

# **Witham First District Internal Drainage Board**



## **Annual Report & Statement of Accounts 2024/25 for the year ended 31st March 2025**

**Witham House  
Meadow Lane  
North Hykeham  
Lincoln  
LN6 9GJ**

**Tel: (01522) 697123**

**Website: [www.witham3idb.gov.uk](http://www.witham3idb.gov.uk)  
Email: [enquiries@witham3idb.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@witham3idb.gov.uk).  
Email: [jane.froggatt@witham3idb.gov.uk](mailto:jane.froggatt@witham3idb.gov.uk)**

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# **Witham First District Internal Drainage Board Statement of Accounts & Annual Report 2024/25**

## **Annual Report 2024/25**

Witham First District Internal Drainage Board [IDB] is a Public Body, an independent Flood Risk Management and Drainage Authority created under land drainage statutes. The IDB has a duty to work in partnership with other Flood Risk Management Authorities in Lincolnshire including IDBs, the Environment Agency, District Councils and Lincolnshire County Council [In LCC's role as Lincolnshire's Lead Local Flood Authority since April 2012]. The Board is responsible for flood risk, land drainage and water levels management, works and improvement schemes and operational maintenance of water courses and pumping stations within its defined drainage district of 16,384 hectares, other than on main rivers where the Environment Agency has this role and towards which the Board pays an annual IDB precept [£83,031 in 2024/25]. A map of the Board's drainage district and its extended catchment is included at Appendix 1 to this Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.

The Board comprises 28 Members, including Mr David Armstrong (Chairman) and Mr Paul Carrott (Vice Chairman) of the Board from November 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Members are either elected by and represent the occupiers of land in the drainage district or they are nominated by one of two District Councils, City of Lincoln Council or North Kesteven District Council. All Members have a corporate responsibility to represent the interests of the Board. The Board's role is to determine strategy, direction and policy for the organisation and to ensure the IDB operates within an appropriate governance framework. The Board is supported by officers, led by a Chief Executive, who advise the Board, implement the Board's agreed strategies, plans and policies and operationally manage and provide the Board's services. The Board's organisational structure chart is provided at Appendix 2. The Board's support services, as this chart demonstrates, are provided to a group of four IDBs, the other three being Upper Witham IDB, Witham Third District IDBs and from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2017 North East Lindsey IDB joined the partnership under the terms of a new Joint Services Agreement. The 4 Boards remain separate legal statutory bodies but work collectively in a partnership as the "Witham and Humber Drainage Boards".

The Board secures income from two main sources. Firstly, income is secured through a direct levy on owners and occupiers of land within the drainage district, with rates being payable on 01<sup>st</sup> April each year and totalling £865,037 in 2024/25. Secondly, income is secured through special levies paid by the two District Councils in two instalments on 01<sup>st</sup> May and 01<sup>st</sup> November each year, totalling £680,596 for 2024/25 (i.e., City of Lincoln £228,645 and North Kesteven District Council £451,951).

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

The Board agreed on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 a rate uplift for 2024/25 of 20.0% to set a balanced budget of £1,667,354.

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

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

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

In 2024/25 electricity unit rates reduced from 01<sup>st</sup> October 2024 and overall, it was a drier year, except for January 2025, when Lincolnshire's LRF declared a Major Incident 06.01.25-09.01.25 due to flooding. The Board incurred electricity costs of £263,830 during 2024/25. At Appendix 3 rainfall data, pumped hours and electricity costs incurred by the Board are set out, showing the inter relationship between them.

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

Since April 2012 the Board, in common with other IDBs in Lincolnshire, has provided a consents and enforcements service for and on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council [LCC], the Lead Local Flood Authority in Lincolnshire, beyond the Board's drainage district in its extended rainfall catchment. This service has been provided under a Memorandum of Understanding with LCC for 2024/25.

