

UPPER WITHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting of Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board held on Monday, 24th November 2025 in Witham House Boardroom, North Hykeham, Lincoln at 2pm.

Present:	Cllr D Armiger	via video conference
	Mr. T Arnold	via video conference
	Mr William Booth	
	Mr A Buckley	via video conference
	Cllr B Bushell	via video conference
	Cllr L Bushell	via video conference
	Cllr P Ellis	via video conference
	Cllr G Hewson	
	Mr E Jackson	
	Cllr R Longbottom	via video conference
	Cllr A McNulty	via video conference
	Mr F H Myers	Chairman
	Mr W Timmins	
	Cllr P J Vaughan	Vice Chairman
	Cllr J Wells	via video conference
	Mrs J Wilkinson	Vice Chairman

In Attendance:	Mr Andrew Civello, Projects Engineer (for Martin Shilling).
	Mr Ian Coupland, Director of Operations.
	Ms. Jayne Flower, Executive Assistant.
	Mrs Jane Froggatt, Chief Executive.
	Mr Steve Larter, Director of Finance & Governance.

18.25 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Baker, Cllr T. Bridgwood, Cllr M. Green, Cllr A Hagues, Mr J R Hollis, Mr P Knight, Cllr L Pennell, Mr R Phillips, Mr M Porter, Mr G Rawlings, Cllr L Sanders, Mr J Scarborough, Cllr I Stokes, Cllr P Taylor, Mr A Ward and Cllr E Wood.

19.25 Declarations of Members' Interests.

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

20.25 Election of Chairman

This being the Annual Public Meeting for 2025, nominations were sought for the role of Chairman. Mr Fred Myers was nominated by Cllr Pat Vaughan, seconded by Cllr Gary Hewson and there being no further nominations, he was duly elected for the forthcoming year.

21.25 Chairman's Announcements.

Mr Fred Myers thanked members for once again electing him to serve as Chairman for a further year, a role he has undertaken since November 2011.

He welcomed everyone to the November Meeting, particularly Andrew Civello, Projects Engineer for the 4 Boards who was deputising for Martin Shilling, Director of Engineering & Technical Services.

He advised members that Cllr Trevor Bridgwood has been nominated by West Lindsey District Council as their representative from September 2025 to 2027. Trevor replaces Cllr Morris who left the Board earlier this year. Unfortunately, Trevor was unable to attend this meeting due to Council business.

The Chairman advised members of the death on Tuesday, 26th August of **Mrs Pat Woodman MBE**. Pat was elected to the then shadow North Kesteven District Council in 1973, prior to NKDC's formation in April 1974. She served as a member of the Council until 2019, when she decided not to stand for re-election. During her long service, Pat served as Chairman of the Council and as Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Pat was a long-standing member of Upper Witham IDB, nominated by NKDC, and a member of the four IDBs' Joint Services Committee until she stood down from the Council in 2019. She also chaired Aubourn Parish Council. A long-time resident of Aubourn and keen gardener, Pat is survived by her husband, four children and grandchildren.

Pat's funeral took place on Wednesday 17th September 2025 at Lincoln crematorium, when Cllr Lance Pennell represented the Board.

He also advised members of the death of former Board member **Mr Graham Porter**. Graham was a Board Member for 12 years from November 2009 to November 2021 and, after a period of ill-health, he sadly died this year.

Members stood for a minute's reflection for the lives of both Pat and Graham.

Finally, the Chairman highlighted a busy and varied agenda, and he pointed out the range of capital schemes underway across the 4 IDBs, particularly relating to the IDB Fund schemes which are due to be completed by 31st March 2026.

22.25 Election of 2 Vice Chairmen.

Fred Myers and Cllr Gary Hewson nominated and seconded Mrs Joanne Wilkinson and Cllr Pat Vaughan as the 2 Vice Chairmen and, there being no other nominations, Joanne Wilkinson and Pat Vaughan were duly elected as the two Vice Chairmen for the ensuing year.

They thanked members for electing them.

23.25 Election of up to 12 members to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

The current 6 F&GPC Members, being the Chairman, Vice Chairs, Cllr Lance Pennell, Cllr Ian Stokes and Mr John Scarborough were re-elected en-bloc to the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Mr Ray Phillips had advised the Chief Executive prior to the Board Meeting that he would not be standing for re-election and had decided to retire from the Board due to his ill-health. Mr Will Timmins was nominated, seconded and duly elected as the seventh member of the F&GPC.

24.25 Election of up to 6 members to the Works Committee.

The current 3 members, being the Chairman and Vice Chairs were re-elected en-bloc with the 3 vacant seats agreed to be co-opted to cover the issue concerned as and when the committee is convened to address and locality specific issue.

25.25 Election of Representative to ADA Lincs Branch Environment Committee.

Members were advised that the new chair of this committee was Cllr Tom Ashton who is a member of Witham Third DIDB and also Witham Fourth DIDB. Cllr Ashton was hoping to reinvigorate this committee, and Members were encouraged to attend the meetings and open days held throughout the year – details of which would be circulated.

It was agreed that this would remain an open position, no nominations being received.

26.25 Election of Representative to ADA Lincs Branch Pay & Conditions Committee.

Cllr Lance Pennell had confirmed he was willing to stand as the 4 Boards' representative for a further year but having served for almost 10 years, he would be pleased to see other nominations to the role.

There being no further nominations, he was duly re-elected. Members wished to place on record their thanks to Cllr Pennell for his service in this role.

27.25 Election of 4 Members to the Joint Services Committee.

The current 3 members, being the Chairman and 2 Vice Chairs were re-elected en-bloc to the JSC. Mr John Scarborough was re-elected as deputy. Mr Will Timmins was nominated, seconded and there being no further nominations, was duly elected to the fourth seat.

28.25 Calendar of Meeting Dates 2026.

Members approved the dates for the Board meetings and Committee meetings as follows:

Upper Witham Board Meetings (Witham House Boardroom, Meadow Lane, North Hykeham at 2pm):

- Monday, 26th January
- Monday, 18th May.

- Monday, 23rd November (+APM).

Upper Witham Finance & General Purposes Committee Meetings (Witham House Boardroom, Meadow Lane, North Hykeham at 10am):

- Wednesday 14th January.
- Wednesday, 06th May.
- Wednesday, 11th November

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

- Monday, 11th May.
- Monday, 13th July.
- Monday, 07th December.

