

**Chief Executive's summary:**

The Middle Level Act required us to develop separate accounts for our navigation. Given the expectation and commitment made that income received from navigators would be nowhere near sufficient to cover costs, a simple approach to accounting expenditure has been employed in the early years of charging. The intention over the next couple of years is to mature our accounting to start to capture the wider MLC staff costs associated with our navigation authority role.

This year we have delivered three relatively major projects on the link route (Creek Fen boat removal, Salters Lode lock pen desilting & new d/s gates at Marmont Priory lock) all whilst dealing with the exceptional rainfall we've experienced this year. We have also started our delivery of link route facilities improvements with works planned at Stanground Lock that'll start in 2024/25.

Section 1: Income		
Middle Level Licence Fees, inc Anglian Pass	£209,990	The commitment within the passage of the Middle Level Act (2018) was to allocate 25% of annual gross income on provision of facilities on the link route between Stanground and Salters Lode locks until the IWA recommendations for facilities provision has been achieved
Visitor Licences	£3,245	
Sale of lock handles & keys	£1,257	
TOTAL INCOME	£214,492	
25% of licence income for Link Route Facilities	£53,309	

Section 2: Expenditure - Running costs		
Staff costs & overheads for dedicated Navigation staff	£58,997	Includes direct admin costs
Navigation administration	£27,274	Indirect staff time. To date a simple approach has been taken. Improved definition is planned.
Additional enforcement costs	£8,902	External solicitors fees
Boat removal	£7,586	Inc Creek Fen focussed effort
Professional fees	£0	
Customer engagement, promotion & marketing	£0	
Public safety assessments and measures	£12,700	Not an annual cost
New/replacement plant & equipment	£0	
Operation & maintenance of locks	£94,496	Includes Lock-keepers
Maintenance of channels for navigation	£134,547	Includes weed management
TOTAL	£344,501	

Income as a percentage of running costs	62 %
Income less link route commitment as a % of running costs	47 %

Section 3: Expenditure - Navigation improvements		
Structures	£104,297	Marmont Priory d/s gates, SL Lock desilting
Watercourses	£0	
Facilities (to meet IWA standards)	£5,358	MLC water point/mooring and initial prep for other facilities
TOTAL	£104,297	

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£448,798
Income as a percentage of all costs	48 %
Income less link route commitment as a % of all costs	36 %

Contribution from Middle Level Commissioners	£287,616	From agricultural ratepayers and special levies from District Councils
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Section 4: Middle Level Act - Link Route Facilities Commitment		
Income from 2023/24	£53,309	
Balance from previous years	£88,047	
Accrued interest in year	£1,393	
Expenditure in 2023/24	£5,358	
Available for allocation in future years	£137,390	

Paddling - Ringfenced Income		
Paddle UK/British Canoeing Income 2023/24	£2,500	2023/24 was Year 1 of an initial 3 year agreement with British Canoeing (now Paddle UK). We have agreed to ringfence the fee an invest in improved portage within our system.
Balance from previous years	£0	
Accrued interest in year	£0	
Canoe Foundation Grant	£1,672	A grant from the Canoe Foundation has also been awarded (not claimed yet) for 50% of the costs of portage at Stanground Lock for delivery in 2024/25.
Expenditure in 2023/24	£0	
Available for allocation in future years	£4,172	