Examples of the Board's work in 2024/25 include:

- Operation of the Board's 13 Pumping Stations to protect property, agricultural land and critical infrastructure in the drainage district of 16,384 hectares. Substantial completion of the Board's Summer 2024 maintenance and weed cutting programme.
- The 4 Witham & Humber Boards have been awarded £1.205m Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) and £17.424m of the £91m IDB Fund national monies from DEFRA for recovery, resilience, improvement & resilience works following Storms Babet and Henk in winter 2023/24. This has been utilised to repair and provide additional resilience at the 4 Boards' pumping stations, reinstate major bank slips and provide additional mobile pumping capacity across the 4 Boards' drainage districts.
- Pumping Station works undertaken at Blankney, Branston, Farroway, and Timberland with further works to be completed in 2025/26 at Heighington and Sandhill Beck. Bank slip repairs, mostly undertaken by contractors, across the Board's drainage district.
- Works undertaken as part of the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA) on behalf of the Environment Agency in 2024 at: Ruskington Catchwater, Anwick Catchwater, Farroway Drain, Digby Beck, Sandhill Beck, Leasingham Beck, Ruskington Beck, Nine Foot River, Old River Slea, River Slea and Ancaster Beck.
- Participation in DEFRA's LAPSIP Lowland Peat Project, with the installation in March 2025 of 2 tilting weir water control structures – one at Tyndall's Bankside [Bardney] and the other at Nocton Fen, with national funding of £187,764.
- Implementation of a telemetry system at the Board's Pumping Stations, funded by FDGiA grant monies, at an estimated cost of £167,500.
- Refurbishment of Metheringham Fen Pumping Station, funded by FDGiA monies, at a cost of £168,000.
- Provided a consents and enforcement service for Lincolnshire County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority), under a Memorandum of Understanding to 31.03.29, outside the Board's drainage district in the extended rainfall catchment.
- Continuing with the Board's conservation initiatives including the erection of owl boxes, the leaving of reed margins for water voles, birds and insects and continued membership of the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, annual report and training.

*All figures exclude VAT.*

The end of year outturn position for the Board, as at 31st March 2025, was a modest surplus of £37,058 after contributing £225k to reserves (compared with a surplus year-end position of £16,043 in 2023/24). This surplus has been allocated to the General Reserve.

## **Statement of Accounts 2024/25**

### **The statement of responsibilities:**

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

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

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

To support its Governance arrangements, the JSC on behalf of the Board approved on 09<sup>th</sup> December 2024 its Risk Management Policy. The JSC also approved a revised set of Financial Regulations and Statement of Internal Control. The Corporate Risk Register was reviewed and updated again on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### **The Statement of Accounting Policies:**

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

### **The Income and Expenditure Account:**

This statement summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the IDB during 2024/25.

### **The Balance Sheet:**

This statement is fundamental to the understanding of the Board's financial position as at 31st March 2025. It shows the balances and reserves at the Board's disposal and the fixed and net current assets employed in its operation, together with summarised information on the fixed assets held. The statement also includes assets and liabilities of the Board.

### **Notes to the accounts:**

The notes relating to the statements above are detailed after the core statements, including cost centre budgets and variance analysis where appropriate for the period 2024/25 with comparisons to 2023/24.

## Witham First District Internal Drainage Board, Members 2024/25

The Board has 28 Members, 21 Members elected by the Occupiers of land within the drainage district and 7 members nominated by the two District Councils who pay Special Levies to the Board, i.e., City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven District Council. Elections of occupiers of land are every 3 years with an election process and a new term of office from 01.11.24 to 31.10.27. Council nominated members are for the period of the civic year.

Members 01.04.24 to 31.03.25 were:

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

<b>Nominated Member's Name</b>	<b>Nominating Authority</b>	<b>Executive Committee Members</b>
Cllr Gary Hewson	City of Lincoln Council	No
Cllr Patrick Vaughan	City of Lincoln Council	No
Cllr Ian Carrington	North Kesteven District Council	No
Cllr Mervyn Head	North Kesteven District Council	No
Cllr Andrew Hagues	North Kesteven District Council	No
Cllr Leigh Sanders	North Kesteven District Council	No
Cllr Mike Clarke	North Kesteven District Council	No

*\*1 Vacancy on Executive Committee*

## The Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

We acknowledge as the Members of Witham First District Internal Drainage Board our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, and confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Board's statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025, that:

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

This annual governance statement is approved by the Board and recorded as a Board minute, dated Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Signed on behalf of Witham First District Internal Drainage Board.

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

Date: 20.5.25.

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

Date: 20.05.25.



## The Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts 2024/25

The Board is required:

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

### The Director of Finance & Governance's Responsibilities:

The Director of Finance & Governance is responsible for the preparation of the Board's Statement of Accounts which is required to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Board at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2025.