Annual Inspection 2026

- Thursday, 16th July. To cover the North East Lindsey drainage district area.

ADA 89th Flood & Water National Conference 2026

- Tuesday, 17th November

29.25 Register of Member's Interests

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Members were asked to complete the annual update of the Register of Members' Interests and hand completed forms to Jayne Flower at the end of the meeting or submit to them to Witham House subsequently.

30.25 Minutes of the Board Meeting, 19.05.25.

The Minutes of the Board's meeting held on Monday, 19th May 2025 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

30.25.1 Minutes of meeting 27.01.2025: Chief Executive's Report, IDB £75 million Fund (Minute 04.25.2 refers).

Regarding the national IDB Fund £17.4 million awarded to the 4 Boards, members were advised in May that Twenty-two schemes had been completed from tranches 1 and 2A, 7 schemes had extensions granted into 2025/26 and a further 4 schemes had now been approved in tranche 2B for completion by 31st March 2026.

Elliott Jackson asked how this compared to other Boards, noting it was a fantastic result. The Chief Executive confirmed that the 4 Boards as a group had comparatively done very well, which she hoped reflected the quality of the bids but feared it also reflected the perilous state of the Boards' drainage districts post-flood events of winter 2023/24.

30.25.2 Chief Executive's Report: Fish & Eel Regulations 2009 (item 07.25.3 refers).

Members were advised that there were still no updates or clarity on the anticipated Notice of Exemptions for pumping station compliance that were issued by the EA to IDBs on 31.03.25. These were only issued for a 12-month period from 01.04.25 and with a requirement that fish and eel compliance plans are agreed with the EA within six months, otherwise there may be enforcement action against the Board and the CEP personally.

This change in approach has caused some concern amongst IDBs, who have largely been reliant on FDGiA funding to replace and refurbish pumping stations, whereby fish friendly pumps have been installed to ensure compliance. The Capital Programme of FDGiA for 2025/26 has been severely cut by the EA and this year is now year 5 of a 5-year [not 6] year programme, with no certainty in funding beyond 31.03.26.

A meeting with the EA's national lead took place on Monday, 12th May 2025 but precisely what is required remained unclear. Officers were attending a 1-day event in Birmingham on Wednesday 26th November 2025 and further updates would be given as soon as they were available.

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

31.25 Minutes of the Joint Services Committee Meeting, 14.07.25.

The minutes of the Joint Services Committee held on Monday 14th July 2025 had been circulated with the agenda for noting.

MATTERS ARISING:

31.25.1 Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA). (Minute 5.4 refers)

Following elections on 01st May there were significant changes in the Greater Lincolnshire political landscape.
Dame Andrea Jenkyns was elected as the first Greater Lincolnshire Mayor.

Cllr Gary Hewson asked if any monies had been made available for water management.

The Chief Executive advised that no, not specifically. However, Dame Jenkyns had committed to establishing an "enhanced water partnership for Greater Lincolnshire". Further detail to be established.

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

32.25 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, 10.11.25.

The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday, 10th November 2025 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed by Mr Fred Myers, seconded by Cllr Pat Vaughan and APPROVED as an accurate record, with the recommendations from the meeting on 10.11.25 being noted.

MATTERS ARISING:

32.25.1 Chief Executive's report: Flood & Water Ministerial Visit on Thursday, 30.10.25. (minute 5.3 refers).

Emma Hardy MP, the Floods & Water Minister, visited Pyewipe Pumping Station on Thursday, 30.10.25 at the invitation of Lincoln constituency MP Hamish Falconer [he had visited the IDBs on 01.08.25 as part of his familiarisation with how the Lincoln system operates].

The prime purpose of the visit was to see what was being done with the Defra IDB Fund £91million, the 4 Boards having secured £17.4million of the fund monies for 33 schemes in 2024/25 and 2025/26.

In addition to seeing the FDGiA capital refurbishment scheme at Pyewipe, which was >£700k, four of the 15 mobile pumps purchased from IDB Fund monies were on display. A Briefing Note was shared setting out some of the other pressures on IDBs, notably electricity cost pressures and the unreasonable level of increases to standing charges in recent years and also the impact of reduced levels of EA maintenance on main rivers which was now affecting the performance of IDB systems and assets. EA national and area colleagues were present, as was ADA's CEO Innes Thomson, ADA's Chairman Robert Caudwell and Vice Chairman Michael Sly.

There followed discussion about the detail of the visit and the messages to the Minister.

32.25.2 Engineering Services Update: (minute 11 refers).

Western Growth Corridor [now 'Charterhouse']: Some land will transfer to Special Levy as at 31.12.25, to be assessed and agreed. City of Lincoln Council aware. Gary Hewson asked if this transfer had been agreed yet and it was confirmed that a decision was expected towards the end of this month after a site visit.

33.25 Chief Executive's Report.

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

33.25.1 ADA Lincolnshire Branch Pay & Conditions Committee update and Proposed Pay Settlement for 2026/27.

The 7 Lincolnshire IDBs party to the joint Lincolnshire negotiating with staff side Unison representatives are our 4 Witham & Humber DBs, Witham Fourth, Black Sluice and South Holland.

Cllr Lance Pennell, UW Board member, is our 4 Boards' representative on the Committee, supported by the CEO [Lance has fulfilled this role for almost 10 years]. Lance is unable to take on the commitment of chairing the Pay Committee but is content to continue to represent our 4 IDBs for a further year. Mark Leggate represents BSIDB, supported by Daniel Withnall

[Mark is also a W4th IDB member] and new committee member Cllr Stuart Evans has replaced Peter Richardson as W4th's representative on the committee [supported by Peter Bateson]. Cllr Stuart Evans agreed to chair the 01.10.25 meeting, and the proposal to appoint him as ADA Branch Pay & Conditions Committee Chairman was supported at the ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting on 23.10.25.

The focus of the Pay Committee 01.10.25 meeting was the pay claim for 2026/27 to be applied from 01.04.26, received in September from Unison on behalf of staff side. This was for a consolidated £500 across all salary and wage scales combined with application of the usual formula - which this year outputs 5%. As a reminder, for some years the formula we have used is the "changes in Average Weekly Earnings [AWE] within the public sector rolling average for the previous 12 months July to July, as published by ONS in September" each year- this is 5% for July 2024-July 2025. ONS also publishes a similar tracker for private sector pay movements [which our membership body ADA uses- which at a meeting in September it was noted was running at 5.4% for ADA's proposed staff pay settlement from 01.01.26].

