

RAMSEY FIRST (HOLLOW) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Ramsey First (Hollow) Internal Drainage Board
held at Ramsey Golf Club on Thursday the 27th June 2019

PRESENT

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| D J Caton Esq (Chairman) | P A Drinkwater Esq |
| A C Roberts Esq (Vice Chairman) | S E Johnson Esq |
| C C Armstrong Esq | J M Palmer Esq |
| J C Armstrong Esq | R E Stacey Esq |
| D E Stokes Esq | |

Miss Samantha Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Christopher Convine (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance.

The Chairman enquired whether ALL Board members were happy for the meeting to be recorded. All members were in agreement.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from T Caton Esq, T E A Noble Esq and D C Roberts Esq.

B.844 Declarations of Interest

Miss Ablett reminded Members of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any individual on the Board.

B.845 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 28th June 2018 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.846 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That Mr D J Caton be appointed Chairman of the Board.

B.847 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That A C Roberts Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.848 Appointment of District Officer

RESOLVED

That C C Armstrong Esq be appointed District Officer to the Board during the ensuing year.

B.849 Appointment of Clerk

RESOLVED

That the Middle Level Commissioners be appointed Clerk to the Board for the ensuing year.

B.850 Land Drainage Act 1991

Board Membership - Huntingdonshire District Council

Miss Ablett reported that Huntingdonshire District Council had re-appointed Councillor J M Palmer to be a Member of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.851 Clerk's fee

The Board gave consideration to the Clerk's fee for 2019/2020.

RESOLVED

That there be no increase in the fee paid to the Clerk for the year 2019/2020.

B.852 Warboys Landfill Site

Further to minute B.811, Mr Convine reported that, at the last meeting, the Middle Level Commissioners had been asked to object to the planning application. He confirmed that a letter had been written to the Environment Agency raising the concerns of the Board.

He advised that the planning application had been approved, but there was still an issue regarding a Section 106 agreement, in relation to the access to the site and this needed to be resolved before formal approval was given.

Mr Convine advised that Cambridgeshire County Council felt there could be a request for a judicial review from the Warboys Action Group, particularly regarding emissions from the stack and he added that Sycamore Planning will need to apply to the Environment Agency for an environmental permit. He confirmed that the Middle Level Commissioners had also written to the Environment Agency regarding the Boards' concerns and advised they wished to comment on the permit application.

Mr Convine confirmed that the Environment Agency have logged the Board's intention to comment on the permit application so the Board would be able to voice their concerns at this stage. He advised that once the permit was given, construction could commence, however there was an issue between various parties at the site regarding ownership and this would have to be resolved.

The Chairman advised that the problem was with the bottom bit, with the biomass energy unit and he had emailed an objection on behalf of the Board on the grounds of water pollution.

Mr Convine advised that he would look at what discharge comes from the site for the permit. He reported that, together with the Chairman and the District Officer, he had attended a meeting with Sycamore Planning at which they had agreed for them to carry out various actions, e.g. monitoring the outfall and if they found anything amiss they could shut down operation and, if at the end of the day, that satisfied the Board, they could look into that when they applied for the permit.

The Chairman advised that the biggest concern had been the bunding as the second plan showed a 6' wall all around the site and a tank had suddenly appeared on the plan.

The District Officer advised that he was concerned with the amount of clay being used and the height of the capping as this was now higher than that agreed with Mark Farren. He added that there were further concerns as to how much additional weight could be added to the mound as this was causing pressure on the contents which could lead to seepage.

Mr Convine advised that the situation should be monitored and if any Member had concerns with emissions this should be reported to the Middle Level Commissioners. He added that he would speak with Woodford and enquire how high the capping would be.

RESOLVED

That the Consulting Engineers speak with Woodford to enquire how high the capping would be.

B.853 Contravention of byelaws

Further to minute B.812, Miss Ablett apologised on behalf of the Clerk and advised that a letter had only recently been sent to the occupiers of the bungalow at Froghall Farm advising them of the Board's 9 metre byelaw strip and of their responsibility to cut down any overhanging branches.

B.854 Proposed Residential Dwellings – Bungalow Farm, Hollow Road, Ramsey Forty Foot

Further to minute B.814(iii), Miss Ablett advised that on inspection of the planning application for the redundant agricultural buildings next to Bungalow Farm, a change of use had been granted on the 19th October 2018 for one residential dwelling, subject to the condition that the roadway was improved.

She confirmed that plans from the Deed of Grants over the roadways, which gave the Board an easement over them to the pumping station, had recently been sent to the Chairman.

Miss Ablett also confirmed that the Board's interest was registered at the Land Registry and should therefore be picked up by any future purchasers of the land. The applicants' planning agent had also advised that his client was aware of the Board's right of way. Miss Ablett advised who the applicant was and that the property had now been transferred to his brother who was also aware of the Board's right of way to the pumping station.

B.855 Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.822(e), the Board considered their updated Byelaws.

RESOLVED

That the updated Byelaws be adopted.

B.856 Policy Statement

Further to minute B.822(f), the Board reviewed and approved their Policy Statement which had been updated following the publication of the National Audit Office (NAO) report on IDBs in March 2017.

RESOLVED

That the revised Policy Statement be adopted.

B.857 Requirements for a Biosecurity Policy

Further to minute B.827, the Board considered their Biosecurity Policy.

RESOLVED

That the Biosecurity Policy be adopted.

B.858 Clerk's Report

Miss Ablett advised:-

i) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a second Chair's meeting was held on the 17th October 2018 and that discussions centred around meeting Health and Safety legislative requirements and the possible options for increased efficiency in delivery of IDB/DDC services. Outline detailed proposals on the latter are to be brought before the next Chair's meeting for consideration.

That a third Chair's Meeting was held on the 11th March 2019 and that discussions at this centred around:-

- 1) The provision of increased support to IDBs on Health and Safety management and control.
- 2) The Future investment planning for the Lower River Great Ouse catchment.
- 3) Future planning for IDBs and DDCs administered by the Middle Level Commissioners.
- 4) Member training.

One option for future Board arrangements discussed at the second and third meetings was the subject of a briefing paper.

Miss Ablett referred to the briefing paper and advised that this was just one option being put forward for discussion as there were concerns within a number of Boards regarding membership; some Boards found it difficult to attract new Members, some struggled to obtain a sufficient number of Members to be in quorate, there were not many of the younger generation coming forward and the numbers of farms was reducing. She confirmed that sub-

committees could be formed to discuss any necessary drainworks so that local knowledge was retained and differential rating could be used to allow for any significant differences in drainage rates. She also advised that one of the aims was to reduce administration and save money.

Members discussed the matter further.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk investigate the matter further and provide more information for the Board's consideration.

ii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 81st Annual Conference of the Association had been held at the ICE building in Westminster on Wednesday 14th November 2018 and had been well attended with the main speakers being Sue Hayman MP, Shadow Secretary for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Robert Hössen crisis management expert from the Netherlands, John Curtin, Executive Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management at the Environment Agency and David Cooper Deputy, Director for Flood and Coastal Erosion Management at Defra.

Sue Hayman Affairs spoke about her first-hand experience of flooding in Cumbria, the impact of flooding on mental health, building on flood plains and river management without environmental change and funding.

Robert Hössen gave a presentation on how incident management is organised and dealt with in the Netherlands.

John Curtin gave a presentation on the effects of climate change and referred to the government's discussions regarding the likelihood, impact and severity of climate change.

David Cooper referred to the 25 year environment plan and to various Government publications made in 2018, which can be viewed online.

That the Officers had been re-elected, subscriptions would be increasing by 2% for the following year and the Conference marked the launch of the Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members.

That the Conference also marked the first presentation of the Chairman's award which were presented to Ian Russell from the Environment Agency for his work on Public Sector Co-operation Agreements and to Cliff Carson, former Environmental Officer of the Middle Level Commissioners and the Boards, for his work which was instrumental in changing views concerning conservation.

b) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities will be held in London on Wednesday the 13th November 2019.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to obtain a ticket for the Annual Conference of the Association for any Member who wishes to attend.

c) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association was held on Tuesday the 12th March 2019. The meeting format was changed this year and included a morning workshop session led by the EA. Topics covered were water resources, PSCAs and future planning of FRM. Robert Caudwell spoke for ADA in the afternoon followed by talks from Brian Stewart, the FRCC Chair, Paul Burrows, the FRM Area Manager and Claire Jouvray, the Operations Delivery Manager.

That the date of the next meeting is Tuesday the 3rd March 2020.

d) Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members

That, at the Annual Conference last November, ADA launched the publication of the Good Governance Guide for IDB Board Members. It provides Members with a comprehensive guide to their role as water managers servicing the local communities. The document has been produced with the financial support of Defra and will provide Members with knowledge to help expand their grasp of the role, and how best to execute their responsibilities on the Board.

That a copy of the Guide for each Member has been included with this agenda and can be downloaded from the ADA website.

That ADAs workshops were well attended and are helping to deal with the questions being raised by Defra following the Audit Commission Report which criticized aspects of IDB governance. As no member of this Board attended any of the local workshops in the area the Board will not be able to record in the IDB1 Defra return that training has been provided on Governance. In addition to governance Defra appear to expect over time that training will be given for the following; Finance, Environment, Health, safety and welfare and Communications and engagement. The Board may wish to consider an order of priority for future training and a timetable for delivery.

e) Workstreams

That ADA annually review their workstreams and an update is included.

iii) External Bodies Conservation Initiatives

That there are two projects which may have an impact on the Board:-

a) The New Life on the Old West project being led by Cambs ACRE which aims to improve public understanding of the unique nature of biodiversity in the Fens and to deliver improvements on community green spaces and the ditch network. At the time of report the project has received a £100k grant to develop the project to the point at which a further £3/4 million grant bid will be made to support delivery.

b) The Cambridgeshire Fens Biosphere, Heritage Lottery have provided £10,000 of funding to research what would be necessary to bring Biosphere Reserve status to the Fens. This project is being led by the Wildlife Trust with support from Cambs ACRE.

