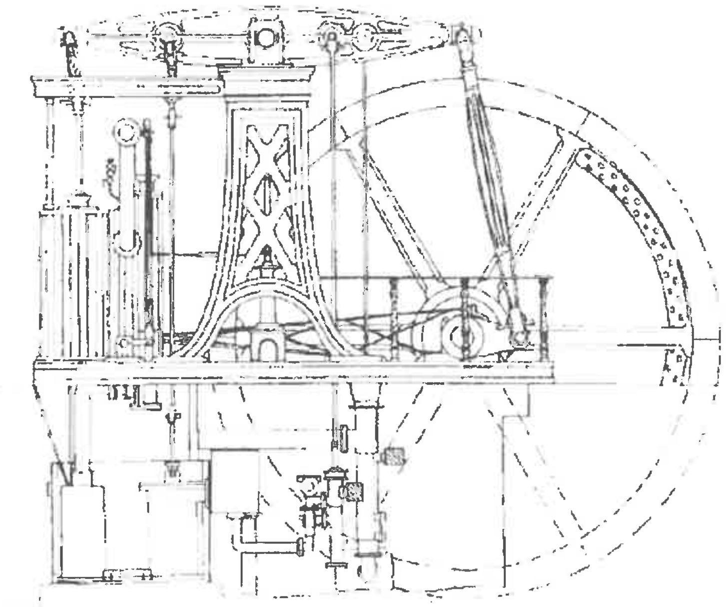
Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board



Annual Report & Statement of Accounts 2025/26

For Year Ended 31st March 2026

Witham House
Meadow Lane
North Hykeham
Lincoln
LN6 9GJ

Tel: (01522) 697123

Website: www.witham3idb.gov.uk
Email: enquiries@witham3idb.gov.uk
Email: jane.froggatt@witham3idb.gov.uk

Contents

Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board
Statement of Accounts 2025/26

Annual Report 2025/26

Witham Third 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 15,196 hectares, other than on main rivers where the Environment Agency has this role and towards which the Board pays an annual precept [£105,154 in 2025/26]. 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 31 Members, including a Chairman, Mr. Ian Parker, and a Vice Chairman, Mr. Max Thomas. Members are either elected by and represent the occupiers of land in the drainage district or are nominated by one of three District Councils who pay Special Levy, namely East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and City of Lincoln 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 and 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 Witham First District and Witham Third District IDBs and, from 01st 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 as "Witham and Humber Drainage Boards".

The Board secures income from two main sources. Firstly, through a direct levy on owners and occupiers of agricultural land within the drainage district, with rates being payable on 01st April each year. This was £289,066 income for 2025/26 including costs. Secondly, through Special Levies paid by each of the three District Councils in two instalments on 01st May and 01st November each year, totalling £1,299,812 for 2025/26. The Special Levy for East Lindsey District Council in 2025/26 was £593,267, for City of Lincoln Council it was £391,351 and for West Lindsey District Council it was £315,194.

The Special Levy for the forthcoming year is set at a Board meeting before the 15th February each year, when the Board is asked to agree the land valuation as of 31st December in the previous year, 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 rate.

The Board agreed on 28th January 2025 a rate uplift for 2025/26 of 5.00% to set a balanced budget for 2025/26, with total planned income and expenditure of £2,241,140.

Electricity: In 2012/13, 2019/20 and again in 2024/25 we experienced some of the wettest years on record. The Board's pumps in its 18 Pumping Stations operated longer hours than usual, to protect property, agricultural land and critical infrastructure. There were several high rainfall events in 2019/20 financial year, when June 2019 and Autumn 2019/Winter 2020 rainfall events resulted in saturated catchments and some flooding across Lincolnshire. There were parts of the Witham & Humber Boards' systems that had to deal with water that had come from EA main rivers, whether due to bank breaches, overtopping and/or excessive seepage. This meant that some of the Board's pumps were pumping far more than would have been required without this additional third-party water, which in turn meant excessive additional electricity costs were incurred, with pumps running 24/7 for considerable periods. This Board also suffered inundation and flooding at its Stainfield Pumping Station, when in November 2019 there was a main river bank breach at Barlings Eau. This resulted in a major refurbishment of the pumping station and an insurance claim of £110,433. Where these lead to internal flooding to property there was a Section 19 flood investigation and report 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 resulted in widespread flooding. Due to these rainfall events, the Board incurred electricity costs of £325,627 during 2023/24 at pumping stations, compared to an increased budget of £220,000. 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 cost pressure and Budget issue for the Board.