Staff-side colleagues presented their pay claim and particularly why they wished to digress from the formula with an additional consolidated sum of £500- reasons included falling value of pay settlements over the last 5 years in relation to inflation levels, inflation forecasts this year particularly in relation to utilities, food costs and food and a view that ADA Lincolnshire Branch Pay Committee constituent IDBs are falling behind the salaries/wages relative to those IDBs outside the joint negotiating forum. FYI, the additional pay cost to our 4 Boards of £500 consolidated plus the 5% formula would be £208,920 from 01.04.26 [including oncosts like National Insurance, factoring in assumed overtime etc].

Employers felt the unconsolidated sums of recent past years had attempted to address the historical pay backlog issues and suggested the formula was a fair, impartial application but formula only, not £500 consolidated plus formula. Targeting internal IDB pay disparities was an individual IDB grading issue, not we felt a pay claim issue for all staff. We felt we would only be able to support the 5% formula element of the pay claim. The additional pay costs to our 4 Boards of implementing the 5% from 01.04.26 is £169,949 [including NI, overtime assumed etc].

It was stressed that pay costs are one significant IDB cost driver, but in budget setting for 2026/27 we will need to make provision for others- e.g. insurance, electricity, fuel, R&M, any changes announced in the 26th November Budget. Boards need to contain the costs envelope in order to contain the increase in the penny rate, which drives our drainage rates and Special Levies to Councils when we set budgets in late January 2026.

After discussion, staff side agreed to drop the £500 consolidated element of the claim and to abide by the formula output of 5%. Unison put this proposed settlement to a ballot of their members, with a recommendation of acceptance. The Unison ballot result was received on 23.10.25 and 77% voted to accept the proposed settlement [with a 52% turnout].

Employers took the recommended 5% pay settlement to the ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting on 23rd October for ratification. The pay settlement based on the formula output of 5% was endorsed by the ADA Branch and the White Book of Terms & Conditions will be uplifted accordingly from 01.04.26.

As always, it remains a decision reserved to individual IDBs as to whether they adopt the ADA White Book pay settlement. Following discussion, **members were content to formally APPROVE and adopt for 2026/27 the ADA Lincolnshire Branch's agreed pay settlement of 5%.**

Some updates to Terms and Conditions may be necessary, depending on the final content of the Employment Rights Bill. As a result, there may be a delay in issuing the updated ADA White Book for 2026/27 until after the next Lincolnshire ADA Pay and Conditions Committee meeting, scheduled for 11 March 2026.

The Chief Executive placed on record her thanks to Lance Pennell for his time in doing this work for the 4 IDBs, for almost 10 years now.

07.25.2 National Study on IDB Funding & Costs.

Defra and MHCLG have commissioned a study into the future of IDB Funding and Costs. The study is being led by consultants ICF, working with Logika. The brief communicated to IDBs is that the appraisal will consider IDBs' operations focusing on financial efficiency, value for money and the broader benefits that IDBs deliver. The research has 3 stated core objectives, as follows:

- IDB Funding & Financial Appraisal: to analyse IDB funding mechanisms, operational costs and financial pressures over the past decade, and explore future funding options.
- Benefit Evaluation: to assess the economic and social value of IDBs' work, both locally and nationally.
- Data modernisation: to explore how the IDB 1 forms can be improved and modernised to improve data collection and reporting.

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

34.25 Publication of the External Auditors' Notice of Closure on the IDB Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25.

A report prepared by the Director for Finance and Governance, had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by him.

The Annual Return 2024/25 was agreed at the Board meeting on 19th May 2025, subsequently published on the Board's website for public inspection and despatched to the Board's appointed External Auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP on 06th June 2025. The public inspection period was from 09th June 2025 until 18th July 2025. The Board had until 30th June 2024 to approve and submit its Annual Return 2024/25.

The External Auditor has a statutory deadline of 30th September to complete their external audit and publish the formal Completion of Audit Certificate (Section 3 of

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)). This was issued and received on 05th September 2025.

Part 2 of section 3 of the AGAR has been completed as follows: 'On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met'.

Under the section 'Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority' external audit has reported: 'None'.

This therefore completes the External Audit for 2024/25 and this Board, along with the other 3 Boards in the Witham & Humber Drainage Boards group, have all received similar clean Audit opinions.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit was issued on 08th September 2025 and has been displayed as required at the Board's depot, on the Board's website and at Witham House office.

Members NOTED the External Audit Notice of Closure on the IDB Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2024/25.

35.25 Month 7 2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report as at 31.10.25.

A financial monitoring report for the month 7 period of 2025/26, as at 31st October 2025 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance.

The financial performance as at 31st October 2025 was summarised and presented to Members. The Board was in a reasonable financial position for month 7 2025/26, with a modest surplus ahead of budget profile of (£51,480):

Profiled budget £	Actual (Surplus)/Deficit £	Variance £
(902,084)	(953,565)	(51,480)

The main income streams have been posted in terms of Drainage Rates raised (not necessarily paid) at (£376k) and Special Levies received (£1.359m) for the full year payment from the 5 relevant councils. Ongoing action is taking place against unpaid drainage rate account holders.

Significant grant income has been received for both FDGIA Flood recovery works and IDB Fund schemes (£1.560m).

Rechargeable Works are being undertaken, mainly for the EA through the PSCA. Invoices have been raised up to the end of October (£130k) for PSCA works and (£4k) in other recharges, with expenditure incurred to date to offset this shown in the Rechargeable Works.

Highland Water claims were submitted in May 2025 to the Environment Agency for the balance of the 2024/25 actual costs incurred of (£31,472) and for the 2025/26 Estimated claim of (£290,300). The EA paid in September 2025 80% of the estimated

claim for 2025/26 (£232,240) along with the balance for 2024/25 of actual costs incurred (£31,472), i.e., a total of (£263,712). So, everything owing to the Board for Highland Water this year has been paid by the EA. Correspondingly, the balance adjusted for the actual 2025/26 costs incurred will be payable by the EA in September 2026.

Plant & Machinery Replacement Programme.

