaired at a cost of £3,252, one of these and one of the pumps are currently away having a pedestal manufactured to give some resilience in the future, they are also building a pedestal for the second one. The pumps are having full refurbishment while they are out as well. The automated weed screen is also being replaced with a gantry version, to protect from future flooding at a cost of £143,000 (this weed screen is also in IDB Fund tranche 2 and may yet be funded from there). National Grid also must replace their incoming infrastructure, this work started on the 04/11/24. The EA main river Bain Breach is now repaired. The reinstatement of this station is now proceeding well.

#### **IDB Recovery Fund**

In February 2024 the government announced a £75m 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 EA's IDB Fund Team..

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 was:

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 tranche 2A. All works to be completed and paid for by 31.03.25.

Tranche 1 Recovery works are as set out in the following table:

<b>RECOVERY &amp; RESILIENCE PROJECTS</b>		<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Recovery Projects Tranche 1</b>		<b>Asset Improvement Tranche 2</b>	<b>Received at Bank</b>
Witham & Humber Boards Bank Slip Reinstatement	All (W3)	AT1-068	£ 1,500,000	Approved		£ 1,200,000
Mobile pump replacement	All (W3)	AT1-063	£ 225,500	Approved (Condnl)	Withdrawn	£ 180,400
North East Lindsey IDB Storm Recovery Costs	NEL	AT1-067	£ 20,900	Approved		£ 20,900
Aubourn PS Replace Submersible Pumps	UW	AT1-049	£ 84,000	Approved (Condnl)	Withdrawn	£ 67,200
Sandsyke PS Replace Submersible Pumps	UW	AT1-050	£ 84,000	Approved (Condnl)	Withdrawn	£ 67,200
Torksey Syke PS Refurbishment & Pump Replacement	UW	AT1-051	£ 445,000	Approved (Condnl)	AT2-0009 Withdrawn	£ 222,500
Burton Pumping Station Pump & Motor Refurbishment	UW	AT1-052	£ 83,000	Approved (Condnl)	Withdrawn	£ 66,400
Pyewipe Automatic Weedscreen Cleaner Repair	UW	AT1-053	£ 42,000	Approved	Withdrawn	£ 33,600
Hykeham PS Refurbishment	UW	AT1-054	£ 240,000	Approved (Condnl)	Withdrawn	£ 192,000
Upper Witham IDB Storm Recovery Costs	UW	AT1-066	£ 120,975	Approved		£ 120,975
Farroway Pumping Station Weedscreen deck reinstatement & weedscreen repairs	W1	AT1-060	£ 158,000	Approved		£ 126,400
Timberland Pumping Station Pump refurbishment	W1	AT1-062	£ 84,000	Approved (Condnl)	Withdrawn	£ 67,200
Witham First DIDB Storm Recovery Costs	W1	AT1-065	£ 215,663	Approved		£ 215,663
Short Ferry PS Refurb	W3	AT1-047	£ 160,000	Approved (Condnl)	Withdrawn	£ 128,000
Bardney Abbey PS Refurb	W3	AT1-048	£ 48,000	Approved (Condnl)	Withdrawn	£ 38,400
Replacement Tilting Weirs at Dogdyke & Marsh Lane	W3	AT1-055	£ 208,000	Approved		£ 166,400
Stainfield New Pumping Station Pump Replacement	W3	AT1-056 AT2-0024	£ 84,000	Approved (Condnl)		£ 42,000
Kirkstead Pumping Station AWC Replacement	W3	AT1-057	£ 105,000	Approved		£ 84,000
Marsh Lane (Old) Pumping Station Pump Refurbishment	W3	AT1-058	£ 25,000	Approved	Withdrawn	£ 20,000
Witham Third DIDB Storm Recovery Costs	W3	AT1-064	£ 166,053	Approved		£ 166,053
<b>Total Projects Approved (DEFRA)</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>£ 4,099,091</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 3,225,291</b>

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 Environment Agency. One project was withdrawn, and this scheme (Heighington) has remained under the FDGIA funding due to concerns of completion by 31st March 2025 if left in T1. Two other Tranche 1 schemes were not approved but were resubmitted for consideration for Tranche 2 funding.

Progress on each project was detailed as follows:

#### All Boards – IDB 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 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 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:

Slip repairs are currently being undertaken by contractors on all the 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 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. 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. Orders are for 1 x 4" pump, 1 x 6" pump and 1 x 8" pump on road towable trailers in quiet canopies, with telemetry, all required hoses and fittings and 2 x fish /eel baskets. We have also purchased some flat big-ab roll on roll off trailer bodies to put our older pumps onto and 2 x 900 litre fuel cubes to assist with running the pumps during an 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.

##### Kirkstead Pumping Station:

Installation of new trolley and components to automated weed screen cleaner at a cost of £141,745. There is an issue with the timescale, as the contractor now says they cannot supply items within the deadline of 31.03.25.

##### Short Ferry Pumping Station:

Refurbishment of both pumps and motors at a cost of £67,299, we are also replacing damaged fascia and gutters on the building at a cost of £16,608. There is also a penstock to replace on new cut drain and install a gantry to allow access during high water levels.

