Middle Level Commissioners

At a meeting of the Middle Level Board held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Wednesday 30th April 2025

Present

J Brown (Chair)
H Whittome (Vice-Chair)
P Allpress
R Brown
M Heading
M Latta
A Lensen
A Miscandlon
A Morris
S Whittome

Paul Burrows - Chief Executive, Nicola Oldfield - Chief Engineer, Andrew Wool – Head of Finance, Sofi Lloyd – Ecology & Environmental Services Manager and Ruth Martin – Lead Clerk (minutes) were also in attendance.

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from: D Boughton, C Crofts, D Langslow and D Laws.

B. 3872 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman reminded the Commissioners of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any of them. Declarations to be addressed at each point.

B.3873 Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed, and no matters arising identified.

RESOLVED

> That the minutes of the Meeting held of the Board on 7th November 2024 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.3874 Constitution and Membership
Viz:

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	4
Meeting:	**MIDDLE LEVEL COMMISSIONERS**	**Subject:**	**CONSTITUTION & MEMBERSHIP**
Date:	**Wednesday 30th April 2025**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Polly Tombleson**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Appreciation of Commissioners regarding recent notifications from Board members
B. Note the current status of its membership and the role they each play as members serving the interests of the Board.
C. Review attendance records and identify any resolutions as necessary.
D. Determine whether there are composition changes and/or amalgamations it wishes to progress.
E. Reinforce the need for members to view all five 'Good Governance' videos.
F. Identify any topic areas for additional training, as well as any inspection/site visit requirements.

1. Current status

1.1 The table below outline the current composition of the Board and the quorum as detailed in the standing orders.

	Elected Members	Appointed Members	Total Members	Quorum
Composition	15	N/A		5
Actual	11	2 FDC, 1 KLWN, 1 HDC	15	
Vacancies	4			

1.2 The table below details the current elected members of the Board:
There are currently **4** vacancies

No	Name	Status (one of four categories)	Commentary
1	Patrick Allpress	Landowner/ratepayer	
2	Duncan Boughton	Landowner/ratepayer	
3	Jonathan Brown	Landowner/ratepayer	Chairman
4	Robert Brown	Landowner/ratepayer	
	Lord De Ramsey	Retired from the Board Nov 2024	
	John Heading	Retired from the Board Nov 2024	
5	Marc Heading	Landowner/ratepayer	
6	Dr Derek Langslow	Representative of Wildlife Trust	
7	Mathew Latta	Landowner/ratepayer	
8	Andrew Lensen	Representative of A G Reserves	
	Samual Raby	Retired from the Board Nov 2024	
	Paul West	Resigned from the Board 3rd Feb 2025	
9	Hugh Whittome	Landowner/ratepayer	Vice-Chair
10	Stephen Whittome	Landowner/ratepayer	
11	Alison Morris	Landowner/ratepayer	
12			
13			
14			
15			

1.3 The table below details the current appointed members of the Board.

No	Name	Appointing Council as at July 2023	Commentary (one of three categories)
1	Sally Howell	HDC	Councillor
2	Chris Crofts	BCKLWN	Councillor
3	Dee Laws	FDC	Councillor
4	A Miscandlon	FDC	Councillor

1.4 Special levy paying District Councils appoint members to Boards and their role is to be part of the Board representing all the non-agricultural interests within the Board's district. The Council must consider appointing members who have relevant knowledge or experience that is relevant to the Board and its district.

1.5 Appointed members do not need to be councillors or employees of the Council, therefore can represent wider relevant interests within the district, eg major infrastructure, commerce, community groups, environmental interests.

1.6 All Members are reminded that have equal status to each-other around the Board table and are here to serve the interests of the Board.