Members were presented with details that showed the budgeted purchases and sales for 2025/26 as at 31st October 2025. The long reach JCB tracked excavator has been purchased and delivered in June 2025, at a cost of £176,275. The sliding dipper arm for the Atlas 150W at £30k is no longer being purchased. The Plant Programme report would be discussed in detail later on the Agenda.

Drainage Rates.

The current position of the Drainage Rates collected for 2025/26 including previous years' arrears as at 31st October 2025 was 80.9% (90.7% @P7 2024/25), so below last year's collection rate. Pleasingly, this had increased to 92.3% as of today. First reminders were despatched to account holders on 18th September 2025, and final reminders were despatched today. A court date had been set for 23rd February 2025 at Boston Magistrates Court. All historical outstanding rating queries are now resolved and only land issues raised in-year are now being actioned.

Investments.

A replacement £250k 1-year fixed term cash deposit was made on 20th October 2025 with Furness Building Society at 4.1% (previously Chorley Building Society @4.5%). This was in combination with the other 3 Boards (although 4 separate investments of £250k each Board) to achieve this rate with a combined investment of £1m. This will generate (£10.2k) interest for each of the Boards.

Due to the receipt of the additional grant income further investments have been made. Overall, for the 4 Boards the investment income from fixed term deposits (so excluding Nationwide) is achieving (£208k) for 2025/26 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	£ 22,606.16	£ 23,769.32	£ 5,644.52	£ -	£ 58,800.82
UW	£ 6,739.73	£ 55,896.05	£ 76,500.89	£ 5,644.52	£ -	£144,781.19
W1	£ 6,739.73	£ 34,258.08	£ 51,819.93	£ 5,644.52	£ -	£ 98,462.26
W3	£ 6,739.73	£ 75,144.25	£ 56,461.26	£ 5,644.52	£ -	£143,989.75
Tota	£ 27,000.00	£187,904.55	£208,551.40	£22,578.08	£ -	£446,034.03

Nationwide accounts – due to operational difficulties with these accounts notice was served to close them for all 4 Boards. The funds held in the Instant Access accounts were returned immediately and the notice period on the 95-day Notice Account expires on 24th November 2025. This will return the balance owed to UW of £15,906 plus interest and to W3 £466,581 plus interest. The rates on these Nationwide accounts reduced from 1.55% to 1.50% on instant access and 3.60% to 3.40% for 95-day notice account from 18th September 2025.

Interest Achieved Per Board from Nationwide Accounts (2025/26)

	Instant Access	95 Day Notice	Total	
NEL	£ 1,543.78	n/a	£	1,543.78
UW	£ 5,132.16	Due 24/11	£	5,132.16
W1	£ 7,138.07	n/a	£	7,138.07
W3	£ 9,829.71	Due 24/11	£	9,829.71
Total	£ 23,643.72	£ -	£	23,643.72

CCLA - the Boards agreed to set up some Public Sector Deposit Fund Money Market Funds with CCLA. These were opened on 28th August 2025 and are being utilised to ensure the Boards have enough liquidity to pay for the IDB Fund works. The interest rates and interest received to date are as follows:

	CCLA		
	Interest	2025/26	
NEL	£ 2,971.40		
UW	£ 3,579.28		
W1	£ 2,881.02	Aug-25	4.11%
W3	£ 3,128.47	Sep-25	4.03%
Total	£ 12,560.17	Oct-25	4.01%

Electricity.

Board members were reminded of the significant increases in electricity rates from 01st October 2022, with unit prices averaging 30p/KWH and Standing Charges increasing from £14k to £34k p.a. for the Board and from £51k to £128k for the Witham and Humber group. However, these unit rates did not increase as significantly as the market, where rates peaked at over 70p/KWH.

Due to the 'forward buying' model used by the ESPO Electricity Framework that the Boards use, it meant that further increases would feed through in the following year from 01.10.23 with average unit rates of 33.5p/KWH and standing charges increasing again to £44k p.a. for the Board and £200k across the Witham and Humber group.

Since then, unit rates have reduced but increases have continued on the 'fixed' element of the charges, i.e. Standing Charges and the KVA capacity charge which is paid on larger sites to ensure the grid capacity is available when it is needed.

Budgets for 2025/26 were calculated based upon the October 2024 rates, along with the new standing charges for 6 months and an anticipated +10% for the final 6 months. However, these budgets were predicated on an 'average' rainfall year/usage, not a 'dry' year or a 'wet' year such as 2019/20 and 2023/24.

The electricity Budgets approved for 2025/26 for the Boards were [2024/25, 2023/24 & 2022/23 as a comparator]:

	Budget 2025/26	Budget 2024/25	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2022/23
NEL	£ 85,000	£ 90,000	£ 90,000	£ 15,000
UW	£ 175,000	£ 192,000	£ 192,000	£ 48,000
W1	£ 335,500	£ 335,500	£ 305,000	£ 69,000
W3	£ 205,000	£ 220,000	£ 220,000	£ 69,000
Total	£ 800,500	£ 837,500	£ 807,000	£ 201,000

For the period of this report (first 6 months 25/26 for electricity, to 30.09.25) these budgets have been sufficient due to the dry summer we have experienced this year.

New rates have been received from ESPO applicable from 01st October 2025. The good news was that due to the buying strategy used by ESPO, the hourly rates are reducing except for additional cost elements that are being 'passed through', resulting in an average of 21p/KWH for day rates (20p last year) and remaining at 17.5p/KWH for night rates.

Again, this year we have seen an increase in the KVA allowance charges. This is a result of continued 'cost shift' between unit rates, standing charges and KVA charges for elements of the network and distribution costs. Further increases are also expected in the future.

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

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

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

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

These standing/KVA charges put significant pressure on the 4 Boards' cost of electricity based on a 'normal usage' year. The Boards experienced two years of large increases in the penny rates to accommodate the significant electricity increases, and now further increases in Standing Charges and KVA allowance charges are being experienced.

Further information will be supplied on this issue in the Budget Report to the Board in January 2026.