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

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- compiled the accounts in accordance with the UK GAAP Financial Reporting Standard 102 issued by the Financial Reporting Council and has regard to the proper practices published by the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG), a further update to the Practitioners' Guide having been issued by JPAG in March 2024.
- applied the accounting concept of a "going concern" by assuming that the IDB will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

The Director of Finance & Governance has:

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

### Certificate of the Director of Finance & Governance

This Statement of Accounts 2024/25 is that upon which the Auditor should enter their certificate and opinion. It provides a true and fair view of the financial position of the Board as at 31st March 2025 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

### Certificate of the Chairman of the Board

I confirm that these accounts have been approved by Witham First District Internal Drainage Board at a meeting held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

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

Date: 20.5.25, .....

## **Statement of Accounting Policies**

### **1. General**

This statement of accounts has been prepared in accordance with the UK GAAP Financial Reporting Standard 102 issued by the Financial Reporting Council and has regard to the proper practices published by the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG), a further update to the Practitioners' Guide having been issued by JPAG in March 2024.

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

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

### **2. Non-Current Assets**

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

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

### **3. Depreciation**

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

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

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

#### **Plant**

Excavators	7 years
Tractors	7 years

Motor Vehicles	6 years
General equipment	between 4 to 10 years

#### **Pumping Stations**

Automated Weed Screen Cleaners	30 Years
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#### **Computer Equipment**

All computer equipment	4 Years
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### **4. Debtors and creditors**

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

There is no provision for bad debts.

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

### **5. Stock**

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

### **6. Government Grants and Contributions**

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

### **7. Leases**

The Board has no finance leases. It has entered Operating Leases during 2024/25 that are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account for the period to which it relates for 3 4x4 vehicles and 2 x vans.

### **8. Reserves**

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

- 8.1 Revenue Reserve. The Board's policy is to maintain this balance at approximately 10% to 15% of the annual revenue expenditure.

- 8.2 Plant Renewal Funds. The Board's policy is to build up sufficient funds over the useful economic life of major assets to enable replacement. This is through a depreciation charge as set out in the fixed asset register.
- 8.3 Pumping Station/Capital Programme to support future replacement of components at pumping stations or as contributions to Capital Grant applications.
- 8.4 One Off Project reserve is used for any slippage in the financial year for one-off projects that have not yet been completed. The works will then be completed and funded in the following financial year.
- 8.5 Specific reserves for Emergency Events, Self Insurance and Commuted Sums received.

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

## **9. Provisions**

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

## **10. Taxation**

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

## **11. Post Balance Sheet Events**

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

## **12. Pensions**

Pension costs are accounted for on a defined benefits basis. The full Disclosure of Net Pensions Asset/Liability and associated information is contained in the notes to the accounts on an FRS102 basis.

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

## **13. Exceptional Items**


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

## **14. Discontinued Operations**

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

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

	Note	31st March 2025 £	31st March 2024 £
<b>Income</b>			
Drainage Rates & Costs		865,037	706,850
Special Levies	1	680,596	557,493
FDGIA Grant	2	443,920	27,955
Other Grants	2	1,328,831	9,898
Highland Water Contributions	2	12,743	210,005
Consents & Enforcement		12,357	8,778
Insurance Claims		25,064	0
Commutation Payments/Developer Contributions		0	72,385
Rechargeable Works		86,648	116,241
Interest		53,129	21,812
Gains/Losses on the Sale of Surplus Assets		1,800	17,200
Rent, Wayleaves & Sundry Income		5,780	6,522
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>3,515,905</b>	<b>1,755,139</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Drains		710,982	439,338
Pumping Stations		754,278	668,290
Depot		12,428	24,942
Engineering		88,894	85,938
Conservation		1,713	273
One Off Schemes		462,170	69,513
Environment Agency Precept		83,031	83,031
Consents & Enforcement		12,357	8,778
Board Administration		21,644	20,647
Joint Administration	7	153,621	135,086
Rechargeable Works		87,873	70,976
Public Works Loan Board Interest	5	26,188	26,789
Contribution to Reserves		1,071,080	112,828
Wages & Plant Holding Account		16,588	16,667
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)		(24,000)	(24,000)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>3,478,847</b>	<b>1,739,096</b>
<b>(Surplus)/ Deficit</b>		<b>(37,058)</b>	<b>(16,043)</b>