2. Attendance

2.1 The table below outlines the attendance record for the last four meetings of the Board.

Elected Members

No	Name	7/11/2024	26/6/2024	24/4/2024	2/11/2023
1	Patrick Allpress	Present	Present	Present	Present
2	Charles Boughton	Present	Apologies	Present	Present
3	Jonathan Brown	Present	Present	Present	Present
4	Robert Brown	Present		Present	Apologies
5	Lord De Ramsey	Present	Apologies	Apologies	Present
6	John Heading	Present		Present	Present
7	Marc Heading	Apologies	Present	Present	Present
8	Dr Derek Langslow	Present		Apologies	Present
9	Mathew Latta	Present		Apologies	Present
10	Andrew Lensen	Present	Apologies	Present	Present
11	Samuel Raby	Present	Apologies	Present	Present
12	Paul West	Apologies	Apologies	Present	Present
13	Hugh Whittome	Present	Present	Present	Present
14	Stephen Whittome	Present		Present	Present
15	Alison Morris	Present		Present	-

Appointed Members (current and previous)

No	Name (Council)	7/11/2024	26/6/2024	24/4/2024	2/11/2023
1	C Crofts BCKLWN	Present	Apologies	Apologies	Present
2	D Laws FDC	Apologies		Apologies	apologies
3	A Miscandlon FDC	Apologies	Present	Present	Present
4	Sally Howell HDC	Present		Present	Present

3. Elections, vacancies & appointments

3.1 Current vacancies – April 2025 – **3**

3.2 Further to discussions at the April 2024 meeting of the Board, the Chairman to report on notifications received concerning members standing down from membership of the Board at the conclusion of the meeting.

3.3 Current Commissioner Declarations of Eligibility:

Private Land: Number Declared = 7 inc 2 deputies

Ref No	Surname	First Name	Business Name	Date of Claim	Year for Claim Review
MLCR10001	Allpress	Patrick	Allpress Farms Ltd		
MLCR10002	Boughton	Duncan			
MLCR10003	Brown	Jonathan	E C Brown & Sons		
MLCR10004	Brown	Robert	E C Brown & Sons	02/04/2025	2028
MLCR10005	De Ramsey	Lord	Abbots Ripton Estates	27/01/2025	2028
MLCR10006	Fountain	David	C J Fountain & Son Ltd	03/02/2025	2028
MLCR10007	Hartley	Christopher			
MLCR10008	Heading	John	A & EG Heading Ltd	01/04/2025	2028
MLCR10009	Heading	Marc	A & EG Heading Ltd		
MLCR10010	Latta	Mathew	R A Latta Farms Ltd		
MLCR10012	Morris	Alison	E H Morris (Stonea) Ltd		
MLCR10014	Raby	Sam	H Raby & Sons		
MLCR10016	Whittome	Hugh	Whittome Farms	27/01/2025	2028
MLCR10017	Whittome	Stephen	Whittome Farms	30/01/2025	2028
MLCR10018	Bragg	Alex	Royal London Asset Management/Waldersey Farms Ltd	11/02/2025	2028
MLCR10019	Hall	Mark	Royal London Asset Management/Waldersey Farms Ltd	11/02/2025	2028
MLCR10020	Smith	Jack	Royal London Asset Management/Waldersey Farms Ltd	11/02/2025	2028

Public/Charitable Land:

Ref No	Land Ownership: Organisation Name	Organisation Type	Surname	First Name	Organisation of Appointee	Date of Appointment	Year for Appointment Review
MLCR20001	Wildlife Trust	Charity (UK Based)	Langslow	Derek	Wildlife Trust	13/04/2023	2026
MLCR20002	AgReserves Ltd	Charity (Not UK Based	Lensen	Andrew			

4. Composition and amalgamations

4.1 The Board is encouraged to continually monitor and review its membership, financial and climate resilience, along with assessing its influence locally, regionally and nationally. These are all factors that may lead the Board to consider changing its composition and/or amalgamation with (an)other Board(s).