In 2025/26 electricity unit rates reduced from 01st October 2025 and overall, it was a drier autumn, but a wet winter 2026. The Board incurred electricity costs of £152,895 during 2025/26 (£144,097 in 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 approved a Nature Strategy in November 2021, replacing the long-standing Biodiversity Action Plan, and remains a partner in 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. Three new owl boxes are installed each year, landowner consent permitting.

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 has been provided under a Memorandum of Understanding with LCC for 2025/26.

Examples of the Board's work in 2025/26 include:

- Operation of the Board's 18 Pumping Stations to protect property, agricultural land and critical infrastructure in the drainage district of 15,196 hectares. Substantial completion of the Board's Summer 2025 weed cutting and maintenance programme.
- The 4 Witham & Humber Boards were awarded £1.205m Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) and £17.4m of the one-off national £91m IDB Fund monies from DEFRA for recovery, resilience & improvement and innovation schemes following Storms Babet and Henk in winter 2023/24. These 33 schemes to be completed for 31.03.26.
- IDB Fund schemes undertaken to convert one of each of the diesel pumps at Stixwould and Fiskerton to electric (£1,1m), install additional pumps in vacant chambers at Southrey and Short Ferry (£1.5m), install a new AWC at Kirkstead (£155k), complete a breach repair on EA main river Marsh Drain and associated works including an additional recovery pump at Stainfield PS £400k) and install a water control structure at Stixwould part of a £0.8m IDB Fund scheme.
- Work continued in 2025/26 of the comprehensive refurbishment of Woodhall Spa PS, funded through FDGIA grant monies worth £2.7m.
- The replacement of the wheeled Atlas 150w with sliding dipper with a new Atlas 160w with sliding dipper at a total cost including extended warranty and 3 years' service package of £245,247.
- Works undertaken in 2025/26 under the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA) on behalf of the Environment Agency on main rivers: Welton Beck, Duckpool Catchwater, Tilehouse Beck, Thunker Drain, Snakeholme Drain, Barlings Eau, Marsh Drain, Stainfield Beck, River Waring, River Bain, Old River Bain, Horncastle Canal and Haltham Beck totalling £353k.
- As part of the Board's ongoing commitment to biodiversity enhancement, the annual inspection of owl nest boxes was undertaken in June 2025 in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Partnership. The survey assessed occupancy rates, breeding success, and the general condition of boxes. Despite much of the county experiencing a challenging season for barn owls, the Board's monitoring results remain comparable with previous years, which is an encouraging indication that local populations are maintaining stability. A programme to replace or repair damaged boxes continues to ensure all boxes are in good condition. The Board's operatives continue to undertake local wildlife monitoring, regularly reporting sightings of notable species while carrying out maintenance works on watercourses. These observations, which include both protected and invasive species, provide valuable information that supports the Board's environmental management and helps inform future operational planning. All sightings are recorded, contributing to ongoing biodiversity monitoring and ensuring that the Board's activities remain responsive to ecological conditions. There has been 82 species reports from operatives over the summer maintenance season.
- 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.

All figures exclude VAT.

The Board achieved as at 31st March 2026 a year-end surplus position of £85,914 after contributing £485k to reserves (compared with a surplus of £15,628 in 2024/25). This surplus balance has been allocated as a contribution to the General Reserve.

Statement of Accounts 2025/26

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 09th 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 27th January 2026.

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 2025/26.

The Balance Sheet:

This statement is fundamental to the understanding of the Board's financial position as at 31st March 2026. 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 2025/26 with comparisons to 2024/25.

Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board – Members 2025/26

The Board comprises 31 Members, a mix of 15 directly elected members [occupiers of land or members nominated by occupiers of land] and 16 members nominated by the three District Councils who pay Special Levies to the Board. 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 01.04.25 to 31.03.26 were:

Elected Member's Name	Electoral District	Standing Committee Membership [8 Members]
Ian Parker (Chairman)	**Tattershall**	**Yes**
Maxwell I Thomas (Vice Chairman).	**City of Lincoln & Greetwell**	**Yes**
James Armstrong	Bardney	No
Mark Hoyes	Bardney	No
John Davie	Bardney	No
Henry Moreton	Bardney	No
Alexandra Sayer	City of Lincoln & Greetwell	No
Ian M Clark	Horncastle & River Bain	Yes
Michael Harrison	Horncastle & River Bain	No
Raymond J Weightman	Horncastle & River Bain	No
Craig Dixon	Kirkstead	No
Roy P Hairsine	Langworth	Yes
Jill Holland	Langworth	No
Dean Sempers	Langworth	NO
Vacancy	Langworth	N/a
District Council Nominated Members	**Nominating Authority**	**Standing Committee Membership**
Cllr Bob Bushell	City of Lincoln Council	No
Cllr. Gary Hewson	City of Lincoln Council	No
Cllr Rebecca Longbottom	City of Lincoln Council	No
Cllr Donald Nannestad (to May 2025)	City of Lincoln Council	No
Cllr Liz Bushell (from May 2025)	City of Lincoln Council	No
Cllr. Patrick Vaughan	City of Lincoln Council	No
Cllr Tom Ashton	East Lindsey District Council	Yes
Mr. Stan M. Avison RIP (to Sep 2025)	East Lindsey District Council	No
Cllr. William H Gray	East Lindsey District Council	No
Cllr Martin Foster	East Lindsey District Council	No
Cllr Tom Kemp (from May 2025)	East Lindsey District Council	No
Cllr. Mrs Fiona M Martin, MBE	East Lindsey District Council	No
Cllr Neill Jones	East Lindsey District Council	No
Cllr Ruchira Yarsley (From Sept 2025)	East Lindsey District Council	No
Cllr. Ian G Fleetwood	West Lindsey District Council	Yes
Cllr John Barrett	West Lindsey District Council	Yes
Cllr Peter Morris (to May 2025)	West Lindsey District Council	No
Cllr Trevor Bridgewood (From May 2025)	West Lindsey District Council	No
Mr. Terry Williams	West Lindsey District Council	Yes

The Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the Members of Witham Third 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 2025/26 for the year ended 31st March 2026 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 reference, dated Tuesday, 19th May 2026.

Signed on behalf of Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board:

Signed by: Mr Ian Parker, Chairman..

Date 19-5-26.

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

Date 19/05/2026 .

The Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

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 2026.

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 Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP formerly JPAG), a further update to the Practitioners' Guide having been issued by SAPPP in March 2025.
- 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 2025/26 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 2026 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 19th May 2026.

Signed by: Mr Ian Parker, Chairman..

Date...19-5-26.......................

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 Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP formerly JPAG), a further update to the Practitioners' Guide having been issued by SAPPP in March 2025.

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.

Some assets purchased via external grant funding (e.g. mobile pumps via the IDB Fund) will not form part of the Board's Plant Replacement programme and as such will not be depreciated and provide resources for their replacement. They have been written down fully in year of purchase. Should they need to be replaced in the future then resources will need to be identified at that time.

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

Computer Equipment

All computer equipment	4 Years

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.

5. Stock

Stocks 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.

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 2025/26 that are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account for the period to which it relates to fleet vehicles and car as well as some office photocopiers.

8. Reserves

A reserves policy was agreed at its Board meeting on 28th January 2014:

8.1 Revenue Reserve. The Board's policy is to maintain this balance at approximately 15% to 20% 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/AWCs 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, Commuted Sums received, and Depot.

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 not 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 2026

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2026			
	Note	31st March 2026	31st March 2025
Income		£	£
Drainage Rates & Costs		289,066	274,747
Special Levies	1	1,299,812	1,222,098
Highland Water Contributions	2	384,872	253,995
Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGIA)	2	1,221,960	1,309,675
Other Grants	2	2,293,390	3,301,947
Commutation Payments/Developer Contributions		0	15,000
Consents & Enforcement		15,686	17,044
Interest		118,956	114,816
Rechargeable Works		767,888	491,930
Sale of Surplus Assets		(3,000)	14,589
Rent, Wayleaves & Sundry Income		4,680	2,975
Total Income		**6,393,310**	**7,018,816**
Expenditure			
Drains		840,268	1,758,344
Pumping Stations		3,262,209	1,413,724
Depot		82,417	254,083
Engineering		123,850	113,794
Conservation		1,296	1,103
One Off Schemes		730,272	211,337
Environment Agency Precept		105,154	105,154
Consents & Enforcement		12,961	15,630
Board Administration	6	53,094	38,071
Joint Administration	7	194,118	208,619
Rechargeable Works		385,391	427,527
Wages & Plant Holding Account		(74,915)	(41,339)
Contribution to/(from) Reserves		451,281	2,424,141
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)	3	140,000	73,000
Total Expenditure		**6,307,396**	**7,003,188**
(Surplus)/ Deficit		**(85,914)**	**(15,628)**