#### Bardney Abbey Pumping Station:

Pump and Motor need to be lifted and refurbished, currently working and programmed in.

#### Stainfield (New) Pumping Station:

The 2 x small submersibles are beyond economical repair and following a lot of discussion with EA fisheries team we have an exemption to allow the installation of 2 x new submersibles at a cost of £20,000. These pumps have now been installed [17.01.25].

#### Marsh Lane Old Pumping Station:

We have purchased a 10' mobile pump to put here during high level events at a cost of £32,000. We are going to convert the old redundant station to enable the pump to be connected direct to the existing pipework that is installed through the riverbank.

#### Structure replacements at Dogdyke and Marsh Lane:

We currently control water levels at these sites by installing or removing stop log boards. We are installing a tilting weir at Dogdyke at £59,075 and a double leaf penstock at Marsh Lane at £48,335. At these sites it will enable us to alter levels via telemetry from a laptop. This project is being led by Mark Ketley in the Engineering team.

#### IDB Fund Tranche 2A Schemes - Asset Resilience

At the ADA Conference on 13th November, Floods Minister Emma Hardy MP, who the Boards hosted for a visit on 22nd February 2024 following Storms Babet and Henk, when she was Shadow Floods Minister, announced that the Tranche 2 schemes would be progressing. We subsequently received confirmation on 14th November of the schemes that had been approved at £6.6 million, now known as tranche 2A approvals. Members were presented with a summary of the asset improvements projects that have been approved for Tranche 2A:



<b>RECOVERY &amp; RESILIENCE PROJECTS</b>		Application Number		Asset Improvement Tranche 2	Received at Bank
Additional Mobile Pump Capacity	All (UW)	AT2-0055		£ 1,128,000	£ 564,000
Automatic Weedscreens	All (UW)	AT2-0052		£ 1,415,000	£ 707,500
<b>Total 'All Boards' Projects</b>		-	2	£ 2,543,000	£ 1,271,500
Access Platforms & weedscreen	NEL	AT2-0040		£ 82,000	£ 41,000
<b>Total NEL Projects</b>		-	1	£ 82,000	£ 41,000
Coulson Road	UW	AT2-0039		£ 1,075,000	£ 537,500
<b>Total UW Projects</b>		-	1	£ 1,075,000	£ 537,500
Sandhill Beck Pumping Station additional pump	W1	AT2-0038		£ 970,000	£ 485,000
Branston Pumping Station Syphon Breakers	W1	AT1-061 AT2-0011		£ 79,000	£ 39,500
<b>Total W1 Projects</b>		-	2	£ 1,049,000	£ 524,500
Marsh Drain Breach Repair (PSCA)	W3	AT2-0033		£ 400,000	£ 200,000
Fiskerton & Stixwold replacement electric motors (1 each of 2)	W3	AT2-0035		£ 1,335,000	£ 667,500
Bardney Fen relocate MCC to Bardney Abbey	W3	AT2-0036		£ 115,000	£ 57,500
<b>Total W3 Projects</b>		-	3	£ 1,850,000	£ 925,000
<b>TOTAL ALL TRANCHE 2A PROJECTS APPROVED</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>£ 6,599,000</b>	<b>£ 3,299,500</b>

#### Tranche 2A Marsh Drain Breach Repair EA W3

The Marsh Drain Breach repair is not an easy repair, we are currently awaiting the design from the EA, but the weather is not making access easy. We have approached the IDB fund administrators to persuade them to extend the end time on this, but they refused. The common-sense time to undertake the repair would be May/June before summer maintenance begins and ground conditions are better [avoiding expenditure on a steel access track], but we still have the 31st March 2025 deadline.

#### Tranche 2A Stixwold / Fiskerton Diesel to Electric conversion W3

We are converting one engine at Stixwold to electric, this work is ongoing. The companies involved do not have the capacity to convert one at Fiskerton in the times allowed.

#### Tranche 2A Bardney Fen pumping Station W3

We are still trying to get this project completed in the time allowed and have a meeting set up to sort out a GRP cabinet for the new panel.

Southrey Pumping Station additional third pump was approved under Tranche 2, but after discussing with prospective suppliers it was clear that this project could not be delivered by the 31st March 2025 deadline, so it was withdrawn.

Therefore, the schemes that have not yet been approved or are withdrawn for Tranche 2A funding are:

Replacement Archamedies Screw Pumps at Fen Lane, North Kyme & Decoy Pumping Stations	All Boards (UW)	AT2-0042			£ 1,725,000
Water Level Control Structures & Penstock Automation at various locations	All Boards (W1)	AT2-0051			£ 675,000
Shortferry Pumping Station additional pump	Witham Third District IDB	AT2-0032			£ 800,000
Southrey Pumping Station additional pump	Witham Third District IDB	AT2-0031		***WITHDRAWN - RESUBMIT***	£ 550,000
Gantry Installation at Coningsby Ings and Duckpool Pumping Stations	Witham Third District IDB	AT2-0037			£ 74,000
<b>Total T2 Unapproved Projects</b>		-	£ -	5	£ 3,824,000

One further scheme submitted for Tranche 1 and Tranche 2A has so far been unsuccessful, Coningsby Ings AWC. However, there may be the option to fund this through the Automatic Weedscreen project at £1.4 million, which has been successful:

Coningsby Ings Automatic Weedscreen Replacement	Witham Third District IDB	AT1-059 AT2-0019			£ 175,000
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#### IDB Fund 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 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 to improve its resilience and futureproof it.