4.2 Amalgamations and composition changes are not swift processes and can take a number of years. They require planning and additional/specialist resourcing by the MLC as your clerk, Environment Agency and Defra. Therefore, the Board is encouraged to think ahead five to ten years in its decision making, thinking about the next generation.

5. Training

5.1 All Members are asked to digest the Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Boards published by the Association of Drainage Authorities and view the five accompanying videos intended to bring the guide to life. They are available via https://middlelevel.gov.uk/about/idb-governance/

5.2 To date 0 of 15 Board Members have reported viewing all five videos.

To date 9 of 15 Board members have reported viewing 2 of the five videos

5.3 Members are asked to identify any topics areas they would value further training on as well as any site inspections that would help them undertake their role on the Board more effectively.

5.4 Member training is reported to Defra as part of the annual IDB1 return.

Author Name: Polly Tombleson
Role: Senior Business Support Officer

Membership of the Board

The Clerk drew the Board's attention to the Constitution and Membership report, and reflected on the reduction in Board members, advising that there were 3 retirements from the Board in November. This was followed by the resignation of Mr Paul West due to him no longer qualifying as a Commissioner. Thanks were sent to Mr West on behalf of the Board.

Subsequently there are now 4 vacancies on the Board. A small number of new Commissioners declarations have been received and this will give more people to choose from when electing new Board members. The Clerk encouraged all Board members to return their paperwork and to pass that encouragement on to other prospective Commissioners that they may know of.

The Clerk reported that we are still waiting for the revised ADA Good Governance Guide to be finalised.

The Clerk concluded by reporting that the Board are now heading towards the change to Chair and Vice Chair.

B.3875 Strategy and Delivery

The Chief Executive introduced the Annual Report, and referring to the Chief Executive's Summary advised that he felt that we are in a good position and starting to turn the dial on efficiencies and income generation. There has been lots of activity in terms of the IDB Fund impacting a handful of people in MLC, who have raised their game to deliver works in tight timescales. He mentioned in particular the work of David Bantoft and Richard Wilmer in the M&E team, Morgan Lakey and the Operations Team, Sofi Lloyd and Abigail Leach in the Environmental Services Team, and the Finance team, who all worked really hard to deliver Tranches 1, 2 and 2b works for MLC and IDBs. Unfortunately, this has meant that usual business activity is behind where we would like it to be. The Environment Agency have been auditing T2b works and will continue to do so into this financial year. The Government have also extended the scheme and three projects have been successful in attracting funding.

The Chief Executive drew the Boards attention to his six 'Big Win' areas of organisational focus which he hopes will provide notable efficiencies and/or income generation. It is also the intention that, as we mature the reporting in these areas, he will be able to frame in his reports to the Board where the efficiencies optimisation and income generation have occurred.

Mr Allpress asked if it was the Chief Executives intention to use internal KPI's to measure this, but the Chief Executive said he will need to judge if this is a wise approach.

Electricity Net Zero

The Chief Executive then highlighted the section of his report relating to the efficiency to be gained by having the policy ambition of becoming Electricity Net Zero. The funding from the one-off government IDB fund and the successful T2b bid at St Germans has allowed the installation of a solar array which has been secured on the premise of becoming electricity net zero. The M&E team are exploring further options in this area. Now we have roof top solar on the new depot and at St Germans, and the solar array on land at St Germans, we are confidently moving towards this ambition. The Chief Executive is therefore asking the Board to adopt the ambition.

Optimising St Germans Pumping Station

The Chief Executive reported that the biggest area of efficiency within our control is the operation of the St Germans pumping station. Page 37 of his report shows that operating the pumping station accounts for 9-27% of our annual expenditure. We have been trialling manual intervention which has been very successful, and we have come out of a two-year period knowing we need hands on management of the pumping station. It is currently semi-intelligent but running in automatic mode is not always the most cost-effective way to run. We also need data and knowledge about the station's use of power to specify the future works needed. After two years spent trialling manual intervention where we have focussed on "pumping tomorrows water today", it is clear the main saving is made by pumping ahead of high tides. It is therefore proposed to make the trial a permanent arrangement in order to drive further savings.