Future increases – we are aware that further increases are feeding into and are due to feed into both the unit rates and standing charges due to the following 3 elements:

- **Balancing Services Use of System (BSUoS)**
This charge covers the cost of keeping the electricity grid stable. From 1 October 2025, BSUoS will rise from 1.074p/kWh to 1.569p/kWh - a 46% increase. This will be on the unit rates.
- **Regulated Asset Base (RAB)**
Introduced from 1 December 2025, this new 0.354p/kWh charge helps fund major infrastructure projects like nuclear power plant Sizewell C, ensuring future energy security. It was anticipated this would be @0.1p/KWH so is a 3-fold increase on expectations. This will be on the unit rates.
- **Transmission Network Use of System (TNUoS)**
Perhaps the most impactful, TNUoS pays for maintaining and expanding the national transmission network. Following National Grid's reported £3.68bn funding deficit, forecasts suggest an increase of up to 94% in these costs. While final figures won't be confirmed until January 2026, the new rates will apply from 1 April 2026. This will increase the standing charge.
The percentage of Daily Charge made up of TNUoS is not uniform across all meters, but looking at our HH supplies across the drainage board sites it ranges between 60% – 90%. So, this could be a further significant increase for the Boards.

We have raised our concerns regarding this further significant increase in Standing/KVA Charges with both ESPO as the Framework provider and with ADA, the IDBs' membership body who nationally is aware of the pressures this place on IDBs and have been lobbying OFGEM on this issue. A meeting was held between OFGEM and ADA with representatives from DEFRA and Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) on 07th November 2025 highlighting the significant impact electricity charges is having on IDBs, and the knock-on impact of penny rate increases to agricultural Ratepayers and Special Levy paying Councils. Discussion focussed on the seasonal usage, high usage during storm events, whether IDBs met the 'peaky' consumer criteria, how IDBs protect critical infrastructure including the electricity network and more recently solar farms, battery storage, etc. Whilst the meeting was positive, unfortunately no actions were agreed to resolve the issue for IDBs.

Drainage Rates Write-Off Report.

Members were requested to review the write-off of drainage rates proposed, comprising accounts Under £2.50 where it is not economical to send out an invoice, uncollectable accounts and those relating to land transferred to Special Levy.

Under £2.50	£19.05
Uncollectable	£0.00
Special Levy 0082	£52.54
TOTAL	£72.04

Drainage Rates on Special Levy accounts were set out- Account 0082.3 contains land now used as residential housing. It will be transferred to Special Levy calculations for

the year 2026/2027. Unfortunately, these changes were not made until after the rate demands were issued in April 2025. It is requested that the Board writes off £52.54.

Following discussion Members **APPROVED** the write off of drainage rates as stated.

Members **NOTED** the 2025/26 financial performance for the period 01st April 2025 to 31st October 2025.

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

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

Health & Safety:

Between the 4 Boards, there had been 7 reported Incidents since the last Board meetings, with two in the Upper Witham Board workforce. One was a near miss with a gate and no injury the second being damage to a telephone wire. Fortunately, we were not charged by the supplier on this occasion, and an internal investigation had been completed.

Annual Maintenance Programme:

All the Boards' Operational staff and contractors are busy with vegetation management in and around the watercourses. It has been a predominantly dry season enabling work to progress nicely. One of the main challenges across the Witham Boards for owned plant and machinery has been repairs and maintenance. Budgets in all 3 Boards have been exceeded and after reviewing the plant and machinery repairs there is no one item on any Board that stands out as a particular problem, rather escalating costs are an accumulation due to the rise of R&M work, plus prices have increased more than expected.

Staffing:

For the LDO vacancy advertised in May, Paul Brown was appointed, bringing extensive experience on machinery having worked in the agricultural, construction and quarry industries. Paul will predominantly operate the JCB 180 tracked excavator. Pleasingly, the post vacated by Ben Carr (who moved to Witham First), has also been filled with the appointment of Mark Yarranton as an LDO. Mark will operate the Board's Midi Excavator, and he started with the Board very recently on 10.11.25.

Plant and Machinery:

The JCB 220 X replacement long reach excavator @ £175,000 was delivered to the Board in time for the start of the vegetation season in June and is going well.

We have sent out Tenders for the replacement of the Atlas 150W 2015 wheeled machine; these have been returned for 10.11.25 and are currently being evaluated.

The Case tractor and Herder flail have had an insurance claim; whilst travelling in the park in North Hykeham the Operator caught a tree, and a large bough came crashing down on top of the tractor damaging the cab. The cost of the insurance repair was circa £10,000.

Fleet Vehicles and 4x4's:

Officers have reviewed the Operational needs around fleet vans and 4x4's; the current van leases have run their course and are due to be returned to the lease companies.

New quotes from different suppliers were requested and as a result vans have been secured from T C Harrison Leasing. 19 Renault Kango vans have been ordered across the group comprising 14 petrol and 5 full electrics. Furthermore, 3 single cab Isuzu pickup trucks have been sourced from Stoneacre Isuzu. Single cabs are a change to the previous double cabs, due to the new tax rules around double cab pickups.

Further work will be undertaken on fleet in the new year.

Public Sector Cooperation Agreement [PSCA] works.

There are **no changes** in this since the May 2025 report, as a reminder the details are:

Quoted works for 25/26

NEL: £156,026.84

UW: £216,471.10

W1: £107,896.53

W3: £318,568.84

The systems within UW with no current funding are:

- River Witham Aubourn to Stapleford Grass Embankment cuts 16800 meters 3 x times a year.
- Foston Beck Grass channel cut 5717 meters 1 x year
- Foston Beck Weed cut 1807 meters 1 x year

Income reduction is £48,295.72

All the PSCA works are well under way, the further PSCA work being undertaken by the Boards at their own expense on a one year only basis with no precedent set is also well under way.

Operatives have only undertaken 1 x flailing cut and 1 x weed cut on all the unfunded work; this reduces the actual cost to the Boards considerably.

Members were advised that Pennywort is a major issue at the moment, with the bridge at Odder being a particular example.

The Director of Operations confirmed that he had already spoken to the PSCA contact within the EA regarding next year's potential work and he hoped to have a list of works for quoting for by mid-December, so a further update will be provided at the January Board meetings.

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

37.25 Plant & Machinery Replacement Programme Update.

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

The Plant & Machinery Replacement Programme (Plant Programme) was last reviewed and approved by the Board in May 2024, to approve purchases for 2025/26 and to indicatively approve the Plant Programme for 2026/27 onwards. Members were talked

through the updated Plant Programme and the impact on the Plant Replacement Fund following a review by Officers and the Finance & General Purposes Committee (F&GP) at its meeting on 10th November 2025.