Signed: Name: Mr Ian Parker

Designation: Chairman Date: 19th May 2026

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026					
	Note	31st March 2026		31st March 2025	
		£	£	£	£
Non Current Assets					
Land & Buildings		5,081,682		2,827,581	
Vehicles and Plant		752,046		473,668	
Other		15,392		20,046	
Total Non Current Assets	10		5,849,120		3,321,295
Current Assets					
Stock		34,463		29,143	
Debtors & Prepayments	11	996,064		844,546	
Short Term Investments		2,900,000		3,911,549	
Bank & Cash		1,068,145		53,059	
Total Current Assets			4,998,672		4,838,297
Long Term Assets					
LGPS Net Pension Surplus	13		1,898,000		1,709,000
Current Liabilities					
Creditors	12	(860,332)		(1,040,421)	
Short Term Loans					
Total Current Liabilities			(860,332)		(1,040,421)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			11,885,460		8,828,171
Long Term Liabilities					
Long Term loans					
LGPS Net Pension Liability	13	0		0	
			0		0
Total Assets less Liabilities			**11,885,460**		**8,828,171**
Represented by:	14				
Capital Discharged	10		5,849,120		3,321,295
Funds, Balances & Reserves	14		4,138,340		3,797,876
Pensions Reserve	13		1,898,000		1,709,000
Total			**11,885,460**		**8,828,171**

Signed: Name: Mr Ian Parker

Designation: Chairman Date: 19th May 2026

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1: Special Levies

Special levies were paid to the Board by the following District Councils:

Special Levies	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
City of Lincoln Council	391,351	372,716
East Lindsey District Council	593,267	551,152
West Lindsey District Council	315,194	298,230
	1,299,812	**1,222,098**

Note 2: Government Grants & Contributions

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

Government Grants	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Flood Defence Grant in Aid	1,221,960	1,309,675
Other Grants	2,293,390	3,301,947
Highland Water	384,872	253,995
	3,900,222	**4,865,617**

Note 3: Pension Contributions

In 2025/26 the Board paid an employer's contribution rate of 23.5% (23.5% in 2024/25) of each employee's gross pay into Lincolnshire County Council's Superannuation Fund. This amounted to £316,628 in 2025/26 (£261,230 in 2024/25). Further pension disclosures are shown in the FRS102 Pension Note below.

Note 4: Officers' Remuneration

Staff employed directly by the Board:

Remuneration of Employees	2025/26	2024/25
Remuneration band		
100,000 - 110,000	1	1
90,000 - 99,999	0	0
80,000 - 89,999	3+1 (p/t)	3
70,000 - 79,999	0	1 (p/t)
60,000 - 69,999	1 (p/t)	1 (p/t)
50,000 - 59,999	4	1

The Joint Services Agreement of 01st 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 DIDB and 30% to Witham Third DIDB.

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

Remuneration of Employees	**2025/26**	**2024/25**
Remuneration band		
£100,000 - £109,999	1	1
£90,000 - £99,999	0	0
£80,000 - 89,999	3	3
£70,000 - £79,999	0	0
£60,000 - £69,999	1	1
£50,000 - £59,999	5	2

Note 5: Public Works Loans Board.

The Board has no short- or long-term loans outstanding. The Board is debt free.

Note 6: Audit Fees & Expenses

The fee paid to the Board's external auditors (PKF Littlejohn LLP) for 2025/26 is £3,780 (£2,100 in 2024/25). The increase is due to additional turnover (grant income).

Note 7: Joint Services

The Board is party to a Joint Services Agreement of 01st April 2017 between Upper Witham IDB, North East Lindsey IDB, Witham First DIDB and Witham Third DIDB for the provision of certain functions. Recharges are made for the Chief Executive, Finance and Administration Services, GIS & Environment Officer, Engineering Services and Director of Operations 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 2025/26**				
	UW	**NEL**	**W1**	**W3**	**TOTAL**
	30.0%	**20.0%**	**20.0%**	**30.0%**	**100.0%**
Joint Administration	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Witham House (UW)	17,125	11,416	11,416	17,125	57,082
Joint Admin (UW)	18,775	12,516	12,516	18,775	62,582
Joint Admin (W3)	196,766	131,177	131,177	196,767	655,887
Total Joint Admin	**232,666**	**155,109**	**155,109**	**232,667**	**775,551**
Engineering & Operational Services					
Engineering & Operational Services (W1)	39,899	26,599	26,599	39,900	132,997
Engineering & Operational Services (W3)	155,411	103,608	103,608	155,412	518,039
Engineering & Operational Services (UW)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Engineering & Operational	**195,310**	**130,207**	**130,207**	**195,312**	**651,036**
Total Inter Recharges between Boards	**427,976**	**285,316**	**285,316**	**427,980**	**1,426,588**

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 one of 3 District Councils. These are City of Lincoln Council, East Lindsey District Council and West Lindsey District Council who each pay Special Levies. Except for normal transactions with the Board (e.g., payment of Drainage Rates), no other related party transactions have been identified.