The Chair observed that St German's was designed to be the high-tech house of its generation, and asked if the changes were required because our programming is not good enough, and if the station could return to running as a fully automated station. Mr H Whittome added that he thinks this should be our ambition, suggesting that this could be a good PhD subject and we could reach out to universities. The Chief Executive thought that the programming is of its time and the best technology at the time the station was designed, and that David Bantoft was of the opinion that, within the boundaries of current technology that the station could not be fully optimised in an automated mode, we should be open-minded about the development of Artificial Intelligence.

The Chair thought that we could never take away manual intervention, and the Chief Executive raised concerns over a risk management position should we were ever to just rely on AI. He therefore recommends making the Superintendent Role a permanent role and developing protocols around manual intervention. This would enable us to review our approach to operational monitoring, ensuring we have the right number of staff trained to ensure year-round cover. The estimated cost of this is £60k but the saving is estimated of £140k/pa benefit, as shown on pg. 40 of the report. He emphasised that none of this is saying that past decisions were wrong, but that these changes have been identified by acknowledging and applying learning.

Mr Allpress asked if we could consider installing hydrogen and the Chief Executive confirmed that part of the T2B funding was to enable us to explore hydrogen further.

Charging model for Planning & Consents, and associated compliance and enforcement.

The Chief Executive reported that MLC have been out of sync with neighbouring Boards with our charging model and have now introduced and are using a new charging model, which has been developed by Chris Bailey and approved by the MLC Exec Committee. The new model works better for us and IDBs, and looks at surface water volume as well as flow, improving options for commuted maintenance and providing better clarity through pre and post applications. This means greater cost of regulation being borne by the developer more and therefore less MLC time billed to IDBs. We have also benchmarked our rates against others and found that we have been too cheap and potentially not fully recovering costs, therefore a simplified staff time fee model will also be developed and implemented. The Chief Executive hoped that the Board would be happy to endorse the new model.

Going forward we will then reinvest the additional income as detailed in the report. This all means that compliance and enforcement become more important. There has been understandable frustration from our IDBs that we haven't had a clear service provision previously, but there is now more financial incentive to do this with new charging structure. Developers' contributions can then help to build up the capital improvement funds. The appointment of dedicated Compliance and Enforcement staff would allow us to chase outstanding surface water fees and identified where development has not been in-line with consents. The target would be for the role to recover their costs and more. This has been budgeted for, including the forecast income from it. It is intended to review this after 6-9 months and if not successful to make changes to the role.

We have also encountered a few other issues, including two unconsented works issues that the Board need to be aware of. The first is in the Yaxley Lode area where unconsented works have been carried out by the Holmewood & District IDB district, which has resulted in damage to their syphon and water loss from our system.

The second relates to an unconsented construction in West End Park, March. (Mr Miscandlon declared an interest in this item). Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council have built a BMX Pump Track within the byelaw strip, which is unconsented and in the wrong location. We are in the process of writing a notice, which may cause some issues, but we need to ensure we secure our position whilst maintaining collaborative working.

<u>Levering grant and external funding to develop and deliver the scales of capital works MLC faces.</u>

The Chief Executive went on to explain that there is an uncomfortable truth that is out of our control. The Chief Engineer is developing an Asset Investment Programme and the scale of our capital works is huge. We have already seen our ability to manage and deliver this scale of works is challenging and the affordability is beyond our normal sources of funding. We need to think about where future partnership funding may come from. Developer fees have to go into the Asset Improvement Fund, and this will help but this alone is not enough. We do not have solutions to this but have immediate capital works needs as shown in the report (Pg 36) which need the Boards support. If we do nothing we risk being behind the curve, and so there are immediate investments the Board need to make and the recommendation is to take out Public Works Loans to fund these.