The Board's policy is to retain key pieces of plant and machinery for 7 years and this is the period for depreciation. However, each replacement is reviewed when it becomes due and most plant is not being replaced until 10+ years, depending upon hours, condition and recent repair costs.

The programme has also had purchase values updated where recent tender exercises and market feedback have indicated increases in costs.

Changes to the Plant Programme:

In 2025/26 the allocation for the Sliding Dipper (Atlas 150W) of £30k is no longer required.

The programme for 2026/27 has been slightly amended to purchase the Atlas 150W from Witham Third IDB (W3) and to dispose of the Upper Witham (UW) Atlas 150W. This is due to W3 already having replaced the sliding dipper arm and so it negates the need to spend circa £30k on the UW machine. The purchase price will be agreed between the Boards based on recent tenders returned with indicative values.

The programme for 2027/28 has been updated to defer the Tracked Excavator (replacement JCB JS180) to 2028/29.

The remainder of the programme remains unchanged, except for replacing the McCormick tractor in 2029/30 instead of the Massey Fergusson tractor and for updated values, etc.

The implication on the Plant Fund has been assessed. It was highlighted to Members that there is a shortfall in funding in 2029/30. This will be addressed by contributing any plant sales receipts achieved above the book values, making fund contributions at the year-end should resources allow, and by reviewing the programme annually based on usage of plant (hours/mileage), maintenance history, condition, etc.

There is also a shortfall in the depreciation budget (revenue account) which will be addressed through the annual budget cycle.

Following discussion Members were content to **APPROVE** the revised plant programme for 2025/26 (amended), 2026/27 and 2027/28 as recommended by its Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting of 10.11.25.

Furthermore, members **NOTED** the impact on Plant and Machinery Reserve and Depreciation charges as set out, based on an indicative programme from 2028/29 onwards.

38.25 Mobile Plant Deployment and Operation Policy

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

This guidance relates to the mobile pumping and electric power generation equipment held and operated by Witham & Humber Drainage Boards [WHDB].

It aims to set out the guidance under which the Director of Operations will deploy such resources as are available in response to an unplanned flood event within the W&HDB catchments or further afield under the protocol of mutual aid to fellow professional Flood Risk Management Authority partners.

The aim of the Boards' mobile plant deployment and operation policy is to ensure:

- Safe and standardised use of the mobile pumping and electric power generation equipment held and operated by Witham & Humber Drainage Boards [W&HDB].
- Provision of guidance under which the Director of Operations will deploy such resources as are available in response to an unplanned flood event within the W&HDB catchment or further afield under the protocol of mutual aid to fellow professional FRMA partners.
- Protection of IDB fixed pump assets within a W&HDB district
- Replacement of failed IDB fixed pump assets within a W&HDB district
- Recovery of W&HDB fixed pump assets or control structures within a district
- Mutual aid deployed by WHDB to Lincolnshire partner IDBs
- Mutual aid deployed by WHDB to Lincolnshire partner FRMA
- Mutual aid to other FRMA via LRF request.

The mobile plant deployment and operation policy is provided to aid an open, consistent and transparent way of deploying and operating mobile plant.

The Boards will achieve this policy by:

- Ensuring that the policy is available to all staff.
- Ensuring that the policy is available to partner agencies via the website.

Following discussion Members **APPROVED** the Mobile Plant Deployment and Operation Policy.

39.25 Capital Programme Report.

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

Flood Defence Grant in Aid 2025/26.

The programme for the year 2025/26 has not changed since the allocation in April 2025. The Boards have been awarded GIA funding for two projects, Woodhall PS refurbishment in W3rd and Timberland & Billinghay PS refurbishments in W1st, the remaining projects are being developed more slowly using alternative funding sources, after the FDGiA programme was revised and cut back with 2025/26 becoming year 5 of a 5-year programme rather than year 5 of a 6-year programme.

The EA is keeping a list of projects FRMAs wish to progress with additional funding, which will be funded if other projects do not progress as forecast. No funding has been made available via this route to date.

Flood Defence Grant in Aid Indicative Allocation 2026/27.

The indicative allocation has been received for 2026/27 from the EA following the programme refresh in May & July 2025.

Extract from Anglian RFCC Report NFCC 25/20, SPENDING REVIEW 2025 AND INDICATIVE FCRM GRANT-IN-AID (GIA) ALLOCATIONS FOR 2026/27, explaining the position:

1.2 *This year's programme refresh has been complicated by the timing of Spending Review 2025 (SR25). Bids for funding exceed available budget by more than previous years and means that not all the schemes that are planning to enter construction phase by 1 April 2026 are affordable.*

1.3 *Therefore, this also means all schemes currently in development are unaffordable, a position not experienced before. This is a challenging position that is reflected across the country. We recognise that difficult decisions will need to be made through local choice discussions on which projects to fund.*

1.4 *2026/27 would have been the final year of the original 6-year (April 2021 to March 2027) programme and as a result many projects are in construction. Starting the new programme a year early from April 2026 means more of the available budget is committed to those projects in construction.*

Project development on Burton, Broxholme and Thorpe Pumping Stations in UW has not started yet, as no funding was received last year. The funding requested for Chapel Hill in W1st was to start the development of the project. The development of both these projects will be reviewed in 2026/27.

Flood Defence Grant In Aid New Funding Rules.

Following the Defra consultation on the changes to the funding rules which closed 29.07.25, the new policy was published on 14.10.25. Full details can be found at the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/flood-and-coastal-erosion-funding-reform>

In summary the new funding rules are as follows:

Eligibility:

- All FCERM assets requiring refurbishment will be eligible for 100% of the refurbishment costs.
- For new assets (including new pumping stations) - eligible for 100% for the first £3 million, and 90% for costs above £3 million

Prioritisation by value for money:

- Benefits assessment
- Flood damages avoided (residential, non-residential, agriculture)
- Natural capital
- Environmental benefits

Strategic Objectives:

- The overarching strategic objective of the FCERM programme is to 'reduce risk

from, and increase resilience to, flooding and coastal erosion and deliver environmental outcomes that are intrinsic to meeting this ambition'.

- Deprived communities, a minimum of 20% of FCERM investment will go to the quintile and a minimum of 40% to the 2 lowest quintiles combined, over both the next 3 and 10 years.
- Partnership Funding - non-Defra contributions will boost a project's prioritisation.