If successful, this would lead to a new UNESCO designation. This would be a non-statutory designation which records the unique nature of the area. Most recently, the project received £1m for field scale alternative farming trial works in the Great Fen area and to assist with the Biosphere bid.

iv) Catchment Strategy

That the EA, LLFA, IDBs and other partners are co-operating in a piece of work which is looking at the pressures on the catchment from a development and climate change perspective. The aim will be to develop proposals which will guide and inform discussion makers.

v) Water Resources East Group Meeting

That the Middle Level Commissioners are setting up a Committee to discuss how they can work more closely with Anglian Water and other partners to ensure that the management of water and the quantity taken from the River Nene can be maximized in stressed years.

vi) Anglia Farmers

Further to minute B.839, Miss Ablett advised that the running of the remainder of the Anglia Farmers electricity contract had been monitored and was pleased to report that the service provided had improved.

In view of the significant increase in prices observed a utility specialist was approached and like for like prices at the time of tender, for a sample of meters, were requested in order that a comparison could be made with the prices obtained by Anglia Farmers. Although some savings may have been made, overall the prices obtained from Anglia Farmers were found to be generally competitive.

A verbal report was presented to the Middle Level Commissioners at their last Board meeting and, based on the results of the pricing comparison exercise and in view of the service provided by Anglia Farmers having improved, the Middle Level Commissioners resolved to remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30th September 2019.

The Clerk had recommended that the Board also remain with Anglia Farmers. However, should the Board wish to choose to end their current contract, notice was required to be given by late January/early February 2019 following which they would then be responsible for negotiating their own separate electricity contract thereafter.

Miss Ablett reported that the Chairman had subsequently agreed for the Board to remain with Anglia Farmers.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman be approved and the Board remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30th September 2019.

vii) The New Rivers Authorities & Land Drainage Bill

That this Bill has completed its Committee stage in the House of Commons and passed through its Third Reading. It has now started its progression through the House of Lords.

The Bill, which has been prepared by Defra, aims to put the Somerset Rivers Authority onto a statutory footing as a precepting body, but it would also enable the reform of IDB ratings annual value lists. It does this by recognising the need to ensure that the methodology through which IDBs calculate and collect drainage rates and special levy sits on a sound legal basis that can be periodically updated to contemporary values better reflecting current land and property valuation.

With the above in mind ADA has been working with Defra and a number of IDBs to test a new methodology using contemporary valuation and Council Tax lists that could be applied via this legislative change.

viii) Environment Agency consultation on changes to the Anglia (Central) RFCC

That a consultation is taking place on the constitution of three RFCCs following a formal proposal for two new unitary authorities to be formed in Northamptonshire (West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire) has been submitted to the Government for consideration. If approved these authorities would coming into existence on the 1 April 2020.

In Buckinghamshire the decision to create a single unitary authority replacing the existing five councils has been made by the Government, subject to Parliamentary approval. It would come into existence on the 1 April 2020.

Each new authority will be a unitary authority, delivering all local government services in their respective areas, including their functions as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFAs).

The membership of Thames RFCC, Anglian (Central) RFCC, and Anglian (Northern) RFCC currently includes representation from one or both of the existing county councils. To reflect the changes proposed the membership of all three RFCC will need to be varied before 1 December 2019.

At the same time to better reflect a catchment-based approach it is proposed to change the name of Anglian (Central) RFCC to Anglian (Great Ouse) RFCC. ADA has stated that it supports the naming revision.

B.859 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

- a) The Board considered the Report of the Consulting Engineers, viz:-

Ramsey First (Hollow) I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – June 2019

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the recommendations approved by the Board at its last annual meeting.

A recent inspection of the Board's district drains has been undertaken and revealed that the majority of the drains are being retained in a satisfactory condition and maintained to a good standard. However, the inspection highlighted stands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation throughout the Board's drains, predominantly within the Highland spur drains, reaches 10-57-58-59-60 and 8a- 73-74-75 and the Meggs Drove drains in the North of the district. It is recommended that an application of Roundup herbicide is applied to the affected reaches and followed up by light machine cleansing post-harvest this year.



Meggs Drove, reach 13-14



Highland Spur Drain, reach 73-74

A subsequent summer inspection will be carried out with the District Officer later this season to identify any other district drains that may require an application of Roundup herbicide or possibly light machine cleansing.

A sum has also been included within the estimate to allow for drains that fall within this year's proposed machine cleansing programme, and any others that require a Roundup application to control aquatic weed growth to be treated later in the growing season.

Messrs Ashman have indicated that they are available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements again this year. Flail mowing in advance of the machine cleansing works will be required to afford the machine operator optimum visibility to undertake the cleansing work. A sum for flail mowing both the aforementioned reaches has been included within the Board's estimated costs.

A provisional sum has been included within the estimated costs for any emergency machine cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works that may be required later in the year.

The estimated cost of this year's recommended Weed Control and Drain Maintenance works follows. Please refer to the plan for locations.

| | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Allow sum for Roundup herbicide application where required throughout the district | Item | Sum | 850.00 |
| 2 | Machine cleanse Highland Spur Drain i) Reach 10-57-58-60 | 1100 | m @ 1.10 | 1210.00 |
| 3 | Machine cleanse Meggs Drove drains i) Reach 13-14-15-16-17-18-20-22-23 ii) Reach 13-24-25 iii) Reach 2-11-12-13 | 1700 400 1700 | m @ 1.10 m @ 1.10 m @ 1.10 | 1870.00 440.00 1870.00 |
| 4 | Allow for flail mowing in advance of machine cleansing | Item | Sum | 2500.00 |
| 6 | <u>Provisional Item</u> Allow for emergency machine cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works | Item | Sum | 2000.00 |
| 7 | Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangement of herbicide treatments and machine cleansing works | Item | Sum | 900.00 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| TOTAL | | | | £11,640.00 |
| | | | | <hr/> <hr/> |

Orders for the application of herbicides by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that they are weather dependent, and they will not be held responsible for the efficacy or failure of any treatment.

Ramsey Hollow Pumping Station

Other than the matters described below only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

Diesel Pump

As was discussed with the District Officer the diesel pump controls are powered from the engine batteries and should keep the panel powered for approximately two days in the event of power failure. Replacement batteries have recently been fitted and the older ones kept charged as spares. A daily run of the engine would keep the batteries charged in an outage. The batteries are checked at quarterly intervals and written instructions on running the engine are in the Operator Manual kept within the kiosk.

The following proposal reference for a Fuel Loss Alarm System to be incorporated in the telemetry system was forwarded to the Chairman last July.



Commercial proposal
Ref. : PR1806-0099

Ref. customer : Fuel Loss Alarm System
Date : 26/06/2018
Validity ending date : 26/07/2018
Customer code : CU1710-0006

From:

Oriel Systems Limited
Name: Matthew Sidnell
Unit 1 Industry Park Crickets Lane
Chippenham
SN15 3EQ

Phone: 01249705070
Email: sales2@orielsystems.com
Web: www.orielsystems.com

To:

Middle Level Commissioners
Malcolm Downes
85 Whittlesey Road
MARCH
PE15 0AH

Introduction

This document constitutes an offer to supply, to the named Client, goods, materials and/or services described herein, subject to Oriel Systems site technical survey. For execution of the work and supply of the contract deliverables, the Client is invited to submit a purchase order quoting the reference number above.

Client Requirements

The client requires an alarm system, alerting the designated targets that a rapid loss of fuel has occurred. The client requires the system to link to the existing alert system.

Project Scope

To develop and implement an alarm system linking to existing alarm facility and test.

Amount in GB Pounds currency

| Description | VAT | U.P. (net) | Qty | Total (net of tax) |
|---|-----|------------|-----|--------------------|
| SOFDEV - General Software Development and Configuration Day rate for general software development To develop and implement alarm system, software development engineer. | 20% | 650.00 | 2 | 1,300.00 |

Payment terms: 50% in advance, 50% on delivery

Total (net of tax) 1,300.00
Total VAT 20% 260.00
Total (inc. tax) 1,560.00

Written acceptance, company stamp, date and signature

Terms and conditions apply. Please review document TC-FIX-3 for further information, or if relating to an O&M agreement TC-OAM-1. Please supply purchase order number on ordering, or sign and return this proposal.

PLEASE NOTE** All prices shown EXCLUDE mileage and subsistence. Mileage is charged at 50p per mile for the first 100 miles and 36p thereafter for any single quotation. Overnight stays are charged at £95 per person per night for project durations over 10 hours inc. travel

Private Limited Company (LTD) - Registration Number: 01863005
SIC: 62090 - Tax ID: GB399079683

1/1

As reported last year the telemetry system is currently not operating correctly and would require a site visit from the manufacturer, Oriel Systems. However, we are currently in dispute with Oriel and they are not accepting orders from us.

An alternative system is detailed below, the budget cost to supply and install is approximately £1000.

GSM Tank Level Text Alerter



Product Description

The GSM Text Alerter is a remote fuel tank level monitoring device suitable for fuel and oil tanks. This simple to install unit allows the user to set up four trigger inputs, which upon activation sends a customised text message to up to eight mobile phones. This oil tank monitor is designed to alert the user to a low fuel condition, or alert of a high level should they require to know when the tank needs emptying. By setting the probes at half full and low level, the Text Alerter can also be used to alert of a sudden drop in the fuel level when receiving two texts in short succession, which may indicate theft or tank containment failure.

Features:

- GSM Texter / Oil Tank Monitor
- Customised 30 character SMS
- 110v-230v fused supply
- Non-descript, weatherproof housing
- Can set up up to 8 mobile phones
- Plastic plate available for tanks without 1 1/2' M BSP entry (please email for options)

Protection of the electric control panel from water ingress was also discussed at the meeting and it should be noted that there is a false roof above the panel and there are no signs of water ingress.

Pumping Hours

| Ramsey Hollow Pumping Station | Total hours run Jun 15 – Jun 16 | Total hours run Jun 16 – Jun 17 | Total hours run Jun 17 – Jun 18 | Total hours run Jun 18 – Jun 19 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| No 1 Electric | 15840-15951 = 101 | 15951-16040 = 89 | 362 | 16407 = approximately 5 |
| No 2 Electric | 9760-9927 = 167 | 9927-10084 = 157 | 270 | 10373 = approximately 29 |
| No 3 Diesel | 339-351 = 12 | 351-354 = 3 | Approximately 10 | 382 = approximately 5 |
| Total Hours Run | 280 | 249 | 642 | 39 |

| | Total hours run Jun 11 - Jun 12 | Total hours run Jun 12- Jun 13 | Total hours run Jun 13 – Jun 14 | Total hours run Jun 14 – Jun 15 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| No 1 Electric | 14431-14449 = 18 | 14449-15413 = 964 | 15413 -15413 = 0 | 15413-15840 = 427 |
| No 2 Electric | 8795 – 8818 = 23 | 8818 – 8967 = 149 | 8967 – 9692 = 725 | 9692-9760 = 68 |
| No 3 Diesel | 40 – 58 = 18 | 58 – 261 = 203 | 261 – 329 = 68 | 329-339 = 10 |
| Total Hours Run | 59 | 1316 | 793 | 505 |

Planning Committee Decision at Estover Road, March

Members may be aware of the District Council's decision in relation to the outline planning application for a residential development at Estover Road, March. However, members may be interested in the principles established at the Committee Meeting in respect of the Board's interests.