<u>Environmental Risk Management</u>

The Chief Executive summarised that within the offices we are not gold plating our environmental risk management but that we are putting in measures to ensure we are being compliant with the law – most of the legislation has been in place since 1981. He added that feedback is welcomed, but it was important that this was balanced and appropriate, not personal. We also need to build our reputation to be a trusted environmental partner so we can be involved in some future funding opportunities.

Mr Lenson observed that we need to be compliant, but we need to be careful we don't gold plate the provision and affect drainage. The Chair replied that we are trying a light touch to satisfy needs but also to comply with law, and this is not 'gold plating', but we do not want Board Member or employees in court or paying fines. Mr Latta agreed, adding that those around the table need to take this message to IDB Board level. People on the ground don't recognise what we need to do to comply with the law.

Mr Latta added that he would like the Ecology and Environmental Services Manager to present to the Sutton and Mepal IDB Board at their next meeting.

The Chief Executive added that we need to provide greater education materials. The materials needed are being developed by the Environmental Services department. What people do on their own farms is their risk, but when they are sat round the Board table or acting for the Board, they are a Public Authority and should expect to be scrutinised and we must drive standards and ensure compliance.

Mr R Brown said he had some landowners approaching him and commenting that when they see mowers on the banks, cutting grass that hasn't gown or cutting where they think it is not necessary, they see this as a waste of resources. Ms Lloyd responded, advising that the workforce need to be able to inspect the assets and this means they need to travel on the banks, and therefore they need to be able to see the edges of the banks for their health and safety. She added that really tall vegetation encourages wildlife to live in it. Generally anything around 30cm high becomes attractive to ground nesting birds.

Mr R Brown responded that some areas have been cut twice already this year when it hasn't grown, and asked if the cutting could be reduced to save costs? Ms Lloyd responded that this is area dependant. In some areas not cutting allows Ox Tongue to become prevalent which destabilises the banks, so regular cutting is needed to allow other species to thrive. Where we can mow less we do, and so we do try to target cutting. The Chief Executive asked the Board that if there are specific locations that are of concern to please let him know and the Operations team can advise why these are being targeted.

The Board were then invited to discuss the content of the report.

Mr Allpress referred to the Asset Investment Programme, commenting that it is showing some big figures in 3 years' time, but the Chief Engineer advised that this is a first draft and so the numbers are not refined. The next stage is to look at priority spend, and the refined plan will also spread these costs over more than one year. We can also start to identify where projects cans go into grant applications. The Chief Engineer responded that the figures presented in the report will feed into the Fens 2100+ timeline, and that this is to give us a head start in thinking about future funding.

Mr Lensen said that he thought that the weed boats look inefficient compared to using 360's. The Chief Executive advised that the Operations team had changed their approach in Well Creek the previous day because the weed boats were not effective against the type of weed in the Creek. The Chief Engineer added that it does depend on the type of vegetation being cleared, and that the team have been thinking about future maintenance and the impact of climate change.

Mr Miscandlon advised the Board that in 2028 Fenland District Council will no longer exist and so the special levy will disappear. We don't yet know how this will be financed in the future.

Mr S Whittome asked about employees, noting that there had been quite a big turnover in staff in the last year and asking how staff numbers compare with the previous year. The Chief Executive reported at present there are 41 FTE staff and so there has been some growth. It should be noted that salary costs are not necessarily a direct cost to the ratepayer as there is increased income and cost recovery, and we aim to provide more transparency on this aspect in future. There has been some turnover in staff, and an improvement in performance management, with new eyes and new energy looking at things differently. Mr S Whittome asked if the new staff were all joining the new pension scheme as he was surprised at the amount still being paid into the old scheme in comparison. The Chief Executive advised that all new staff join the Nest scheme, and that we were looking at bringing in salary sacrifice which will have the added benefit to staff and employer of National Insurance contributions savings.

Ms Lloyd added that environmentally we are quite a powerful organisation in the IDB sector. We have made successful challenges to Natural England and others, and we need to take this approach going forwards.