Local Choice:

- The new approach will improve local choice

Removing Barriers:

- There will no longer be a need to demonstrate a project is moving properties from one risk band to a lower risk band.
- Properties constructed since 2012 will now be included in the benefit calculations.

The policy will be implemented from April 2026.

The transition arrangements:

- projects of a value under £50 million, which have an approved outline business case by 31 March 2026, will stay on the old funding rules otherwise they will move to the new rules.
- projects of a value greater than £50 million, which have an approved full business case by 31 March 2026, will stay on the old funding rules otherwise they will move to new rules.

The guidance documents to support the implementation of the new police are expected to be published by the EA on 30 November 2025.

There are no FDGIA Projects in Upper Witham.

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. 3 schemes were withdrawn (Short Ferry, Bardney Abbey and Stainfield New) from this funding route, as they were funded via the IDB Fund and 5 schemes were completed by 31st March 2025.

Boultham & Coulson Road Pumping Stations (Ongoing)

Both motors at Boultham have been away for refurbishment and are now reinstalled. A gantry has been constructed to allow easier access to Boultham's Southern weed screen deck. Some pump enabling work undertaken at Coulson Road. Spend to date £50,806.

Torksey Syke Pumping Station (UW - T1 Extended to 30/09/2025)

Due to new pumps not being deliverable within the earlier timescale, it was decided to extensively refurbish the existing ones. A new control panel has been installed @ £125,375 and a new automated weed screen cleaner @ circa £149,351. Most of the works are completed. Costs to date £297,742

Automated Weedscreen Cleaners [AWC] (ALL (UW) - T2 Extended to 31/03/2026)

Orders have been placed for new AWC's at the following sites, Ingleby (UW), Boultham

(UW), Hykeham (UW), Heighington (W1), Branston (W1).

Another application for an AWC at Oxpasture was also made however was rejected by the EA at this stage due to other funding commitments. The original 5 sites have had the designs approved and are currently in manufacture.

Branston and Heighington were installed in December 2025. Hykeham, Ingelby and Boultham are due to be installed Q1 2026. Cost to date £296,820.

Coulson Road (UW – T2 Extended to 31/12/2025)

2 x new cannister pumps have been installed to replace the existing pumps and a third pump has been installed in the empty chamber as a backup pump. These works are almost complete.

The AWC has had the design approved and is currently in manufacture. It is to be delivered and installed Q1 2026. Cost to date £485,261

Saxilby Pumping Station Replacement (UW) AT2B-017

The Archimedean screw pump has been ordered along with all associated elements from Aquatic Control Engineering, including an automated weed screen cleaner and MCC unit.

The main contractor has now been directly appointed by Upper Witham IDB and works have commenced on site.

The main contractor West Dereham Plant Ltd. are appointed as Principal Contractor under the CDM 2015 regulations.

The IDB have also appointed CES (Health Safety and Environmental Consultancy) to act as Principal Designer for the project, thereby discharging the requirements of the Board under the CDM regulations.

Initial ground works and site set up, temporary watercourse stopping up and preparatory works to allow the relocation of the incoming power supply to the site are underway. Once the power supply is relocated, demolition of the exiting pumping station will commence.

The contractor has submitted a preliminary design and construction phase programme of works for comments by the design team and the design development phase has completed.

Cost incurred to date £171,134.

Replacement Archimedes Screw Pumps at Fen Lane & Decoy Pumping Stations (UW) and North Kyme (W1) AT2B - 018

DJ Swallow Construction Ltd. has been appointed main contract and will undertake the role of Principal Contractor under the CDM 2015 Regulations.

CES has been appointed to undertake the role of Principal Designer on behalf of the Board.

Working with Aquatic Control Engineering, and the main contractor, a scheme has been developed that utilises the existing civil infrastructure as much as possible. Detailed design is currently being progressed, along with a construction phase program of works.

At UW's Decoy PS, an overhead HV power cable will need to be diverted prior to the commencement of works on site. This is booked with National Grid and due to start on site on the 05th Jan 2026.

A new gravity pipe has been installed at W1st's North Kyme Pumping Station prior to the install commencing.

Cost to date £656,019.

Water Level Control Structures & Penstock Automation at various locations (W1) AT2B-062

The Board was awarded money for the supply and installation of various water control structures to be installed across all 4 Boards.

At UW's Saxilby Pumping Station, the damaged culvert is to be replaced along with a new double leaf penstock. This is to replace the current penstock and weir structure which is used by the Lincoln Water Transfer Ltd to retain water levels in the summer months. The elements have been ordered, design and approved and are to be installed Q1 2026.

Members noted the Capital Programme Report and update.

40.25 Engineering Services Report.

The Engineering Services Report including the Planning & Consultations, Consents and Enforcements and the Environment update and had been circulated with the agenda. It was presented by Andrew Cивелло, Projects Engineer.

Environment Report:

Once again, the Upper Witham area stands out as supporting one of the highest densities of Barn Owls and Kestrels in Lincolnshire. This year we reported ten breeding adult barn owls with eleven chicks and twenty eggs. In terms of Kestrels there was a total of six adults with thirteen chicks and three eggs. Several nest boxes require cleaning or replacement before the start of the breeding season. These include boxes located at Thorpe Bridge, Coates Bridge, Southam Drain, Oxpasture Pumping Station, Saxilby Pumping Station, Decoy Pump, and Boultham Pump Drain.

Eel Exemption Notices

The Board operates several pumping stations that the Environment Agency (EA) has classified as high priority for eel passage. These sites would ordinarily require intake screens; however, due to practical constraints, this is not feasible (screen requires 2mm or less aperture). Consequently, the EA grants the Board exemptions at these locations, allowing continued lawful operation of assets that would otherwise be non-compliant.

As a condition of these exemptions, the Board must have an agreement in place with the EA Fisheries Officer by the end of September 2025. The Board has been in contact with the EA regarding the eel screening exemption notices and has provided relevant information concerning planned capital works at the pumping stations. Although a response from the EA has not yet been received, it is anticipated that the next set of exemptions will remain valid until the completion of these works, at which point a new exemption will be required.

Torksey Syke Pumping Station has an exemption that expires in 2045 with the requirement that the requisite eel measure is delivered in accordance with Clause 13 of the Grant Funding Agreement (AT1-051).