The March Fifth District Drainage Commissioners requested that the Planning Engineers represented them at the Planning Committee's September meeting.

It was interesting to note that the Commissioners' presence was acknowledged with one Councillor stating that as the Commissioners have made the effort to attend the Committee should listen to them. Another comment made was that the Committee is concerned that Statutory Consultees do not attend the Planning Committee Meetings.

There was considerable support for the Drainage Boards particularly from Cllrs Bligh, Laws and Newell, but you will note the comments which were quite rightly made by Cllr Sutton and Nick Harding.

In view of this it appears that, within Fenland at least, the comments of the LLFA, as a Statutory Consultee, override that of the Commissioners, even though they have to receive and transfer any flows and deal with any resultant problems at their ratepayers' expense.

Relevant extracts from the minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12 September are copied below:

"F/YR15/0668/O

LAND NORTH OF 75-127, ESTOVER ROAD, MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

OUTLINE WITH ONE MATTER COMMITTED DETAILED AS ACCESS IN RELATION TO 95 NO DWELLINGS (MAX) WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING, DRAINAGE AND OPEN SPACES

Middle Level Commissioners strongly object to the application.

Members received a presentation in accordance with the public participation from Mr Graham Moore (Middle Level commissioners), who was speaking on behalf of Middle Level Commissioners and March Fifth Internal Drainage Board [sic] and Mrs Liz Whitehouse, who were both speaking in objection to the Application.

It is the IDB not the Environment Agency, FDC, CCC or Anglian Water, which has to receive and transfer flows that emit from the site.

The site is located in flood zone 1 and the applicant has provided information to evidence that surface water from the development can be managed and there have been no objections from the Lead Local Flood Authority and Environment Agency who are statutory consultees. The Middle Level Commissioners are not statutory consultees; however the queries that have been raised by them have been looked at by the applicant but as this is an outline planning application and it would not be reasonable to supply the information requested currently and the details relating to the design of the scheme and details regarding the drainage scheme details are unknown. The condition that the LLFA have requested will put an appropriate safeguard in place to ensure a suitable strategy is established prior to the commencement of construction.

Members asked questions, made comments and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Mrs Laws stated that it is a windfall site but the drainage issue is an area of concern. With regard to viability, the site does not deliver what it should and although the Section 106 Officer has looked into this. The development is therefore less sustainable than it should be.*
- Councillor Sutton stated that he believes the development is sustainable. It is in flood zone 1 and the Lead Local Flood Authority who is a Statutory Consultee has no objection to the proposal. The issues concerning the discharge raised by Middle Level Commissioners and the IDB can be reviewed at a later stage and do not need to be considered today. Planning Committee Members have to make decisions on material planning reasons. The proposal does not go against the Neighbourhood Plan; if it did then Officers would not be recommending it for approval.*
- Councillor Sutton stated he can see no material planning reason to refuse the application.*
- Nick Harding stated that in terms of the surface water issues which have been raised. The IDB have recognised that the LLFA is the authority that we should be going to in consideration of these matters and if the NPPF is referred to it*

does state that major development should incorporate sustainable drainage systems and should take account of the advice of the LLFA. The advice from the LLFA is that this development proposal with conditions is acceptable.

- Nick Harding stated that he is very supportive of the IDB's they have a separate legal process which has to be complied with by persons who wish to discharge their surface water and just because planning permission is granted for a development it does not mean they are automatically going to get consent from the IDB's. The Developer still has to apply to the IDB and the detail for the scheme has to be agreed.
- Nick Harding stated that with regard to Anglian Water, they have raised no objection to this application. They have indicated that they will make necessary improvements to their network to ensure they can deal with the water and therefore as we do not have an objection from Anglian Water, and members should consider on what basis would we be able to defend a reason for refusal based on foul water capacity.

Following the meeting the Planning Engineer advised the Clerk to the Commissioners that:

"Whilst I was concerned when we originally stood back and stopped making bespoke responses to the LPA in preference to writing to the applicant and/or agent, which does cause some problems, the planning decision confirmed that this choice was the correct one, as the Commissioners and associated Boards are not wasting their limited resources by issuing letters that will be ignored by the LPA. However, this procedure is, under the current circumstances, potentially wasteful as the developer, LPA and LLFA could put considerable effort into an application which may be granted planning permission but which a Board refuses to consent."

It is presumed that in similar circumstances Huntingdonshire District Council would have a similar view.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 9 new applications have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

| MLC Ref. | Council Ref. | Applicant | Type of Development | Location |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 176 | H/18/01752/FUL | Mr Jones & Mr Evers | Residence | The Hollow, Ramsey |
| 177 | H/18/01680/PMBPA | Mr R Meadows | Residence | Hollow Road, Ramsey Forty Foot |
| 178 | H/18/02014/HHFUL | Mr A Warman | Residence (Extension) | Station Road Warboys |
| 179 | H/18/02171/FUL | One Leisure | Leisure (3G Artificial Turf Pitch) | Abbey Road, Ramsey * |
| 180 | H/18/02420/FUL | Abbey Properties Cambs Ltd & The Ramsey Club Company Ltd | Residential (38 plots) | Meadow Lane, Bury* |
| 181 | H/18/02728/FUL | Cambridgeshire County Council | Residence | Puddock Road, Warboys* |
| 182 | H/19/00339/PIP | Mr Augstein | Residence | Puddock Road, Warboys |
| 183 | H/19/00580/FUL | Mr C Boon | Agricultural | Hollow Road, Ramsey Forty Foot |
| 184 | H/19/00820/PMBPA | Mr C Dodson | Residence | Straight Drove, Wistow |

Planning applications ending 'PMBPA' relate to Prior Approval - Agricultural to Dwellings
Planning applications ending 'HHFUL' relate to Householder applications for Full Planning Permission
Planning applications ending 'PIP' relate to Permission in Principle

Developments that are known to propose direct discharge to the Board's system are indicated with an asterisk. The remainder are understood to propose surface water disposal to soakaways/infiltration systems or sustainable drainage systems, where applicable.

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning the following development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

- *Replacement building to provide accommodation for seasonal farm employees; removal of redundant farm structures at Three Fishes Farm, Puddock Road, Warboys – Three Fishes Farm Ltd (MLC Ref No 130)*
- *Residential development for 9 houses following demolition of industrial building at Altanet Technology Ltd, Hollow Road, Ramsey Forty Foot - Mr H Dawson (MLC Ref Nos 141 & 146) & Shire Homes & Building Services (MLC Ref Nos 159 & 160)*

In view of the absence of recent correspondence and any subsequent instruction from the Board it will be presumed, unless otherwise recorded, that the Board is content with any development that has occurred and that no further action is required at this time.

Various developments at Long Drove Farm, Hollow Road, Ramsey Forty Foot - Mr C Boon (MLC Ref Nos 115, 173 & 183)

Mr Boon applied for discharge consent for an agricultural building which was granted in 2016. He has now applied for discharge consent for a further agricultural building which has been recommended for approval. However, any further applications for discharge may require improvements to the local watercourse before consent can be granted. Any increases to flood risk will be to Mr Boon's own land and are very unlikely to affect the Board's system.

Various developments at Ramsey Leisure Centre, Abbey Road, Ramsey - Huntingdonshire District Council (MLC Ref Nos 073 & 078) & One Leisure (MLC Ref Nos 179)

Further to previous reports a planning application was submitted to the District Council by One Leisure for the construction of an external 3G Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) including perimeter fencing, floodlighting, associated hardstanding area at its facility off Abbey Road.



Extract from Surfacing Standards Ltd Drawing No. SS2396 03 Rev. 03

In respect of surface water disposal, the Design and Access Statement with Planning Statement, Ref. BM25583/0363 Second Issue dated 9th October, provided by the applicant's agent Surfacing Standards Ltd advises that:

"Surface Water Disposal Options

A. Soak away

There will be some natural infiltration through the underlying base of the pitch within the natural soils but it is not efficient enough to be a standalone drainage system and solution. Therefore, natural infiltration could only form part of a solution through a soakaway and a positive drainage outfall would also be required.

B. Surface Water Body

There is a known existing Surface Water Body in close proximity to the north of the development site, with a manhole to the north west corner of the proposed pitch location and on this basis it is considered that the disposal of surface water via a Surface Water Body is appropriate and should be used in conjunction with the natural infiltration through the base of the pitch."

and

“The designed surface water drainage solution should be based upon the following criteria, to maintain satisfactory system performance:

- Provide adequate functionality over a period of twenty years.
- Ensure that surface water is removed from the surface area at a rate necessary to prevent surface flooding experienced during acute rain storms and to ensure the facility will not be lost through rain at the highest intensity which may be expected to occur either once every five years or through continuous rainfall of 50mm over a 24 hour period.
- Ensure that surface water is effectively removed from the facility construction to ensure that load bearing capacity of the substrate is not weakened by an increase in moisture content or becomes more susceptible to frost damage.
 - Protect the installation from influences of groundwater or surface water from surrounding areas.
 - Prevent the risk of uncontrolled flooding elsewhere (to land adjacent to the development).
 - Comply with all applicable Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) requirements with attenuated flows (containment within the granular pitch sub-base) incorporated wherever necessary, without affecting the performance of the pitch.”

Planning permission was granted by the District Council subject to the imposition of planning conditions none of which were relevant to the Board.

To date neither the applicant nor its agent have contacted the Board to enquire whether this approach is acceptable or would be approved should the proposal proceed. An application for discharge consent, has not been received.

Given the nature of the soils in the area it is considered unlikely that the proposed surface water disposal system will provide any significant infiltration benefits.