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

Non Current Assets	Land & Buildings	Depot	Plant & Vehicles	Office Equip	Pumping Stations	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£	£
Closing Balance 31/03/25	**3,401**	**119,592**	**1,921,940**	**23,278**	**2,978,911**	**5,047,122**
Additions			427,575		2,271,094	2,698,669
Reclassification						0
Disposals			(111,745)			(111,745)
Closing Balance 31/03/26	**3,401**	**119,592**	**2,237,770**	**23,278**	**5,250,005**	**7,634,046**
Depreciation						
Closing Balance 31/03/25	**0**	**0**	**1,448,272**	**3,232**	**274,323**	**1,725,827**
Depreciation Charged			124,197	4,654	16,993	145,844
Reclassification						0
Disposals Written Out			(86,745)			(86,745)
Closing Balance 31/03/26	**0**	**0**	**1,485,724**	**7,886**	**291,316**	**1,784,926**
Net Book Value 31/03/25	**3,401**	**119,592**	**473,668**	**20,046**	**2,704,588**	**3,321,295**
Net Book Value 31/03/26	**3,401**	**119,592**	**752,046**	**15,392**	**4,958,689**	**5,849,120**

The above Capital has been financed as follows:

Capital Discharged	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Capital Receipts Applied	2,331,094	60,000
Revenue Contributions	2,610,982	2,610,982
Renewals Fund	2,691,970	2,376,140
Revaluation Reserve	0	0
Deferred Charge	0	0
less Depreciation	(1,784,926)	(1,725,827)
	5,849,120	**3,321,295**

Note 11: Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors & Prepayments	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Drainage Ratepayers	19,714	0
Sundry Debtors & Prepayments	780,287	844,546
HMRC	196,063	0
	996,064	**844,546**

Note 12: Creditors and Receipts in Advance

Creditors & Receipts in Advance	2025/26 £	2024/25 £
Drainage Ratepayers	(899)	(1,272)
Sundry Creditors	(801,840)	(1,004,766)
HMRC	(37,879)	(34,383)
Payroll Deductions	0	0
Provision for Bad Debts	(19,714)	0
	(860,332)	**(1,040,421)**

Note 13: FRS102 Pensions

The following disclosures are based upon the 'March 2023 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	**31/03/26 £000's**	**31/03/25 £000's**
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(4,495)	(4,098)
Fair value of Fund assets (bid value)	6,393	5,807
Net (Under)/Overfunding in Funded Plans	**1,898**	**1,709**
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities	0	0
Unrecognised Past Service Cost		
Net Asset/(Liability)	**1,898**	**1,709**
Amount in the Balance Sheet		
Liabilities		
Assets	1,898	1,709
Net Asset/(Liability)	**1,898**	**1,709**

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

Fair Value of Employer Assets	**31/03/26**		**31/03/25**	
	£000's	**%**	**£000's**	**%**
Equities	3,216	50%	2,826	49%
Bonds	901	14%	823	14%
Property	457	7%	398	7%
Cash	206	3%	163	3%
Infrastructure	285	4%	255	4%
Absolute return fund	1,328	21%	1,342	23%
Cumulative Actuarial Gains and Losses	**6,393**	**100%**	**5,807**	**100%**

The impact on the Income and Expenditure Account is:

Recognition in the income and expenditure account	31/03/26 £000's	31/03/25 £000's
Current Service Cost	188	239
Net interest on the defined liability (asset)	(109)	(59)
Administration expenses	5	4
Total	**84**	**184**

The Defined Benefit Obligation consists of:

Reconciliation of Defined Benefit Obligation	31/03/26 £000's	31/03/25 £000's
Opening Defined Benefit Obligation	**4,098**	**4,440**
Current Service Cost	188	239
Interest Cost	230	216
Change in financial assumptions	(244)	(715)
Change in demographic assumptions	92	0
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	391	0
Liabilities assumed / (extinguished) on settlements	0	0
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(364)	(180)
Past service costs, including curtailments	0	0
Contributions by Scheme participants and other employ	104	98
Unfunded pension payments	0	0
Closing Defined Benefit Obligation	**4,495**	**4,098**

The Fair Value of Employee Assets consists of:

Reconciliation of Fair Value of Employee Assets	31/03/26 £000's	31/03/25 £000's
Opening Fair Value of Employer Assets	**5,807**	**5,498**
Interest on assets	339	275
Return on assets less interest	175	(196)
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	3	0
Administration expenses	(5)	(4)
Contributions by employer including unfunded	334	316
Contributions by Scheme participants and other employers	104	98
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(364)	(180)
Settlement prices received / (paid)	0	0
Closing Fair value of Fund assets	**6,393**	**5,807**