Signed: 

Name: Mr. D. Armstrong

Designation: Chairman

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

	Note	31st March 2025		31st March 2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Non Current Assets</b>					
Land & Buildings		2,553,827		2,561,666	
Vehicles and Plant		545,296		436,994	
Other		0		0	
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	10		3,099,123		2,998,660
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Stock		0		0	
Debtors & Prepayments	11	454,405		204,330	
Short Term Investments		1,988,575		704,705	
Bank & Cash		80,063		69,954	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>			2,523,043		978,989
<b>Long Term Assets</b>					
LGPS Net Pension Surplus	13	841,000		723,000	
Commuted Sum		61,116		85,563	
			902,116		808,563
<b>Total Assets</b>			6,524,282		4,786,212
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Creditors	12	(579,907)		(158,528)	
Short Term Loans		(24,447)		(24,447)	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>			(604,354)		(182,975)
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>			5,919,928		4,603,237
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>					
Long Term loans		(36,669)		(61,116)	
LGPS Net Pension Liability	13	0		0	
			(36,669)		(61,116)
<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>			5,883,259		4,542,121
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Capital Discharged	10		3,099,123		2,998,660
Funds, Balances & Reserves	14		1,943,136		820,461
Pensions Reserve	13		841,000		723,000
Capital Receipts Unapplied			0		0
<b>Total</b>	14		5,883,259		4,542,121

Signed:  .....

Name: Mr. D. Armstrong

Designation: Chairman

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

# Notes to the Accounts

## Note 1: Special Levies

Special Levies were paid by the following District Councils:

Special Levies	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
City of Lincoln Council	228,645	190,538
North Kesteven District Council	451,951	366,955
	<b>680,596</b>	<b>557,493</b>

## Note 2: Government Grants & Contributions

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

Government Grants	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Flood Defence Grant in Aid	443,920	27,955
Other Grants	1,328,831	9,898
Highland Water	12,743	210,005
	<b>1,785,494</b>	<b>247,858</b>

## Note 3: Pension Contributions

In 2024/25 the Board paid an employer's contribution rate of 19.3% with no lump sum (19.3% + £0k in 2023/24) of each employee's gross pay into Lincolnshire County Council's Superannuation Fund. This amounted to £53,406 in 2024/25 (£52,400 in 2023/24). Further pension disclosures are shown in the FRS102 Pension Note below.

## Note 4: Officers' Remuneration

Staff employed directly by the Board:

Remuneration of Employees	2024/25	2023/24
<i>Remuneration band</i>		
80,000 - 89,999	1	1
70,000 - 79,999	0	0
60,000 - 69,999	0	0
50,000 - 59,999	0	0

The Joint Services Agreement of 01<sup>st</sup> April 2017 currently allocates costs between the IDBs in proportions of 30% to Upper Witham IDB, 20% to North East Lindsey IDB, 20% to Witham First DIBD and 30% to Witham Third DIBD.

Staff employed across all 4 Boards, including those employed by this Board, and recharged via JSC proportions:

Remuneration of Employees	2024/25	2023/24
<i>Remuneration band</i>		
£100,000 - £109,999	1	0
£90,000 - £99,999	0	1
£80,000 - £89,999	3	3
£70,000 - £79,999	0	0
£60,000 - £69,999	1	0
£50,000 - £59,999	2	2

## Note 5: Public Works Loans Board.

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

## Note 6: Audit Fees & Expenses

The fees paid to the Board's external auditors (PKF Littlejohn LLP) for 2024/25 are £2,940 (£2,100 in 2023/24).

## Note 7: Joint Services

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

Joint Services	Total Charge for 2024/25				
	UW 30.0%	NEL 20.0%	W1 20.0%	W3 30.0%	TOTAL 100.0%
<b>Joint Administration</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Witham House (UW)	18,270	12,180	12,180	18,272	60,902
Joint Admin (UW)	17,727	11,818	11,818	17,726	59,089
Joint Admin (W3)	194,434	129,623	129,623	194,432	648,112
<b>Total Joint Admin</b>	<b>230,431</b>	<b>153,621</b>	<b>153,621</b>	<b>230,430</b>	<b>768,103</b>
<b>Engineering &amp; Operational Services</b>					
Engineering & Operational Services (W1)	37,543	25,029	25,029	37,542	125,143
Engineering & Operational Services (W3)	123,806	82,538	82,538	123,805	412,687
Engineering & Operational Services (UW)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Engineering &amp; Operational</b>	<b>161,349</b>	<b>107,567</b>	<b>107,567</b>	<b>161,347</b>	<b>537,830</b>
<b>Total Inter Recharges between Boards</b>	<b>391,780</b>	<b>261,188</b>	<b>261,188</b>	<b>391,777</b>	<b>1,305,933</b>