Therefore, in order to resolve this matter and guide further discussions it would be beneficial to receive the Board’s opinion, further instruction and approval to initially write to the parties concerned in order to resolve this potential issue.

Construction of a heat and power plant comprising biomass energy from waste facility and treatment of waste water by evaporation treatment plant & associated infrastructure at Warboys Landfill Site, Puddock Hill, Warboys – Client of BE Design (MLC Ref No 163), Caulmert Limited (MLC Ref No 164 & 175) and Sycamore Planning Ltd (MLC Ref No 172)

Planning permission was given for the plant in December 2018. However, a problem with agreement to a Section 106 requirement to use Fen Road as the access to the site and land ownership issues have delayed progress. Once these have been resolved it is believed Warboys Action Group may ask for a review. An application for an Environmental Permit will need to be submitted to the Environment Agency which will provide an opportunity for the Board to comment specifically on the drainage aspect of the site. A letter was submitted on behalf of the Board highlighting concerns over contaminated water leaking from the plant that could pollute local watercourses and local farming operations.

Proposed change of use to form two residential dwellings at Bungalow Farm, Hollow Road, Ramsey Forty Foot – Mr R Meadow (MLC Ref Nos 170 & 177)

Further to the last meeting report the original Prior Approval - Agricultural to Dwellings planning application, for two dwellings (MLC Ref No 170) was withdrawn in July.

A further application, for a single residence (MLC Ref No 177), was submitted to the District Council in August and was granted permission in October.

Proposed residential development site at Meadow Lane, Bury – Client of RPS Group (MLC Ref No 172) and Abbey Properties Cambs Ltd & The Ramsey Club Company Ltd (MLC Ref No 180)

Further to the last meeting report, a planning application was submitted to the District Council for a thirty eight plot development in November.

A detailed assessment has not been undertaken but it is noted that the Flood Risk Assessment Ref. HLEF58837/001R Dated October 2018 submitted to the District Council states that an initial investigation of the site concluded that clay predominantly underlies the topsoil. However, it goes on to explain that a hybrid Sustainable Drainage Solution could utilise “.... permeable paving lined with an impermeable membrane are proposed to convey surface water run off to 3 underground attenuation tanks located underneath the central access road.” The document includes “standard” text in respect of maintenance regimes but does not identify who will be responsible for the long-term funding, management and maintenance arrangements for the upkeep of the facilities in perpetuity.

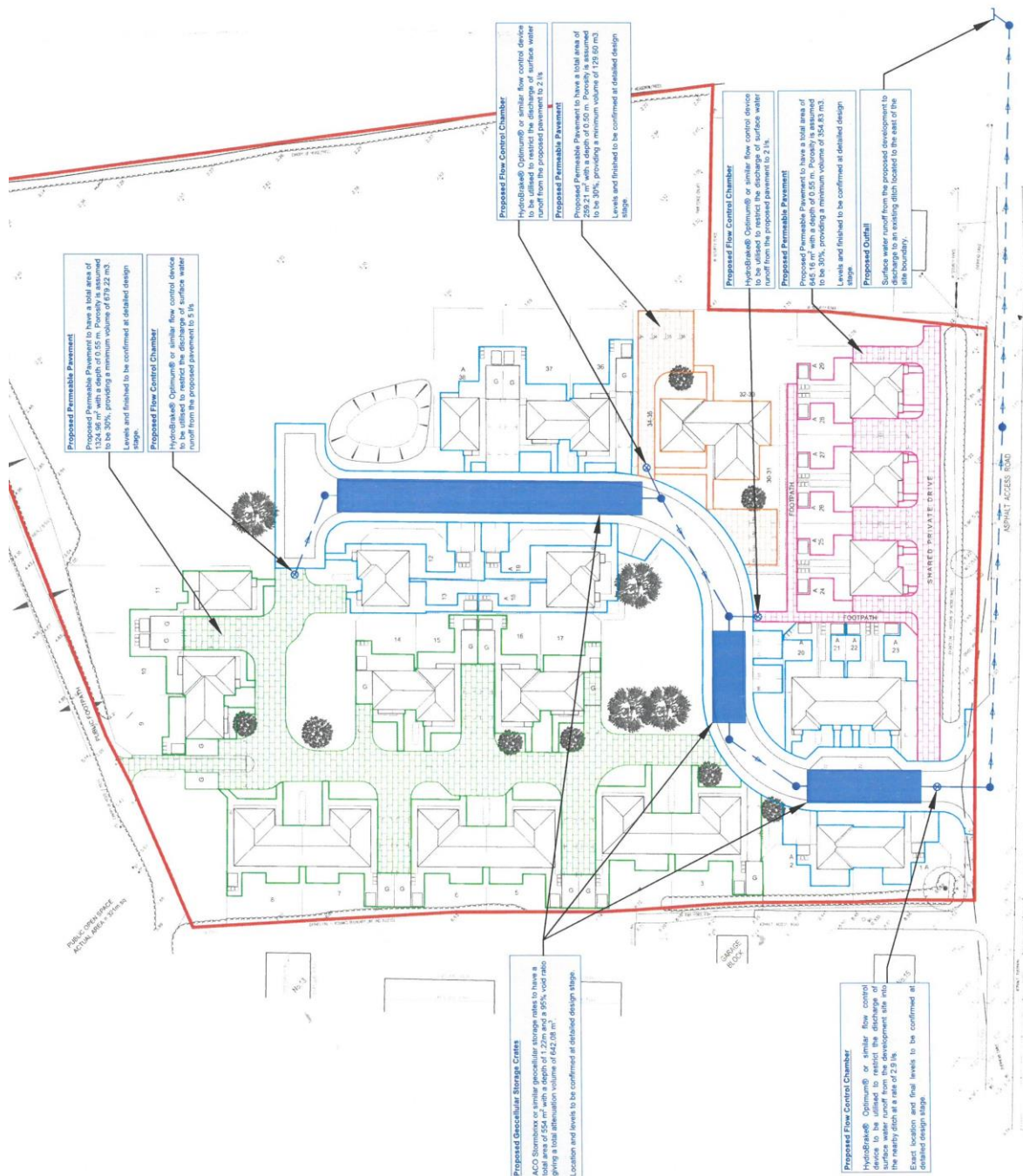
Following the provision of additional supporting information the County Council, in its role as the LLFA, removed its objection to the development in principle subject to the imposition of relevant conditions in its response to the District Council.

However, the Board is reminded that whilst the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows, will be in agreement.

It is understood that a decision by the District Council is pending.

With the exception of some initial contact in 2018, to date, the applicant; its agent and engineering consultant, RPS Planning & Environment, have not contacted the Board to enquire whether this approach is acceptable or would be approved should the proposal proceed. An application for discharge consent, has not been received.

Members will be aware of the problems in the area and are reminded that no increase in rates or volumes of flow will be consented by the Board as this is likely to have detrimental consequences.



Extract from RPS Planning & Environments Conceptual Surface Water Drainage Layout Drawing No. HLEF58837-D001 Rev. A

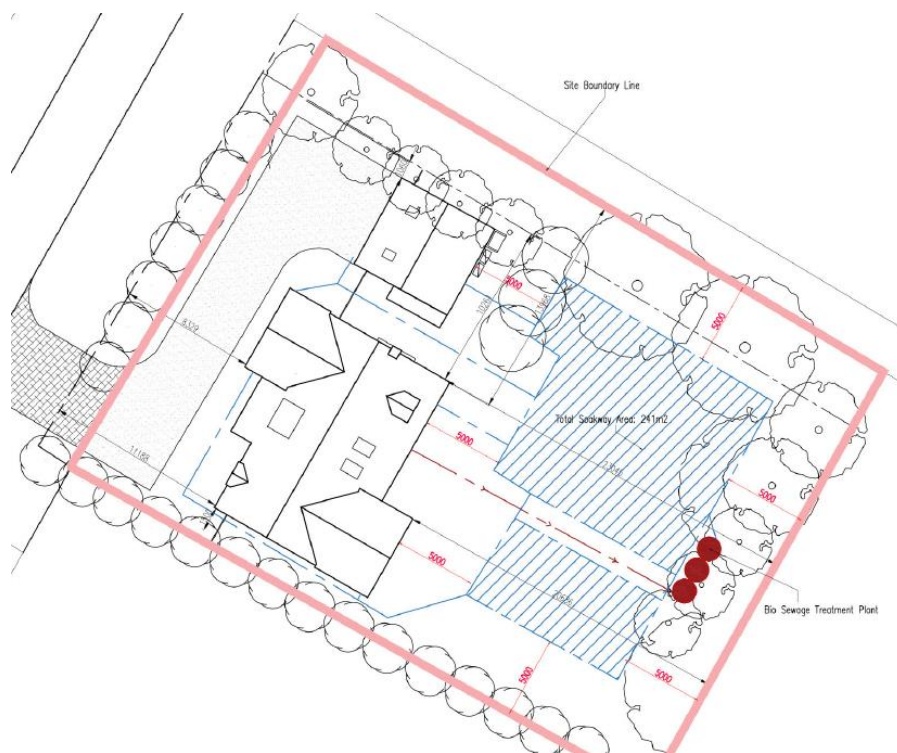
Therefore, in order to resolve this matter and guide further discussions it would be beneficial to receive the Board’s opinion, further instruction and approval to initially write to the parties concerned in order to resolve this potential issue.

Creation of replacement dwelling and double garage/workshop at Hadley, The Hollow, Ramsey – Mr M Jones & Mr S Evers (MLC Ref No 176)

A planning application was submitted to the District Council in August.

Following an initial enquiry, the applicants' agent, CB Architects, submitted a completed Infiltration Device self-certification form. Unfortunately, the proposal exceeds the maximum size of development covered by this process and it was, therefore, not accepted. The applicants were notified and advised of their alternative options in December but no further correspondence has been received.

The planning application was approved in early December.



Extract from CB Architects Drawing RAM/CB/18/04

Therefore, in order to resolve this matter and guide further discussions it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion, further instruction and approval to initially write to the parties concerned in order to resolve this potential issue.

Development Contributions

Contributions received in respect of discharge consent will be reported under the Agenda Item – ‘Contributions from Developers.’

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)

The final report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER), prepared by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Commission ([CPIEC](#)) was published in September.