The following assumptions have been used by the Actuary in making their valuation as at 31st March 2026:

Assumptions	31/03/26	31/03/25
Financial Assumptions		
Discount Rate	6.15%	5.75%
Pension Increase Rate	2.90%	2.95%
RPI Inflation	3.30%	3.30%
Salary Increase Rate	3.90%	3.95%
Mortality (future life expectancy at age 65)		
Current Pensioners (Male)	21.4 years	19.9 years
Current Pensioners (Female)	23.4 years	23.1 years
Future Pensioners (Male)	23.1 years	21.3 years
Future Pensioners (Female)	25.2years	24.5 years

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

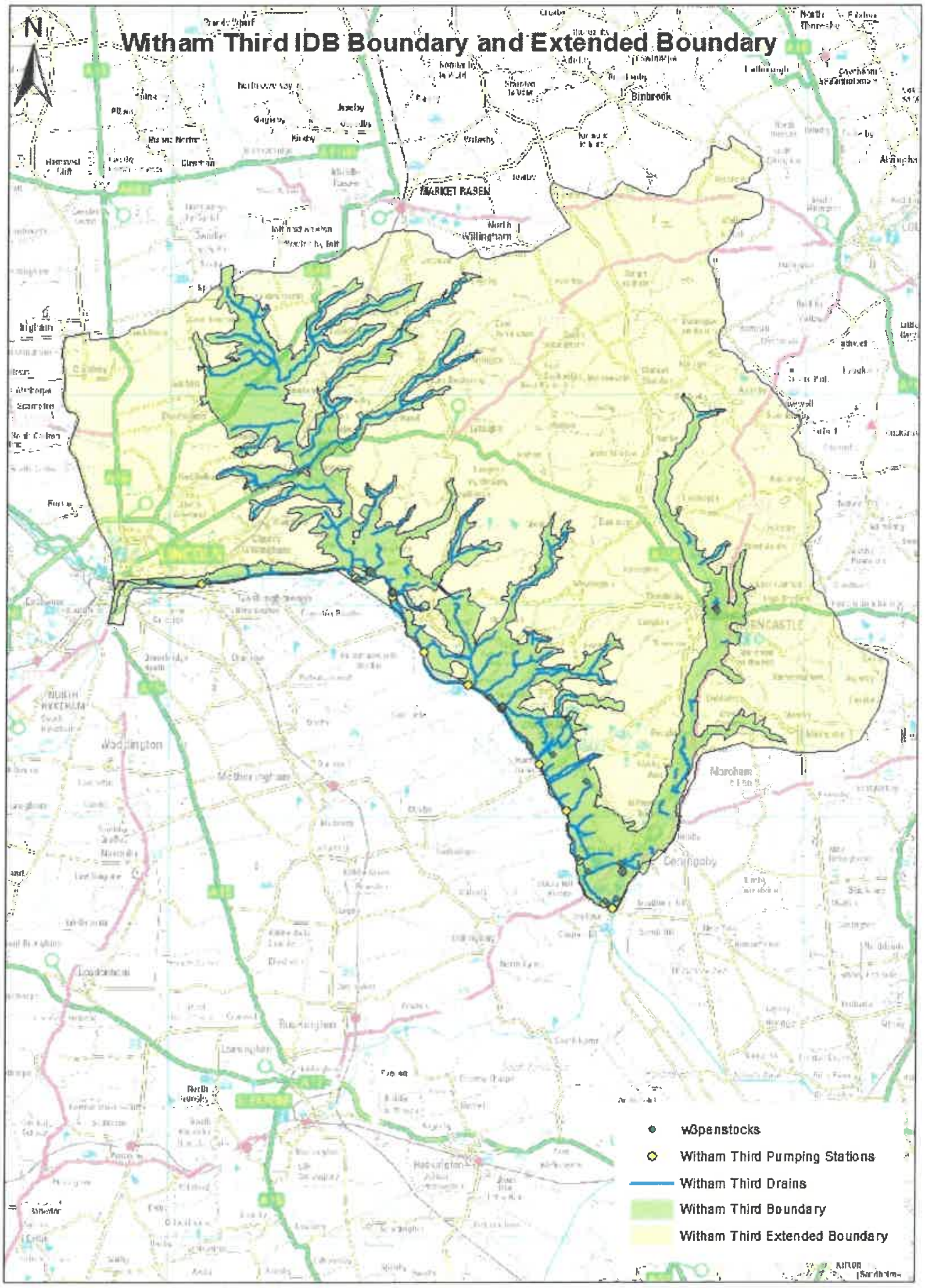
Sensitivity Analysis	Approx increase to Employer Liability %	Approx Monetary Amount £000's
Change in assumptions at 31 March 2025		
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	1.51%	68
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0.04%	2
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	1.56%	70
Adjustment to life Expectancy Assumptions +1 Year	3.56%	160

Projected pension costs. The estimated Employer's contribution for the period to 31st March 2026 will be approximately £269,000.