The Board has identified three stations as high priority: Aubourn, Boultham and Thorpe. These exemptions will remain in effect until April 2026.

Lincoln & Witham Landscape Recovery Project

Funded by DEFRA and involving the EA and Natural England, the project brings together a partnership of farmers and land managers—led by Doddington Farms and including the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust—to develop a long-term, large-scale plan for positive environmental change.

The project area extends from Skellingthorpe and Lincoln's West Common in the north to Hougham near Grantham in the south, and from Spalford in the west to Boothby Graffoe in the east.

The Board has been in discussion with the project team and will play a greater role as the project advances, providing necessary consents and specialist expertise.

The main focus of attention for the Board's officers will be the potential changes of land use and their potential to adversely affect other land users not in the scheme. They shall give technical advice regarding the local maintained drainage systems and suggest opportunities to improve the management of new water level regimes.

Those promoting the project need to be aware of the impact of any potential change may have in the local drainage and FRM systems.

There is also a potential transfer of land from rate payers to 'special levy' if the land is taken out of agricultural production. Local authorities will need to be aware of any potential large-scale changes and their financial impact.

Planning & Consultations Updates:

Charterholme Development, WGC (UD-128-2013-PLN) (UD-4618-2019-PLN)

Meetings continue to be attended by the Board's officers with various partners involved in the development of the site, now known as the Charterholme development.

Most recently, there have been discussions between officers and the developers & planners with regard to the data used to assess appropriate flood risk to the site. Comments have also been submitted to the planning authority on the Revised Master Plan Scoping Document.

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

This is a proposed new highway to complete the Bypass around Lincoln from the A46 to the A15.

The Board is expecting to receive consent applications for the various works in Nov/Dec 2025. Discussions continue to be had between the developers and the Board to keep the Board up to date on the works as they progress into the construction phase.

Skellingthorpe Pump Drain Cable Route

Discussion between the developer and officers & legal advisors continue.

Lincoln Water Transfer Report 2025

Abstraction began in the second week of the season with returns coming in 10th April. From then on usage fluctuated throughout the season with the predominant drought

conditions being broken up intermittently by showers. The members abstracted a total of 451,230m³ of water out of the 581,437m³ available, 143,661m³ more than last year. A 19,800m³ of pool water was available at the start of the season. This year the Boards Pumping Stations were operated as follows:

Summer Settings March / April – Mid October / Early November

Transfers

Oxpasture's transfer pipe was opened 4 times this season whilst Saxilby's pipe remained shut due to sufficient water within the system.

m³

Fossdyke Nav to IDB system

Oxpasture PS	542,950
Saxilby PS	0
Total	542,950

R Trent to Fossdyke Nav

Torksey	5,324,000
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Licence Returns:

The licence return was completed early November. The Board thanks members for returning their weekly forms in on time and for completing their end of year forms.

Abstraction Rates:

Abstraction began week commencing 07th April 2025 and ended week commencing 15th September 2025 with only 1 week within the season having nil returns. We saw our largest abstraction in the week commencing 23rd June with 51,480m³. The 19,800m³ of pool water was absorbed by 2 members during the season with one of those members moving water between allocations they were a secondary user of. There was a total of 5 members using their own allocations this year and 2 secondary users using a total of 5 other member's licences.

A breakdown of abstraction from each area within the scheme from the last 5 years:

<u>Catchment</u>	<u>Amount Abstracted (2021) m³</u>	<u>Amount Abstracted (2022) m³</u>	<u>Amount Abstracted (2023) m³</u>	<u>Amount Abstracted (2024) m³</u>	<u>Amount Abstracted (2025) m³</u>
Oxpasture Outfall	106,685	140,075	97,440	87,470	120,469
Oxpasture	23,9393	292,409	154,853	169,599	266,901
Burton	24,990	33,920	40,360	32,200	48,820
Saxilby	0	1,595	7,922	0	0
Pyewipe	38,230	54,990	0	18,300	15,040
Total	409,298	522,989	300,575	307,569	451,230

A change in catchment names has been made. Previously, the abstraction from the 'Saxilby' and 'Skellingthorpe' catchments were reported together as a sum of the two. The 'Skellingthorpe' catchment has now been renamed as 'Pyewipe' to align with the Board's pumped catchments and will be reported separately. To note, the Pyewipe catchment can be topped up by opening the transfer pipe and penstock at Saxilby.

One weekly return's 'source' had previously been labelled incorrectly, the figures from

the past 5 years have now been altered to reflect the correction of abstraction source.

Potato Brown Rot:

It was agreed that the Board conduct bi-annual spraying. The last spraying conducted was in 2024 therefore, no spraying was conducted this season. The cost of spraying for the 2024 season was set to £3000 and will be increased in line with CPI in subsequent years. The next spraying will be conducted in 2026, and the cost will be agreed at the February 2026 meeting prior to the season beginning.

Flowmeters:

Oxpasture Pumping Station's flow meter was recalibrated in Oct 2024 due to works being required on the hardware. Saxilby Pumping Station's flow meter will require recalibration before the 2026 season begins.

Upper Witham IDB Administration Fees:

The Administration fees for the 25/26 season stand at £5870 + VAT. The Board's 26/27 pay award is yet to be agreed (agreed at 5% at today's meeting). The administration fees for 26/27 will be proposed at the February 2026 meeting.

Wier/Penstock Structure Saxilby:

Upper Witham IDB have been granted funds under the DEFRA IDB fund to replace the weir/penstock structure and culvert on the Saxilby catchment which is no longer functional due to corrosion and collapse of the pipe.

The structure is to be replaced by a double leaf penstock which will provide the same service as the current concrete structure.

This will be funded by the Board however, once installation is complete, future maintenance responsibilities will lie with LWT Ltd. Installation is due to be completed by March 2026.

Conclusion:

This was another successful year for the Lincoln Water Transfer Scheme with both the transfer and abstraction licences being used effectively.

There were no further items to highlight and therefore Members received and NOTED the Engineering report and update.

41.25 Any Other Business.

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

42.25 Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Board was confirmed for Monday, 26th January 2026 at 2pm in Witham House. Video Conference facilities will be available to enable attendance at a hybrid meeting.

UW BM 24.11.25.

.....Chairman.....

26 January 2026 Date