Jointly funded by the CPCA and Cambridge Ahead the report sets out how the CPIEC considers the area can sustain its own economy and support the UK economy whilst providing a better and more fulfilling way of life for the people who live and work in this area and details how this should be achieved, with fourteen key recommendations, and another thirteen subsidiary recommendations. Some of the suggested actions will be difficult to implement requiring close collaboration between leading institutions in the area, this is likely to include the relevant RMAs including the Commissioners and associated Boards, who will be needed to deliver them effectively.

Issues considered relevant to our interests include the following:

General

- a) The success of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a project of national importance.
- b) The Government should recognise the benefits further devolution to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough would bring

Flood Risk and Water Level Management

- a) The area has not been subject to dramatic flooding events in recent years, which can mean the issue is paid little attention.
- b) Flood risk infrastructure should be considered enabling infrastructure, in that it allows a great deal of economic activity to happen in the first place (land being the most fundamental of all the economic factors of production).
- c) In the fens, water has an especially significant effect on the local economy with much of the area classified by the EA as being in flood zone 3 and this presents challenges to local economic development. Finding solutions to this problem is likely to have to happen little by little, with the finer points of detail being worked through with the EA, Anglian Water, and others. Wisbech should be seen as a UK testbed for new flood-resistant approaches to development, and levels of investment in flood defence infrastructure should be substantially increased.
- d) It is estimated that during a serious drought scenario, England could face £1.3billion of lost economic activity every day.
- e) A requirement of 110l per person per day should be enforced in water stressed areas, and that in future councils should have the power to enforce 80l per person per day requirements for new developments where appropriate.

The Environment

NB. 'Natural capital' refers to the stock of living ('biodiversity') and non-living (eg minerals, water) resources that interact and provide a flow of services ('ecosystem services') upon which society depends. Some of these services are delivered locally, others may have national or international value. All other capitals (human, social, intellectual, manufactured, financial) are ultimately underpinned by natural capital.

- a) Climate change is already having a damaging effect on biodiversity and could put a strain on the water supply.
- b) Within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, most districts were put into the middle band for levels of natural capital, although fenland (perhaps unsurprisingly) scores highly on this measure.
- c) The fens must also be considered as one of the UK's greatest natural assets with a rich wetland ecosystem which affords great leisure opportunities. The value of this natural capital must not be overlooked.

Economic Growth

- a) The Commission reached the conclusion that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area is not one, but three economies, the Greater Cambridge area, which includes Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire, and parts of Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire; the Greater Peterborough area, the area around Peterborough; and the fens but should function significantly more as a single area than it does at present. This ought to be feasible whilst being compatible with each part of the Combined Authority area retaining its distinctive sense of place.
- b) A distinguishing feature of the whole area is how strongly it continues to grow outpacing both the East of England and UK over the last decade. This has been driven primarily, but not entirely, by rapid business creation and growth in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, where knowledge-intensive sectors are strongly clustered, densifying and highly dependent on their location.
- c) Evidence from the review identifies that both employment and turnover growth have been picking up right across the area. Employment growth has seen strong growth numbers in all districts but has been highest in East Cambridgeshire. Looking at growth rates in the global turnover of companies based in the area between 2010/11-2016/17 all six districts have seen turnover growth of over 2% per annum. In South Cambridgeshire this rises to over 10% per annum, which shows impressive company growth.

- d) Many very large firms, such as McCain and Del Monte, have plants in the north-east of the county and export from here around the world. Figures show that primary sectors constitute 24% of East Cambridgeshire's turnover, and 17% of Fenland's with Wholesale and Retail Distribution making up 33% of Fenland's turnover, and 28% of South Cambridgeshire's.
- e) The Netherlands, which has similar prevailing conditions to the fens but produces much higher-value agricultural goods, should be seen as an exemplar.
- f) Laws governing planning permission may impede business growth.
- g) It is very important to support the growth of market towns.
- h) There is a need for companies to invest in their employees.
- i) There is potential for greater commercial office development, particularly in Peterborough.

Housing

- a) To account for the fact that actual delivery of housing has been less than previously predicted and if employment growth continues to be significantly above what is forecast it might be necessary to build in the range of 6,000 – 8,000 houses per year over the next 20 years.
- b) In some areas, particularly in the north of Cambridgeshire, house prices are too low to make sufficient profit from development, rendering them unviable.
- c) There is positive evidence that ecological considerations are being taken seriously in new developments, with the new Eddington District in Cambridge being a notable example. Eddington reuses surface level water, reducing wastage and minimising flood risk.

Infrastructure

- a) Utilities underpin all economic activity, and there are areas of concern, particularly regarding electricity capacity. The government has committed to banning new diesel and petrol vehicles from 2040, but if it is envisioned that these will be replaced by electric vehicles, substantial levels of investment into upgrading the grid will be needed.

- b) The importance that flood defence infrastructure and the equally clear stresses upon water in one of the UK's driest counties are recognised.
- c) The level of the infrastructure of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been inadequate for too long. The growth seen in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire seems very unlikely to be sustained in the future without further and significant investment in infrastructure.
- d) A package of transport and other infrastructure projects to alleviate the growing pains of Greater Cambridge should be considered the single most important infrastructure priority facing the Combined Authority in the short to medium term. These should include the use of better digital technology to enable more efficient use of current transport resources.

Projects that seem likely to further this aim are the full dualling of the A47, better connecting the Peterborough economy to the Fenland economy; the A10, better connecting the Cambridge economy to the Fenland economy; and improvements to rail between Peterborough and Cambridge, particularly the Ely North junction thus better connecting all three economies.

- e) There should be greater awareness of potential supply chains and scope for collaboration within the region.
- f) It was suggested that several elements were needed to underpin the approach to financing infrastructure:
 - An Investment Fund should be created to execute priorities which leverages third party resources, meaning a sustainable momentum can be achieved by the prudent use of public resources (from both local and central government)
 - An Investment Pipeline should be established showing what is feasible to be delivered over a three, five, and ten-year period
 - A Mayoral Development Platform (such as a development corporation) is needed to facilitate and support development in collaboration with the private sector (investors and developers) and wherever practicable the community in which development takes place.

- Relevant RMAs possibly including the Commissioners and associated Boards may be asked to contribute to these.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Local Plan to 2036

Proposed Main Modifications Consultation

Public examination hearings were held on the Huntingdonshire Local Plan Proposed Submission between 17-20 July and 10-27 September 2018. Following this, proposed main modifications were identified by the Planning Inspector as necessary to make the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 'sound' and 'legally compliant'. Consultation on the proposed main modifications and associated sustainability appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment ran from 10 December 2018 to 29 January 2019.

A generic response to the Planning Inspectorate's Main Modifications was submitted to the District Council on behalf of both the Commissioners and our associated Boards, for whom we provide a planning consultancy service.

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)

Public Consultation on the Draft Cambridgeshire Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) document

No further correspondence has been received in respect of this document.

Consultation on the proposed 2019 revision of the Local Validation Guidance List & Local Validation Check List for planning applications for the County Council's own development & for waste development

A Public Consultation on the proposed 2019 revision of the Local Validation Guidance List and Local Validation Check List for planning applications for the County Council's own development and for waste development was held from 28 February until 11 April.

The consultation responses received as part of the consultation have been taken into consideration, by the County Council and some additional revisions have made to the proposed Validation List and Guidance Notes which will be presented to the Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 16 May to seek approval for the revisions.

A response was submitted to the County Council on behalf of both the Commissioners and our associated Boards, for whom we provide a planning consultancy service. It was pleasing to note the inclusion of the Middle Level Biodiversity Manual (2016) and the reference and a link to our "Planning Advice and Consent Documents"

Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP)

The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer has represented both the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards since the last Board meeting. The main matters that may be of interest to the Board are as follows:

Quarterly Meetings

The most recent meeting was a joint meeting held with the Peterborough Flood & Water Management Partnership (PFLoW) of which the MLC are also a partner. The number of meetings held each year may reduce from four to three.

Flood risk activities: environmental permits (formerly flood defence consents)

The Environment Agency's (EA) new Environmental Permitting Charging Scheme can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-charging-scheme>. Early engagement with the EA is recommended as a slight redesign of the proposal may reduce the fees required.

Riparian Responsibilities

There has been discussion about issues concerning land owner's responsibilities on riparian "private" watercourses and the amount of time and resources that are taken up by various RMAs, including the Board, in dealing with riparian issues.

It was suggested that a recommendation be made to the RFCC. The options being considered are to do nothing; seek Government Support; or undertake an awareness campaign in the Public Domain with The Law Society, Local Government members etc. It is accepted by the partner members that some initial investment in time and resources may be required to progress these items further.

Discussions included the "Owning a watercourse" webpage, which replaced the Living on the Edge booklet, this is considered to be a backward step as the information that can be presented on the .gov.uk website is very limited.

The webpage can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>.

Hedge and Ditch Rule

Following a problem in the area covered by the Ely Group of IDBs this "common law" ruling that is mainly used to determine boundaries disputes and the requirements of the Land Drainage Act, notably Section 25, is currently being discussed with various parties including the former Commissioners' and Boards' Clerk, Iain Smith.

The latest ruling which dates to 2015 can be downloaded from the Mills and Reeve website, which can be found at <https://www.mills-reeve.com/boundaries-and-the-hedge-and-ditch-rule-12-07-2015/>

Bank Instability - Environment Agency (EA)/IDB approach

The EA and IDBs advised on their respective position in respect of reinstating channels that have failed. These are largely the same but due to cost constraints the EA now only stabilises channels where there are raised embankments.

For Award Drains the wording of the Award needs to be considered. Some refer to the landowner and not the Authority concerned.

IDB & LLFA Planning Process

An update was given on the LLFA's discussions with North Level and District IDB, the Ely Group and the Middle Level Commissioners in order to attain a collective approach where possible.

However, it was explained that all three authorities have different approaches to some items and that any discussions with the planning authorities and agents may be iterative.

The LLFA/AWSL/MLC Liaison meeting was briefly discussed. The EA expressed an interest in joining this group.

Emergency Planning & Response

A draft flooding newspaper article and a flood call questions template, for completion by reception staff when receiving a flooding related call, is currently being prepared by a member of the Flood & Water team.

Skills & Apprenticeships

The Government is promoting the use of Apprenticeships and it is noted that many authorities are using these in preference to other forms of training.