## Note 8: Related Party Transactions

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

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

## Note 9: Post Balance Sheet Event

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

## Note 10: Non-Current Assets

<b>Non Current Assets</b>	<b>Land &amp; Buildings</b>	<b>Depot</b>	<b>Plant &amp; Vehicles</b>	<b>Office Equip</b>	<b>Pumping Stations</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cost</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Closing Balance 31/03/24</b>	<b>82,160</b>	<b>25,910</b>	<b>1,072,173</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,607,725</b>	<b>3,787,968</b>
Additions			230,757			230,757
Reclassification						0
Disposals			(15,571)			(15,571)
<b>Closing Balance 31/03/25</b>	<b>82,160</b>	<b>25,910</b>	<b>1,287,359</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,607,725</b>	<b>4,003,154</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
<b>Closing Balance 31/03/24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>635,179</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>154,129</b>	<b>789,308</b>
Depreciation Charged			120,454		7,839	128,293
Reclassification						0
Disposals Written Out			(13,570)			(13,570)
<b>Closing Balance 31/03/25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>742,063</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>161,968</b>	<b>904,031</b>
<b>Net Book Value 31/03/24</b>	<b>82,160</b>	<b>25,910</b>	<b>436,994</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,453,596</b>	<b>2,998,660</b>
<b>Net Book Value 31/03/25</b>	<b>82,160</b>	<b>25,910</b>	<b>545,296</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,445,757</b>	<b>3,099,123</b>

The above Capital has been financed as follows:

<b>Capital Discharged</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Capital Receipts Applied	60,765	60,765
Revenue Contributions	2,562,751	2,562,751
Renewals Fund	1,196,578	981,392
Revaluation Reserve	183,060	183,060
less Depreciation	(904,031)	(789,308)
	<b>3,099,123</b>	<b>2,998,660</b>

## Note 11: Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors & Prepayments	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Drainage Ratepayers	8,627	2,599
Sundry Debtors & Prepayments	253,478	115,333
HMRC	192,300	86,398
	<b>454,405</b>	<b>204,330</b>

## Note 12: Creditors and Receipts in Advance

Creditors & Receipts in Advance	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Drainage Ratepayers	(101)	(101)
Sundry Creditors	(573,782)	(152,907)
HMRC	(6,024)	(5,520)
Payroll Deductions	0	0
	<b>(579,907)</b>	<b>(158,528)</b>

## Note 13: FRS102 Pensions

The following disclosures are based upon the 'March 2025 FRS102 Report' prepared by Barnett Waddingham LLP, the fund Actuaries for the Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund (previous Actuaries were Hymans Robertson LLP).

The impact on the Balance Sheet is:

Balance Sheet	31/03/25	31/03/24
	£000's	£000's
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(1,758)	(1,873)
Fair value of Fund assets (bid value)	2,599	2,596
<b>Net (Under)/Overfunding in Funded Plans</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>723</b>
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities	0	0
Unrecognised Past Service Cost		
<b>Net Asset/(Liability)</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>723</b>
<b>Amount in the Balance Sheet</b>		
Liabilities		
Assets	841	723
<b>Net Asset/(Liability)</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>723</b>

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

Fair Value of Employer Assets	31/03/25		31/03/24	
	£000's	%	£000's	%
Equities	1,265	49%	1,282	49%
Bonds	368	14%	358	14%
Property	178	7%	181	7%
Cash	73	3%	71	3%
Infrastructure	114	4%	105	4%
Absolute return fund	601	23%	599	23%
<b>Cumulative Actuarial Gains and Losses</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,596</b>	<b>100%</b>

The impact on the Income and Expenditure Account is:

<b>Recognition in the income and expenditure account</b>	<b>31/03/25 £000's</b>	<b>31/03/24 £000's</b>
Current Service Cost	75	74
Net interest on the defined liability (asset)	(36)	(30)
Administration expenses	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>

The Defined Benefit Obligation consists of:

<b>Reconciliation of Defined Benefit Obligation</b>	<b>31/03/25 £000's</b>	<b>31/03/24 £000's</b>
<b>Opening Defined Benefit Obligation</b>	<b>1,873</b>	<b>1,806</b>
Current Service Cost	75	74
Interest Cost	89	84
Change in financial assumptions	(195)	1
Change in demographic assumptions	0	0
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	0	0
Liabilities assumed / (extinguished) on settlements	0	0
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(105)	(113)
Past service costs, including curtailments	0	0
Contributions by Scheme participants and other empl	21	21
Unfunded pension payments	0	0
<b>Closing Defined Benefit Obligation</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>1,873</b>

The Fair Value of Employee Assets consists of:

<b>Reconciliation of Fair Value of Employee Assets</b>	<b>31/03/25 £000's</b>	<b>31/03/24 £000's</b>
<b>Opening Fair Value of Employer Assets</b>	<b>2,596</b>	<b>2,387</b>
Interest on assets	125	114
Return on assets less interest	(89)	137
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	0	0
Administration expenses	(2)	(2)
Contributions by employer including unfunded	53	52
Contributions by Scheme participants and other employers	21	21
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(105)	(113)
Settlement prices received / (paid)	0	0
<b>Closing Fair value of Fund assets</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>2,596</b>

The following assumptions have been used by the Actuary in making their valuation as at 31st March 2025:

<b>Assumptions</b>	<b>31/03/25</b>	<b>31/03/24</b>
<b><i>Financial Assumptions</i></b>		
Discount Rate	5.70%	4.85%
Pension Increase Rate	2.90%	2.90%
RPI Inflation	3.30%	3.30%
Salary Increase Rate	3.90%	3.30%
<b><i>Mortality (future life expectancy at age 65)</i></b>		
Current Pensioners (Male)	19.9 years	19.9 years
Current Pensioners (Female)	23.1 years	23.0 years
Future Pensioners (Male)	21.3 years	21.2 years
Future Pensioners (Female)	24.5 years	24.5 years

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

<b>Sensitivity Analysis</b>	<b>Approx increase to Employer Liability %</b>	<b>Approx Monetary Amount £000's</b>
<b><i>Change in assumptions at 31 March 2025</i></b>		
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	1.02%	18
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0.06%	1
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	1.02%	18
Adjustment to life Expectancy Assumptions +1 Year	3.19%	56