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 31st March 2025 deadline.

Cllr Tom Ashton thanked the whole team, stating he appreciated the scale of the work. He asked what the fate of the engines at Stixwold / Fiskerton would be. It was confirmed that there had been little time to review this issue, the pump team had requested the pumps as a



demonstration piece, but this is not a priority. All attempts will be made to get the pumps out in one piece, but this could be an issue at Stixwould.

Cllr Rebecca Longbottom asked if the mobile pumps being purchased were at risk of theft and if they would be insured. Officers confirmed all appropriate measures that can be taken are taken to secure the pumps and yes, they would be insured.

Members noted the Capital Programme Report and the change in the Defra/EA funding from a six-year programme to a five-year programme ending 31.03.26.

### **3171 Engineering Report.**

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

The Boards' staff are continuing with work in relation to the Statement of Claim, IDB Fund Tranche 1 Recovery & Tranche 2A 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 had received the final reports for the following independent Section 19 investigations from flooding incidents which occurred in Storms Babet [Oct 2023] and Henk [Jan 2024]. Seven are within Witham Third DIDB. Section 19 reports look at where is flooded, what has flooded and why it flooded.

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>

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

#### Lower River Witham Resilience Review & Billingham Catchment System Review (FD-5336-2020-PRO)

Work to complete the hydraulic modelling of the lower Witham system continues and was due for completion in March/April 2023, however this is now delayed until the end of the calendar year. In the meantime, the Board's officers are meeting with the EA and its consultants, to discuss maximising benefits that may be available to claim as part of any future FDGiA bids.

The Board's officers continue to raise issues of concern relating to the system's condition and ability to convey water with the EA and its consultants. During the recent high rainfall event [January 2025] and the resulting flood levels, instances of where the embankments were overtopped or breached were made known to the EA as they were found by the Boards' workforces or reported to them by members of the public.

The EA had publicised dates of 'drop in' events where the public may view the proposals and discuss them with the Agency's officers and their consultants. A session has been arranged for Wednesday 29th January, between 12 – 4pm to be held at the Crown Lodge and Restaurant at Chapel Hill.

The EA has a web page for the Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/lincolnshire-and-northamptonshire/lower-witham-flood-resilience-project/>

#### Minting Revetment Replacement 2025.

This scheme was commissioned by East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) and the Board took on responsibility for a commuted sum of £12k.

The watercourse that runs through Minting is very close to residential properties, in this particular site there is a garage on site and a power pole that have prevented access for maintenance over the years. The Board has received many complaints regarding the condition and three years ago the Board went out to tender for a replacement to the wooden revetment structure with steel sheet piling. The budget set for the works was £30k. All quotes received came in at over £100k.

The bungalow on site in this specific area flooded in Storm Babet. Some 12 properties in total flooded. The Board was under increasing pressure to complete the replacement works. It was decided to provide access to the rear of the bungalow, removing the garage which took place last week and install the sheet piles replacing the wooden revetment. Members were reminded that this is purely a revetment and NOT a flood defence. A 300m dia pipe was installed in the bed of the works to remove the water. Heavy rain over the weekend meant this had disrupted works this week. There were piles on both sides of the channel for reforming the bed. This scheme is a very high-profile piece of work and is very visible to the public due to the residential location. ELDC will contribute as the with insurers of the bungalow. The cost of the works is anticipated to be £166k. Had the works been more straightforward they would have been completed some time ago, but due to the proximity of the properties it has been a difficult undertaking. It will provide a better flow to the watercourse but is not promoted as a better defence. The works should last at least 60 years.

Mr Mike Harrison asked if the culvert in Minting, which was the responsibility of Highways would have greater capacity as LCC were proposing a box culvert to replace the current circular culvert. Investigations would be made with LCC Highways.

Members received, discussed and NOTED the Engineering & Technical Services Report.

### **3172 Consents and Enforcements Report.**

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

There was nothing to highlight to Members on this occasion.

Members received and NOTED the report on Consents and Enforcement cases.

### **3173 Planning and Consultations Report.**

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

There was nothing to highlight to Members on this occasion.

Members NOTED the report.

### **3174 Environment Update.**

A report had been prepared by Nick Downing, Environment & GIS Officer, 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 and will be held in the Welland & Deeping IDB district, which will include a site visit. If any Board members would like to attend, then contact the Boards' Environmental Officer on email [nick.downing@witham3idb.gov.uk](mailto: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. The event will be held at Park Farm, Thorney, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.



Members received and NOTED the Environment update.

**3175 Any Other Business.**

There being no further items of business, the meeting closed at 11:40.

**3176 Date, Time and Place of the Board's Next Meeting.**

The Board's next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 09:30am in Minting Village Hall.

 ..... Chairman  ..... Date  
W3rd B.M. 28.01.25.