It is understood that the EA, together with other partners, is developing a new Apprenticeship Standard for Water Environment Workers in England. This aims to support the training and development of workers who carry out operational activities in organisations where there is a responsibility to manage the impact of water environments, natural or manmade, on the land and surrounding businesses and homes. The water environment includes rivers, coasts (the sea), lakes, wetlands, canals and reservoirs.

County Council Public Sector Services

In addition to undertaking its role the group was advised that the Flood & Water Team may be extending its service to another County Council. The Commissioners' Planning Engineer has raised concerns with the County Council's Flood Risk and Biodiversity Business Manager about the potential deterioration of service within Cambridgeshire as a result.

RMA support & the Delivery of projects

Following concerns raised by IDBs and other RMAs the EA Local Levy is funding two LLFA and IDB Flood Risk Advisors who have been recruited to assist in the delivery of projects. Based at Ely they are the Commissioners'/Boards' point of contact in respect of FDGiA funding.

Initial meetings with the relevant advisor and the MLC staff have occurred.

RMA's Medium Term Programmes (MTP)

The RFCC has expressed a keen interest in knowing more about the different projects that partners in Cambridgeshire have put forward to the MTP for FDGiA. This is in part because the RFCC wants us to all understand each other's projects better. They would particularly like it if the RFCC Member Councillors for each County were familiar with all of the projects in their area and were able to champion them, not just the ones from their own organisation.

Therefore, the various relevant RMAs will be making presentations at Partnership meetings. As a result, as the largest promoter of such projects within Cambridgeshire, a presentation on the MTP prepared by the Middle Level Commissioners and its associated Boards has been made to the Partnership.

Rain Gauges

The Rain Gauge Network Project is progressing with the installation of gauges being undertaken in the next financial year.

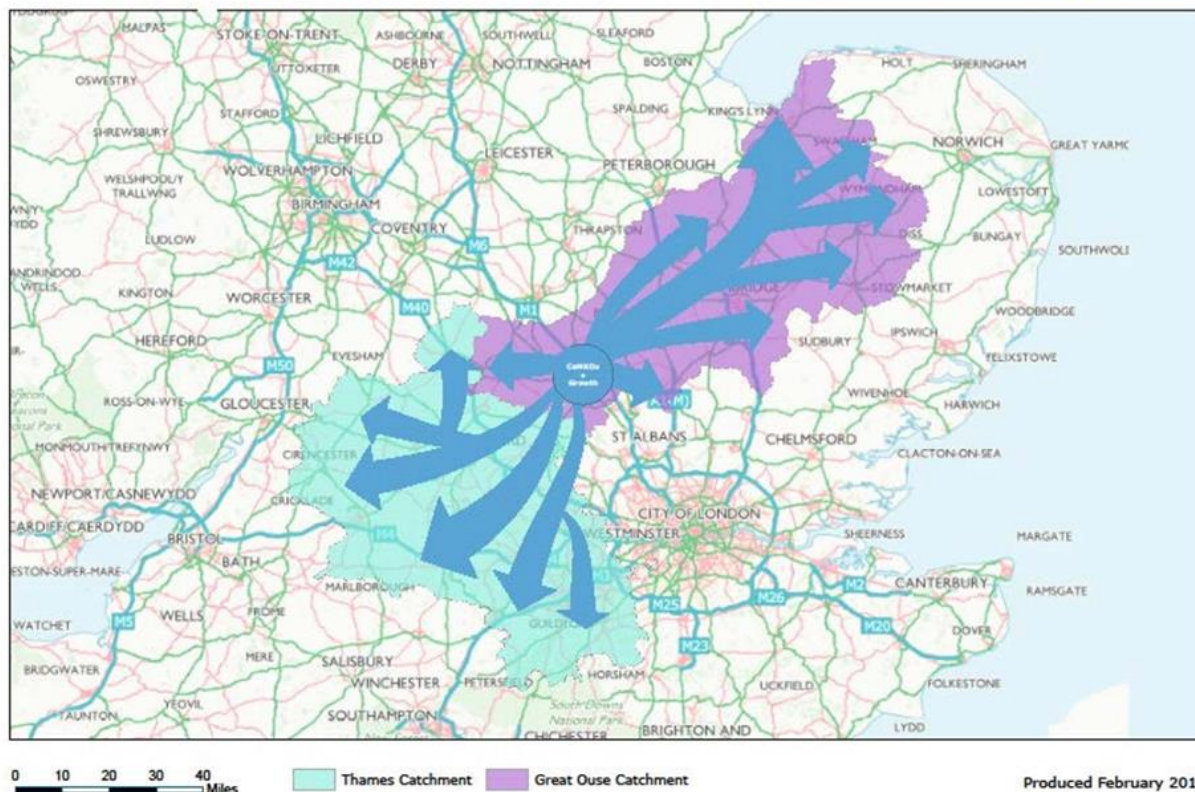
Update on RFCC's Growth Work

In order to accommodate the projected "growth", 500,000 new homes within the Cambridge – Milton Keynes - Oxford (CaMKOx) arc, within the Great Ouse Catchment five Local Choices papers are currently being prepared on The Upstream Great Ouse Catchment, these will investigate the following:

- (i) Potential storage;
- (ii) Conveyance Study of the Main rivers to Denver Sluice, (this will investigate pinch points, silt deposition etc);
- (iii) A Modelling Workshop, (to use existing models as work needs to be completed now);

- (iv) An Economic Assessment, (this will include an assessment of Cost/Benefits and what it does to prevent flooding); and
- (v) The Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway Link, (which will investigate potential benefits, water transfer/resources of the proposed new waterway between Kempston and the Grand Union Canal).

Cambridge - Milton Keynes - Oxford (CaMKOx) : Growth Corridor
Catchment of River Thames and River Great Ouse



The EA is looking for RMA involvement in the production of these papers.

Flood Risk Management Trainees

As part of closer partnership working, training has been given to junior members of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council staff and an undergraduate studying for a FRM degree under the EA foundation scheme. The main purpose of the training was to give the candidates a better and broader understanding of water level and flood risk management and also how the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards/Commissioners operate.

Feedback from both the candidates and internally has been positive and it is hoped that this opportunity can be offered again when the occasion arises.

One of the trainees wrote an article which was published in the Winter 2018 edition of the ADA Gazette. The article can be found at

<http://flickread.com/edition/html/index.php?pdf=5c101ead23d6e#13>

IDB Good Governance Guide/East Ridings of Yorkshire Council Guide

Matters raised by the East Ridings of Yorkshire Council, who had governance concerns over IDBs within its area of jurisdiction, were briefly discussed.

It is understood that correspondence was copied to all LLFAs and that Cllr Steve Count (Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council) provided a response which advised that the County Council had good partnerships with IDBs in the County.

ADA has subsequently launched its Good Governance for IDB Members guide at the ADA Conference which is primarily aimed at new Board members. Five workshops were held during March and April.

Further details on the guide and the workshops can be found at the following link

<https://www.ada.org.uk/2018/11/ada-publishes-guide-to-good-governance-for-internal-drainage-board-members/>

The EA's 2018 Flood Action Campaign

Research undertaken by the EA in conjunction with the Red Cross reveals that most 18-34 year olds do not know what to do in a flood. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-most-at-risk-in-a-flood-warns-environment-agency-british-red-cross>

Highways England (HE) Environmental Designated Funds (Legacy funding)

This is one of five funds provided by HE associated with the Strategic Road Network – A1, A14, A47 etc., the others being Cycling, safety and integration, Air Quality, Innovation and Growth and Housing.

The potential environmental funding is available for the following areas noise, water, carbon, landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage and, therefore, could include flooding, pollution, water framework directive and biodiversity projects associated with the Strategic Road Network – A1, A14, A47 etc. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/highways-england-designated-funds>

This method of funding is being utilised by the following RMAs on the projects below:

(a) Environment Agency

Beck Brook at Girton - Legacy Fund and Local Levy match funding is being used to assist a flood alleviation scheme that was unable to achieve GiA.

Borrow Pits at Fenstanton – A potential flood alleviation scheme may be able to use Legacy funding.

(b) Cambridgeshire County Council

Bar Hill – Legacy funding for a potential £64k scheme.

Histon/Impington culvert replacement – The Legacy funding contribution is possible due to the site's close location to the A14.

Fenland Flooding Issues Sub-group

A meeting was held in April and there are currently no known issues within the Board's catchment.

Flood Risk Management (FRM) for the Fens Technical Group [previously reported as the Future Fenland Project]

The EA has recently commenced the FRM for the Fens Project to determine the best way of managing future flood risk. As a result a technical group has been formed, including representation from the Middle Level Commissioners.

The project was discussed at the EAs Large Projects Review Group (LPRG) meeting in November. The LPRG stated that all partners who seek future Flood Risk Management Grant-in-Aid (GiA) funding but do not share its data for the Baseline Report are likely to be denied, or capped to 45%, as they will not be able to demonstrate a strategic approach.

The project is currently at the data collection stage and details of the Board's system and any hydraulic models are being collated to inform the successful consultant, who will be appointed to progress Phase 1 of the project.

A letter from the EA has been issued to the Chairman and a copy follows for your information. This included a copy of the "elevator pitch", used by the EA to provide some background to the project. Please note that the extent of the geographical area shown has recently been amended.

Consulting Engineer

14 June 2019

creating a better place
for people and wildlife



Letter to Chairman
Internal Drainage Boards
Middle Level Offices
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambs
PE15 0AH

Our ref: ENV0000678C
Your ref
Date: 15 January 2019

Dear Chairman

Flood Risk Management for the Fens

Between Local Internal Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency, we are modern day custodians of arguably the richest legacies of flood risk and drainage management in the country. I am sure you and your Board are really proud, like I am, to have a responsibility for critical infrastructure within a landscape that is hugely important for the economy, communities, food, farming and the natural environment.

The future of the Great Ouse Fens is something I am passionate about and with IDB clerks and engineers we are starting a partnership and collaborative approach to their future flood management. This letter summarises where we are and some of the important steps ahead. We really need your ideas, enthusiasm, advocacy, support and knowledge about this fantastic part of the country.

In recent years flood and drainage management in the Fens has been undertaken in somewhat of a piecemeal approach and reactive manner. With climate change projections and many of our assets coming to the end of their design life, we now collectively need to take a more strategic and long term approach. This will enable us all to maximise financial leverage and present a stronger more considered investment case to funding bodies.