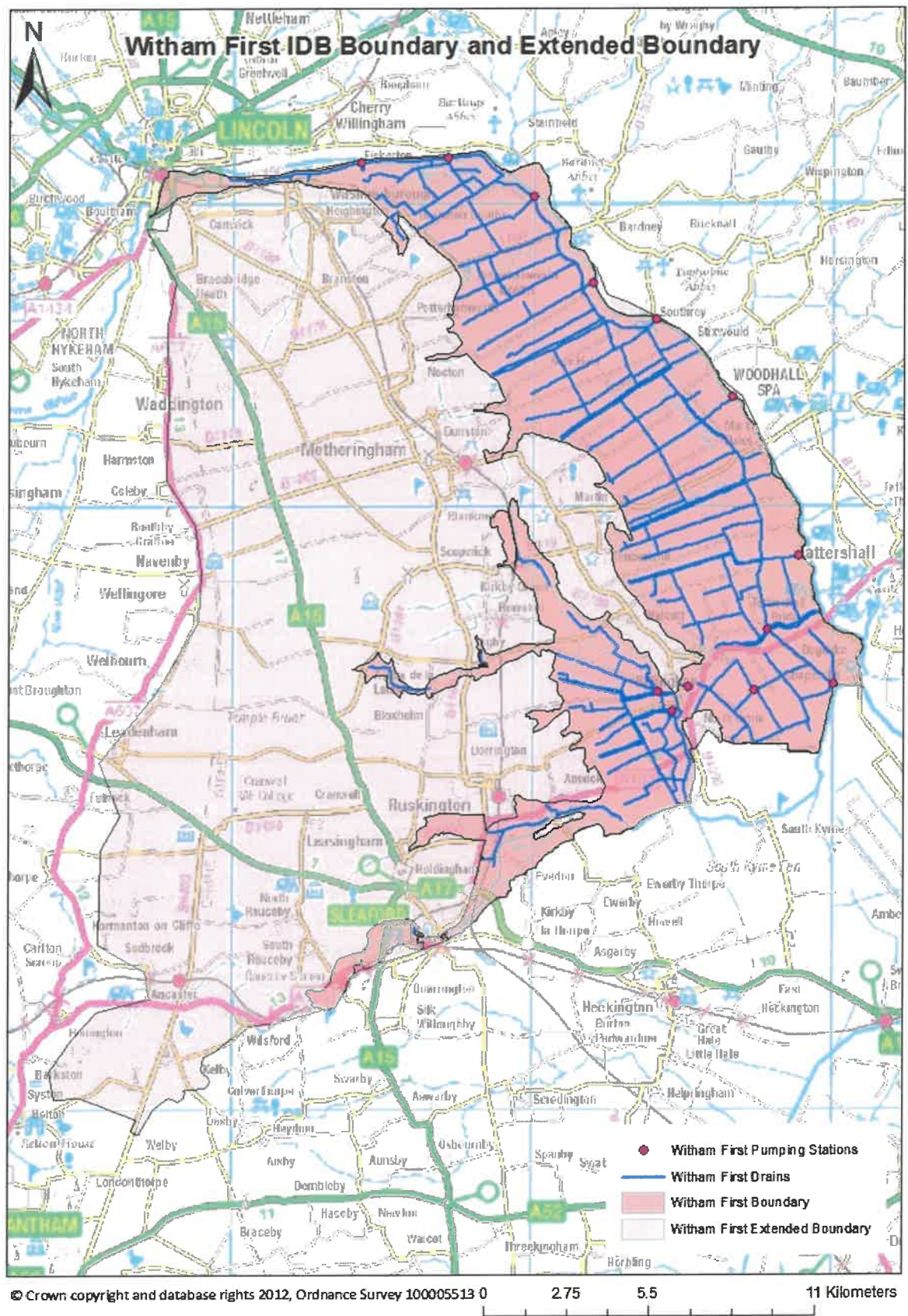
Projected pension costs: The estimated Employer's contribution for the period to 31st March 2025 is approximately £56,000.

## Note 14: Funds & Reserves

### W1st DIBD Schedule of Funds & Reserves as at 31st March 2025

Movement on Reserves	Capital Discharged	Pensions Reserve	Revenue Reserve	Plant & Machinery Reserve	Pumping Station Reserve	One Off Projects Reserve	Emergency Events	Self Insurance	Commutated Sums	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£			£	£
Balance as at 31 March 2024	(2,998,660)	(723,000)	(205,114)	(275,493)	(122,842)	(111,957)	0	0	(105,055)	(4,542,121)
Depreciation	128,293			(120,454)	(7,839)					0
Capital Purchases	(230,757)			230,757	0					0
Capital Disposals	2,001			(2,001)						0
Pension Interest Cost (Net)		(118,000)								(118,000)
Contributions In			(75,000)	(125,000)	(115,000)	(649,241)	(280,663)	(50,000)		(1,294,904)
Contributions Out						108,824				108,824
Transfers										0
(Surplus)/Deficit on I&E			(37,058)							(37,058)
Balance as at 31 March 2025	(3,099,123)	(841,000)	(317,172)	(292,191)	(245,681)	(652,374)	(280,663)	(50,000)	(105,055)	(5,883,259)