Note 14: Funds & Reserves

Movement on Reserves	Capital Discharged	Pensions Reserve	Revenue Reserve	Plant & Machinery Reserve	Pumping Station Reserve	AWC Renewal Fund	One Off Projects Reserve	Emergency Events	Insurance	Minting	Commuted Sums	Depot	Office Equipm't Reserve	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£						£	£
Balance as at 31 March 2025	**(3,321,295)**	**(1,709,000)**	**(453,269)**	**(801,278)**	**(399,363)**	**(216,391)**	**(1,579,989)**	**(246,053)**	**(50,000)**	**(27,000)**	**(10,400)**	**0**	**(14,133)**	**(8,828,171)**
Depreciation	145,844			(124,197)	(3,714)	(13,279)							(4,654)	**0**
Capital Purchases	(2,698,669)			427,575	2,271,094									**0**
Capital Sales	25,000			(25,000)										**0**
Pension Interest Cost (Net)		(189,000)												**(189,000)**
Contributions in				(200,000)	(2,481,094)		(440,042)	(45,000)	(100,000)			(475,000)		**(3,741,136)**
Contributions out							958,761							**958,761**
Transfers														**0**
Deferred Charge W/off														**0**
(Surplus)/Deficit on I&E			(85,914)											**(85,914)**
Balance as at 31 March 2026	**(5,849,120)**	**(1,898,000)**	**(539,183)**	**(722,900)**	**(613,077)**	**(229,670)**	**(1,061,270)**	**(291,053)**	**(150,000)**	**(27,000)**	**(10,400)**	**(475,000)**	**(18,787)**	**(11,885,460)**