Flood risk management for the Fens is a project set up to consider what the future flood risk management choices for the Great Ouse Fens could look like. This will help us develop a strategic approach together that will underpin and frame all flood and coastal risk management investment in the Fens moving forward. This is a key requirement of Defra's partnership funding policy (see attached note).

The attached document provides further details about the project, including the details of those flood risk management organisations involved in the Technical Group. David will hopefully have already briefed you on this work and will be your primary engagement link as the project moves forward.

customer service line 03708 506 506
gov.uk/environment-agency

Supported by the Anglian (Central) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee and with the help of the Technical Group, we have recently secured a funding package and obtained financial approval for Phase 1 of the project. The main products of this phase includes:

- A baseline report to gain a shared understanding of all land drainage and flood risk management assets, the economics, government grant eligibility level and partnership funding challenge for all sources of flooding. *This will be presented in a similar way to the Great Ouse Tidal River Baseline Report (we can provide a copy if you don't already have one) Anticipated delivery date Feb 2020.*
- Visualisation tools to showcase the findings of the baseline report in a way that informs and excites a wide variety of audiences. *Anticipated delivery date late 2020 after the baseline report to share key messages from the report.*

For Phase 1 we have not sought financial contributions from individual IDBs within the Great Ouse Fens, however the success of the work and effective use of the funding we have secured is hugely dependent upon the timely provision of asset and financial data from all Risk Management Authorities. Since July 2018, we have been working as part of the Technical Group on the specification and provision of this data.

We are aiming to appoint consultants for Phase 1 by early February 2019 and we are keen to have this data before then. Therefore it is vital that we have your support in helping your clerks and engineers to provide this information in a timely manner and by the 21 January 2019.

This will enable the project to move forward efficiently avoiding abortive costs, and help us to continue to support your IDB in seeking FCRM Grant in Aid (GiA) for individual investments. If we have gaps or deficiencies in the data then we will not be developing a strategic approach and are unlikely to be successful in maximising FCRM GiA funding for future projects.

Alongside Phase 1 we also collectively need to start to plan for Phase 2 of this work. Phase 2 is likely to start in approximately 5 years' time and most likely be a strategic options appraisal, to identify the choices for medium and long term flood risk management in the Fens.

Amongst the many benefits of this work, it will help us all better inform, influence and justify the source, nature and levels of funding required to

evolve and manage flood and drainage infrastructure over the medium and long term. The scope and governance arrangements for Phase 2 will all need to be developed and agreed collaboratively and there is no presumption that the Environment Agency will lead.

Initial estimates from similar projects are that Phase 2 may cost in the region of £10 million to £15 million, and significant levels of partnership funding will be needed to be sourced to unlock and complement FCRM GiA. Therefore an investment strategy will be developed in parallel to Phase 1. Your Board may want to consider sooner rather than later how they choose to plan for this.

In the short term, whilst the strategic work is progressing, we all still need to continue to invest in the flood and drainage infrastructure within the Fens, without prejudicing any medium and long term choices. To frame this and support investment decision making in being as effective and efficient as possible, through the Technical Group we are also developing tactical plans for the Fens. These are looking at how we apportion benefits across respective infrastructure and apply these to upcoming investments. Once these are ready it may be useful to present to your Board.

It is a really interesting and exciting time with all this work. I hope you and your Board are supportive of the approach. If you have any questions or would like further information then please contact David, myself or our Project Executive, Claire Bell (Claire.Bell@Environment-Agency.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



Flood & Coastal Risk Manager for East Anglia Area (Great Ouse catchment inc North West Norfolk coast)

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The Strategic Approach for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Projects

Supplementary Local Guidance Version 1

In both Defra Policy Statements (Appraisal of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management June 2009 and Partnership Funding May 2011) demonstrating and evidencing a strategic approach to flood or coastal erosion risk is a requirement for every project, to ensure value for money for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA).

Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) and Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) form the large scale holistic view of risk management requirements at the catchment or coastal process scale, beneath which more detailed strategies, and the local scale risk management activities should be developed.

Primarily, all schemes seeking FCERM GiA allocation should be in line with or compliment any overarching strategic plan such, for example, the Great Ouse CFMP.

“SMPs or CFMPs will have collected information on the economic, environmental and social assets at risk, the defences or coast protection works that are in place and identified preferred policies. The SMP or CFMP will also have engaged with stakeholders and you may be able to draw some information from the results. Early links need to be made with SMPs or CFMPs and strategies (where applicable) as they may have already identified key issues and broad solutions (in CFMPs these are called generic responses). It is essential to link the problem back to the policy as defined in the SMP or CFMP (and for schemes, to the description of the strategy, where available) to ensure continuity is not lost. Any conflicts between the description of the problem for your project and the recommendation of the SMP or CFMP (or strategy) will need to be highlighted and reconciled before you can progress further.” - Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Appraisal Guidance, 2010.

The meaning of a ‘strategic approach’ is described throughout the FCERM Appraisal Guidance, March 2010, mainly in Chapter 3. It needs to include consideration of wider factors such as the economic, environmental, recreational and social factors that may affect or be affected by the proposed investment opportunity. These wider factors will then subsequently influence the selection of investment options to manage or mitigate the flood or coastal erosion risks. At the early stages of appraisal a wide range and broad portfolio of options should be identified, such as a change in pumping regimes, storage options and combining flood cells and assets for example. These options should be appropriate to the scale and type of project being undertaken.

Any strategic evaluation should be done as early as possible when planning a FCERM project. Findings should be evidenced within the business case, however, as this is produced much later than the initial project submission is submitted to the Environment Agency (through PAFS) it may be required that evidence of a strategic approach be made available to the Environment Agency on request in advance of the programme refresh. Failure to submit such evidence on request, will result in the maximum grant rate for the scheme being reduced to 45%.

“Where there is not a clear strategic approach setting out how benefits are apportioned to individual investments within a system of assets, the maximum grant rate allowable will be reduced to 45%. This means that all risk management authorities, including internal drainage boards, could receive up to 100% grant levels. The reduced grant rate, relevant for all risk management authorities, helps preserve value for money in cases where investments may only score well because benefits are being double-counted.” – Partnership Funding Policy 2011

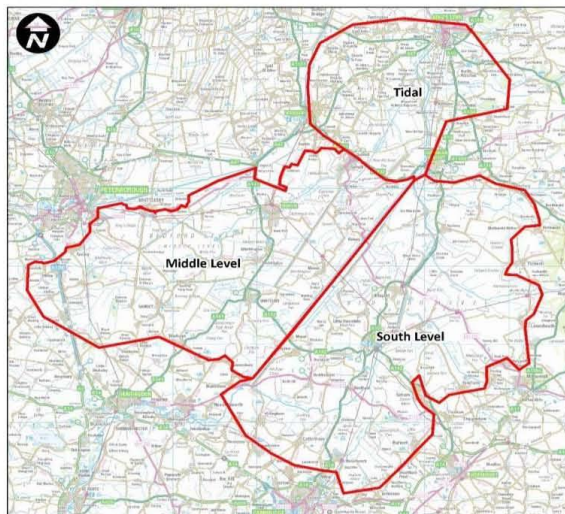
It is understood that there is a significant variation in the types of schemes which may be eligible for FCERM GiA funding. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that the attention given to investigating a strategic approach should be proportional to the size of the scheme. Therefore, for smaller schemes (affecting a lower number of outcome measures and/or seeking a smaller sum of funding) a discussion of how a scheme aligns with a strategic approach may suffice. This could be evidenced, for example in notes accompanying a PAFS submission or captured within meeting minutes held in the early planning stages. Similarly, a larger scheme will require a more substantial demonstration. Any such scheme should be able to include, or reference any strategic analysis prior to PAFS submission or annual programme refresh.

This guidance reinforces the Defra Policy Statements ([Appraisal of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management June 2009](#) and [Partnership Funding May 2011](#)), if these National policies change in the future, this guidance will be amended accordingly.

Flood risk management for the Fens – planning together for a sustainable flood risk future

'Flood risk management for the Fens' is a project that has been set up to plan the best way of managing future flood risk in the Great Ouse Fen Area. We are currently in the **first phase** of this project which is developing a shared understanding of the situation and challenges for managing flood risk (from all sources) in the Fens.

A Technical Group (TG) has been formed of organisations (see below) who have **flood risk assets**, or represent those with assets, in the geographical area that has been defined as the Great Ouse Fens.



We are **working together** to set out all the data about flood risk in the area outlined – defining who is managing flood risk, asset maintenance costs and potential available Flood Risk Management Grant in Aid (Government funding). This will identify any difference in **investment needs versus available funding**.

The most important outcome for the first phase of work is for the TG to have a **shared understanding** of the issues and challenges for managing flood risk in the Fens, and to have a **shared ownership** for taking action to overcome these issues.

Pressures on the Fens will come from many sources including, for example, climate change causing sea level rise affecting the Tidal River and the systems discharging into it, and catchment pressures from housing and infrastructure growth.

Following this initial data gathering phase, which we hope to complete in the next 18-24 months, we will produce a **joint project plan** for the next phase of work. The outcome of Phase 2 will be to produce a jointly owned strategic plan reviewing all options that could manage flood risk in the Fens, taking in to account climate change and sea level rise and recommending actions that will be the best/ most appropriate way of managing flood risk in the Fens over the next 50-100 years.

The TG will work closely with the Environment Agency's Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Partnerships and Strategic Overview Team who are progressing a similar project for the Lincolnshire Fens, but at different timescales.

The TG understands that there are **many different areas of interest** within the Fens, and a lot of groups and individuals will be interested in the work of the project.

At this stage in the project, there is a very **strong focus on the flood risk management challenges** – specifically focusing on current flood risk management assets. We will keep interested stakeholders updated with the progress of this stage of the project and **our work will be overseen by the Anglian Central Regional Flood and Coastal Committee**.

The TG is aware of the importance of linking Phase 1 outputs to other projects shaping the future of the Fens landscape.

Flood risk management for the Fens Project

Phase 1
Data gathering and collective ownership

Phase 2
High level action plan / strategy

Phase 3 onwards
Phased action plans



Members discussed the possibility of incorporating a Fuel Loss Alarm System into the telemetry and concluded that this would not assist with the prevention of theft as there would be a delay between receiving the text message and arriving on site, by which time any theft would have already occurred.