## Appendix 1





# Witham and Humber Drainage Boards' Organisational Structure Chart

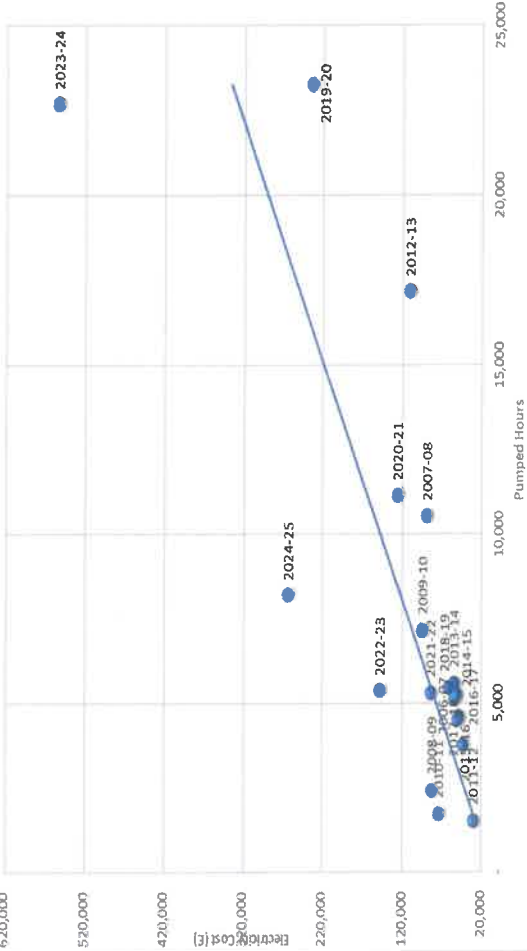


Appendix 3

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

Pumping Station	2020-21			2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
	Rainfall (mm)	Pumped Hours	Electricity Costs (£)	Rainfall (mm)	Pumped Hours	Electricity Costs (£)	Rainfall (mm)	Pumped Hours	Electricity Costs (£)	Rainfall (mm)	Pumped Hours	Electricity Costs (£)	Rainfall (mm)	Pumped Hours	Electricity Costs (£)
Billinghay		0.05	£ 369.20		0.03	£ 412.35		0.02	£ 446.79		34.47	£ 2,229.59		3.00	£ 779.92
Blankney	482.00	897.03	£ 16,052.76	492.00	413.69	£ 10,667.11	452.50	366.00	£ 18,485.62	824.00	1,896.58	£ 81,846.63	230.00	642.00	£ 34,166.38
Branston		1,168.43	£ 10,602.97		717.65	£ 7,313.79		756.80	£ 13,590.45		2,204.81	£ 48,283.58		911.00	£ 18,214.72
Chapel Hill		705.60	£ 14,032.72		252.90	£ 8,733.60		250.76	£ 16,398.90		1,310.98	£ 52,663.36		301.00	£ 39,691.74
Digby		606.50	£ 5,729.34		242.90	£ 3,665.54		266.90	£ 6,839.15		1,804.90	£ 32,987.57		416.00	£ 15,951.84
Farroway		2,214.81	£ 14,091.26		1,013.67	£ 6,585.24	440.50	950.55	£ 13,673.98	784.50	3,629.84	£ 49,040.80		1,755.00	£ 26,192.17
Heighington	480.50	1,130.34	£ 9,782.91	468.50	658.73	£ 6,194.25	480.50	807.46	£ 12,536.12	772.50	2,874.53	£ 50,266.54	507.50	767.00	£ 15,270.52
Metheringham	528.50	784.08	£ 9,756.14	511.50	491.03	£ 7,775.07	500.50	412.92	£ 12,766.19	710.00	1,773.12	£ 48,697.71	411.00	573.00	£ 19,991.65
Nocton		579.95	£ 13,812.02		307.01	£ 11,031.15		265.07	£ 19,474.56		944.12	£ 62,985.75		340.00	£ 30,735.59
North Kyme		701.54	£ 2,159.86		143.70	£ 1,659.18		147.06	£ 1,570.12		1,219.26	£ 6,532.71		244.00	£ 3,773.25
Ringmoor		380.50	£ 230.94		74.10	£ 839.16		126.70	£ 290.77		976.46	£ 1,488.88		305.00	£ 638.81
Sandhill Beck		662.25	£ 6,306.86		436.24	£ 4,556.91		482.04	£ 8,191.68		884.63	£ 20,461.67		788.00	£ 13,757.64
Timberland	581.00	1,309.54	£ 22,788.44	523.50	534.18	£ 14,803.14	519.50	549.64	£ 23,320.85	776.40	3,146.14	£ 96,422.71	552.50	1,184.00	£ 44,666.28
Total	518.00	11,140.62	£ 125,715.42	498.88	5,285.83	£ 84,236.49	478.70	5,381.92	£ 147,585.18	773.48	22,699.84	£ 553,907.50	425.25	8,229.00	£ 263,830.51

Interrelationship between Electricity Costs and Pumped Hours



Interrelationship between Rainfall and Pumped Hours