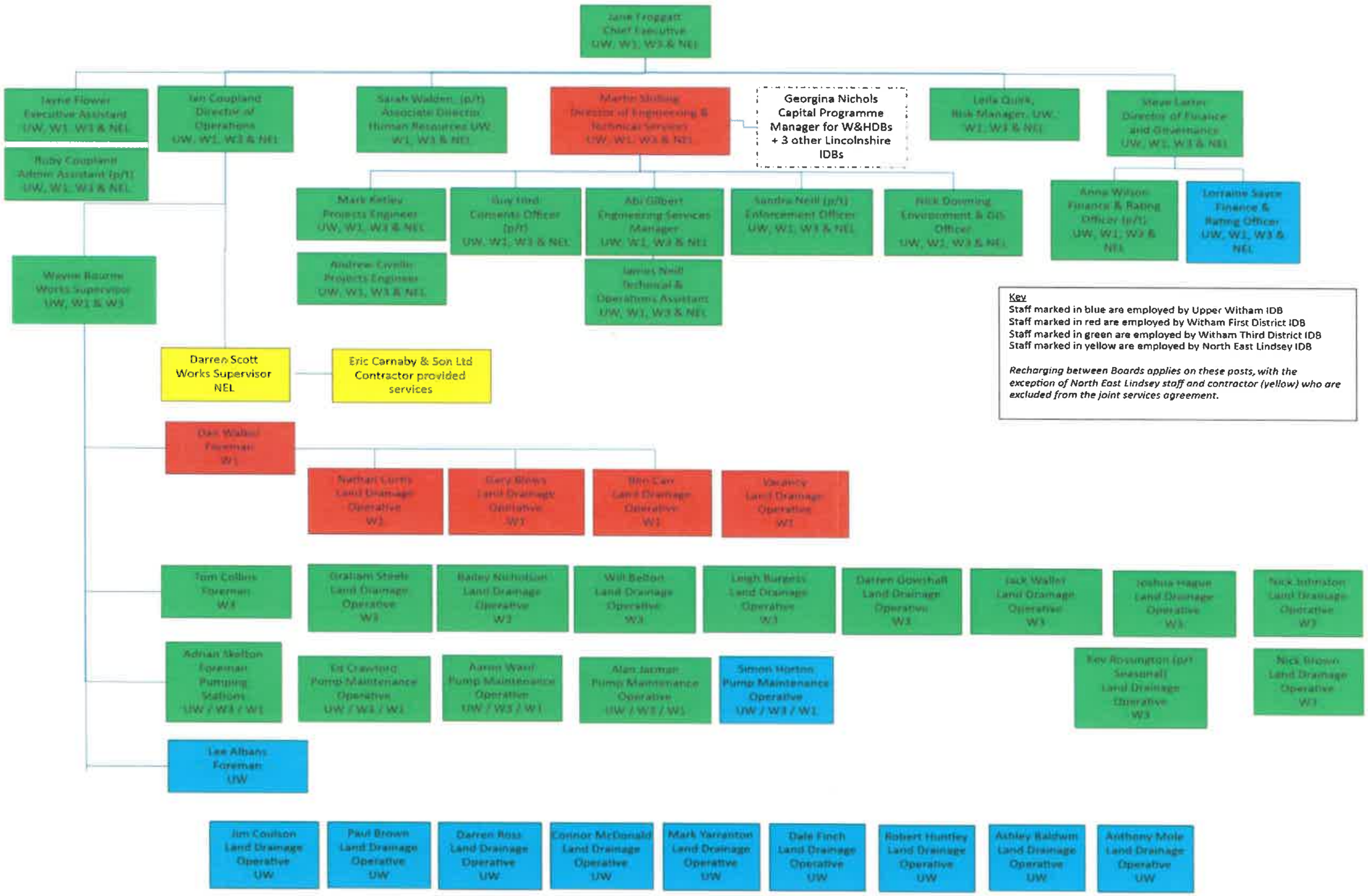
Appendix 1



 0 4 8 16 Kilometers

Appendix 2

Witham and Humber Drainage Boards' Organisational Structure Chart



Appendix 3 - Witham Third DIDB: Interrelationship between Rainfall, Pumped Hours and Electricity Costs

Pumping Station	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26		
	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 (£)
Bardney Abbey		124	£ 768.80		98	£ 1,239.66		898	£ 10,169.55		191	£ 1,745.45		230	£ 2,012.08
Bardney Fen (Bardney Abbey New)		848	£ 811.71		673	£ 1,200.64		1,261	£ 1,863.84		1,441	£ 3,478.35		978	£ 1,240.54
Bardney Manor Farm		426	£ 1,750.88		485	£ 3,841.99		1,952	£ 18,186.07		509	£ 4,114.67		788	£ 4,892.62
Coningsby Ings		131	£ 832.80		106	£ 877.44		52	£ 952.96		10	£ 493.59		180	£ 1,187.69
Dogdyke (Diesel)			£ -						£ -						
Dogdyke (Electric)	380.50	539	£ 2,264.92	420.00	470	£ 3,380.78	641.00	1,810	£ 14,562.17	367.00	682	£ 5,034.63	434.00	780	£ 4,913.42
Duckpool	445.50	274	£ 1,853.74	525.00	166	£ 2,445.18	541.00	1,166	£ 21,394.42	277.00	262	£ 6,519.60	387.50	348	£ 3,853.24
Greetwell		145	£ 5,568.12		119	£ 9,272.60		1,143	£ 26,947.44		479	£ 19,699.16		853	£ 24,622.03
Horncastle Ings		126	£ 451.27		108	£ 985.93		732	£ 605.23		213	-£ 11.12		506	£ 165.80
Kirkstead		1,102	£ 2,706.17		981	£ 5,056.74		2,978	£ 17,576.66		1,052	£ 5,896.68		1,690	£ 5,616.42
Marsh Lane		591	£ 2,238.32		764	£ 4,548.22		3,192	£ 24,221.38		1,099	£ 6,892.76		1,227	£ 8,049.88
Short Ferry Electric	390.00	1,056	£ 16,830.68	378.50	1,121	£ 28,341.00	670.00	1,910	£ 83,348.60	388.50	920	£ 38,776.52	442.00	1,102	£ 35,764.58
Short Ferry (Fiskerton) Diesel															£ -
Southrey		357	£ 11,422.04		389	£ 19,571.93		1,407	£ 62,390.17		529	£ 29,130.57		779	£ 33,684.21
Stainfield		1,348	£ 2,762.88		1,186	£ 2,606.74		823	£ 3,616.97		968	£ 3,663.73		2,701	£ 5,258.19
Stainfield (New)															
Stamp End		995			1,791			2,860	£ -		1,009			1,483	£ -
Stixwould Deisel			£ 232.78			£ 275.27			£ 326.44			£ 386.04			£ 571.31
Woodhall		542	£ 8,166.75		483	£ 12,951.44		1,408	£ 39,465.26		618	£ 18,276.50		1,146	£ 21,062.68
Total	405.33	8,604	£ 58,661.86	441.17	8,940	£ 96,595.56	617.33	23,592	£325,627.16	344.17	9,982	£ 144,097.13	421.17	14,791	£ 152,894.69