The Chairman advised that the Board did investigate electrifying the fence, but this would have cost approximately £27,000. He also confirmed that installation of CCTV would not work as the cameras could not be elevated high enough to prevent them from being disarmed.

The Chairman confirmed that, to date, there had been two incidents of fuel theft and both insurance claims had been settled by the insurers.

Members requested that the Consulting Engineers advise on the level of monitoring carried out by the Middle Level Commissioners and for the Clerk to enquire of the insurers of any actions that could be taken by the Board to limit the risk of theft enough to satisfy the insurers, so as to ensure that any theft claims continue to be settled.

Miss Ablett referred Members to a number of applications where, following the Consulting Engineer's initial response, no further correspondence had been received from the applicants and enquired whether the Board wished the Planning Engineer to contact the applicant and their agents.

Miss Ablett referred to the developments at Ramsey Leisure Centre (MLC Ref Nos 073, 078 & 179) and confirmed that planning permission had been granted by the District Council. She advised that neither the applicant nor its agent had contacted the Board to discuss the matters raised and an application for discharge consent had not been received. Miss Ablett enquired whether the Board wished the Planning Engineer to write to all parties concerned in order to resolve the issue.

Miss Ablett advised that, apart from some initial contact in 2018, regarding the proposed residential development site at Meadow Lane, Bury (MLC Ref Nos 172 & 180), neither the applicant, its agent nor consultant had contacted the Board to discuss the matter and an application for discharge consent had not been received. She enquired whether the Board wished the Planning Engineer to write to all parties concerned in order to resolve the issue.

With regards to the creation of a replacement dwelling and double garage/workshop at The Hollow, Ramsey (MLC Ref No 176), Miss Ablett reported that the Consulting Engineers had advised the applicant that the proposal put forward exceeded the maximum size of development covered by self certification for an infiltration device and, despite being advised of alternative options, no further correspondence had been received. Miss Ablett enquired whether the Board wished the Planning Engineer to write to all parties concerned in order to resolve the issue.

b) Consideration was given to the option of the pump attendant obtaining the relevant certificates in order to carry out the Board's spraying works.

The Chairman reported that the Board's employee had advised that he was unable to spray the area around the pump as he did not hold the relevant Certificate PA6 and was therefore not qualified to do so. The Chairman advised that it would cost in the region of £400 for the pump attendant to obtain the required certificate, which would be necessary, in view of health and safety regulations, if the Board were to carry out the spraying rather than use the services of a contractor. He enquired whether the Board wished to pay for the training or pay for the Middle Level Commissioners to do the work.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance
That the maintenance works contained in the Report be undertaken.
- iii) That the Chairman be authorised to arrange the training course for the Pump Attendant.
- iv) That the Consulting Engineer advise the Chairman of the monitoring of fuel levels carried out by the Middle Level Commissioners.
- v) That the Clerk enquire of the insurers of any actions that could be taken by the Board to limit the risk of theft enough to satisfy the insurers, so as to ensure that any theft claims continue to be settled.
- vi) That the Consulting Engineers write a further letter to all applicants and their agents identified as not having responded to the Board's initial correspondence.
- vii) Developments at Ramsey Leisure Centre (MLC Ref Nos 073, 078 & 179) and Proposed Residential development site at Meadow Lane, Bury (MLC Ref Nos 172 & 180)

That the Consulting Engineers be requested to write to all parties concerned to resolve issues relating to the application and that a discharge consent application is required.

- viii) Creation of a replacement dwelling and double garage/workshop at The Hollow, Ramsey (MLC Ref No 176)

That the Consulting Engineers write to all parties concerned to resolve issues relating to the application.

(NB) – The District Officer and Mr J Armstrong declared interests in the planning application (MLC Ref No 130) for Three Fishes Farm Ltd.

B.860 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be approved in principle and kept under review.

B.861 District Officer's Report

The District Officer reported that all work had been carried out as planned and there had been no problems.

He confirmed that the batteries on the pump had been changed at a cost of approximately £300 and advised that if there was a power cut the batteries would last for 2-3 days. He advised that an electrical supply was required for the control panel and automatic weedscreen cleaner and

enquired whether the Board wished for him to obtain a further two batteries to be kept as spares, in view of this.

Members discussed whether solar panels could be installed on the roof in order to charge the batteries and it was agreed that the Consulting Engineers should be asked to investigate this further on behalf of the Board.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved and that the Officer be thanked for his services over the preceding year.
- ii) That the Consulting Engineers investigate whether solar panels could be fitted to the pumping station roof to charge the batteries, to enquire as to the cost of any installation and report back to the Chairman.
- iii) That the Chairman be authorised to purchase two additional batteries if solar panels could not be installed.

B.862 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss Ablett referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, dated December 2018, previously circulated to the Board.

The Board considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.863 District Labour

District Officer's Fee and Pumping Station Attendant's Wages

- a) The Board gave consideration to the District Officer's fee for 2019/2020.
- b) The Board gave consideration to the Pumping Station Attendant's wages for 2019/2020.

Miss Ablett referred to the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award indicator which was 3.00%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Board agree that the sum of £3,210 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2018/2019.
- ii) That the wages of the Pumping Station attendant be increased by 3.0% from 1st July 2019 as indicated on the Supplementary Schedule.
- iii) That, in future years, an increase in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award be made for the provision of the District Officer's fee and Pumping Station Attendant's wages.

(NB) – Mr C Armstrong declared a financial interest when this item was discussed.

B.864 State-aided Schemes

Consideration was given to the desirability of undertaking further State-aided Schemes in the District and whether any future proposals should be included in the capital forecasts provided to the Environment Agency.

Update on the EA grant-in-aid position

Miss Ablett reported that the EA undertook a 'refresh' of its grant allocation schedule and optimised it to increase the likelihood of meeting the government outcome measure targets. As part of this some schemes were deferred in favour of those which could be delivered within the next two years with certainty and the programme has, as a consequence, become financially oversubscribed. This effectively means that there will be little or no chance of receiving grant for any new schemes between now and 2021 (at the earliest). This date marks the end of the six-year funding commitment and whilst it is understood that the EA are pressing hard to have another six-year settlement and, if agreed to by treasury, for this to be larger than the previous one to help address the increasing investment required to tackle climate change driven impacts. At this point in time we do not know what will happen and changes could be made in any event to the funding model, what outcome targets are or the process of securing grant. What is clear is that the further ahead that IDBs collectively plan their investment needs the more likely whatever grant is available will be accessible by them.

Some members will recall that in 2009 asset surveys were carried out on all IDB pumping stations. As ten years has now passed it might be timely to revisit and update these to reflect any changes that might have occurred and for this updated information to be used to plan for future investment needs. Similarly, as it is five years since these assets were valued for insurance reasons, it is also considered worthwhile revising the rebuilding estimates to reflect construction cost inflation.

RESOLVED

- i) That no proposals be formulated at the present time.
- ii) That the Consulting Engineers be requested to undertake an asset survey.

B.865 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss Ablett reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2019/2020 in the sum of £6,266.34 (the precept for 2018/2019 being £5,968).

B.866 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

(a) Miss Ablett reported that the sum of £407.96 (£8,905.98 less £8,498.02 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2017/2018 together with the sum of £8,509.30 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2018/2019.

(b) Further to minute B.821(b), Miss Ablett referred to the discussions with the Environment Agency over the monies available to fund highland water claims.

RESOLVED

That the position be kept under review.

B.867 Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Subscriptions

Miss Ablett reported that it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% in 2019, viz:- from £542 to £553.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2019.

b) Future ADA Communications

Miss Ablett referred to a letter received from ADA dated 18th October 2018 and to the form included with the agenda.

In order to continue to receive communications from ADA in 2019, ADA required a completed form from each Member. The form could also be completed and returned electronically via the link at www.ada.org.uk/communications.

B.868 Contributions from Developers

Miss Ablett reported that contributions towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume have been received.

B.869 Health and Safety

Miss Ablett reported that at the autumn Middle Level and Associated Drainage Board's Chairs meeting, a request was made to seek to either take on an additional employee or employ a contractor to specifically support the Drainage Board's to help them meet their legal Health and Safety requirements and also deliver the specified requirements of the Board's insurers who are calling for evidence that appropriate measures are in place to manage Health and Safety.

Miss Ablett further reported that a letter had been sent to the Chairman on the 25th April advising that it had been agreed at the Chairs meeting to enter into a 3 year contract with Cope Safety Management with the annual payment being split between the Boards. Assuming all Boards joined the arrangement, she advised that the cost to the Board would be £200 per annum. However it was understood that particularly in the first year or so extra support may be needed and this could be provided at a day rate of £500 or at an hourly rate of £85 for part days.

Miss Ablett advised that the Chairman had confirmed that the Board wished to be included in the arrangement with Cope Safety Management.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman be approved.

B.870 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2017/2018

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.

B.871 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss Ablett referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2017/2018.

B.872 Budgeting

Miss Ablett referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

B.873 Review of Internal Controls

The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of Internal Controls.

B.874 Risk Management Assessment

- a) The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with their current Risk Management Policy.
- b) The Board reviewed the insured value of their buildings and considered having a professional revaluation of the Board's real estate assets, for insurance purposes.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Consulting Engineers be requested to re-visit the pumping station valuations.
- ii) That a professional revaluation of the Board's real estates was not required.

B.875 Exercise of Public Rights

Miss Ablett referred to the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual Return, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return.

B.876 Annual Governance Statement – 2018/2019

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2019.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

B.877 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £77,562.65 which had been made during the financial year 2018/2019.

(NB) – The District Officer declared an interest in the payment made to him.

B.878 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2018/2019

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2019 as required in the Audit Regulations.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

B.879 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2019/2020

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2019/2020 and were informed by Miss Ablett that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 93.39% and 6.61%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That the surplus raised in 2019/2020 be transferred to a Future Works Fund.
- iii) That a total sum of £67,331 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.
- iv) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are £62,877 and £4,454 respectively.
- v) That a rate of 26.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- vi) That a Special levy of £4,454 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vii) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).
- viii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.880 Display of rate notice

RESOLVED

That notice of the rate be affixed within the District in accordance with Section 48(3)(a) of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.881 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday the 25th June 2020.