The Chairman invited the Board to discuss the Resolutions, asking for the Board's agreement to take them en-bloc if there were no further questions. The Board agreed the support all resolutions unanimously.

RESOLVED

Delegate the decision on the most appropriate solution for personal alarms to the Chief Officers.

Adopt the ambition to become 'Electricity Net Zero' by ringfencing and reinvesting savings from renewables into resourcing and delivering further renewables until net zero or exhaust all realistic opportunities.

Support the approach to the installation of Horsey Toll tilting weir.
Approve the use of their Asset Improvement Fund for the planning of the works in 2025/26 and subsequent replacement of both sets of doors at Ashline Lock this year or next year depending on condition, affordability and deliverability.

Delegate any decision on the support or endorsement for Fens 2100+ to the Chief Executive in discussion with the Chairman.

Approve the Asset Investment Plan for 2025/26.

Support the development and design of options to address their liabilities for the 'Bathing Sheds' on the Twenty Foot River via funding from their Asset Improvement Fund.

Support taking a hands-on approach to the management of operations at St Germans Pumping Station and delegate the implementation of Phase 1 resourcing to the Chief Executive and Chief Engineer to enact, with advice form the MLC Executive Committee as appropriate.

Endorse the MLC Executive Committee's approval to the new planning and consenting charging model and the approach to income re-investment.

Support the creation and recruitment of a dedicated compliance and enforcement officer to benefit the MLC and improve our service offer to IDBs.

B.3876 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM SUBJECT TO LEGAL PRIVILEGE

This item is excluded from under S1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

B.3877 Chair and Vice Chair Role & Responsibilities and associated proposal for expenses.

Viz:

middle level commissioners

Proudly managing water levels in the Fens since 1862

Proposal: MLC Chair responsibilities and renumeration

At their November 2024 meetings the Commissioners and Middle Level Board approved that the Chief Executive is to develop a proposal regarding the payment of expenses for the MLC Chair and Vice Chair roles, and to present this for consideration at their respective April 2025 meetings.

The Clause within Section 7 of the Middle Level Act 1810 disqualifies any person holding a place of profit from the Commissioners being a Commissioner and therefore we cannot make a payment to the Chairman, otherwise they could not be appointed as Chairman. This clause has not been repealed and therefore we cannot enact the payment clause within the Land Drainage Act 1991 S2(1) without risk of challenge. Therefore, an expenses approach needs to be applied.

Responsibilities of the MLC Chairman & Vice Chairman

The Commissioners current scheme of delegation and schedule of reserved matters do not specify the role and responsibilities of the Chairman or Vice Chairman. Therefore, if the Commissioners' are to introduce an expenses approach for these roles, then the responsibilities need to be defined and added to the scheme of delegation.

The following responsibilities have been adapted from those adopted by King's Lynn IDB who make payment for the Chairman role via a ministerial order under the Land Drainage Act 1991. It is recommended that the Chairman and Vice Chairman share these duties and therefore the expenses framework applies equally to each incumbent.

The Chairman is a strategic leadership role and accountable to the Commissioners for the running of the Commissioners Meeting, and the Middle Level Board and Executive Committee. Key responsibilities include;

1. Setting the agenda, style and tone of discussions and chairing meetings, to promote effective decision making and constructive debate;
2. Providing representative, objective and inclusive leadership;
3. The Commissioners' declarations and governance, Midde Level Board composition, membership, development and succession;
4. Overseeing the induction and development of newly declared Commissioners and new Middle Level Board members;
5. Securing active contributions from all Middle Level Board members;
6. Addressing any Commissioners and Middle Level Board Member conduct and/or performance issues;
7. Planning and conducting meetings effectively;
8. Deciding whether or not a member can vote on any issue, where the member has a prejudicial interest as set out in the Code of Conduct and the Standing Orders;

9. Ensuring the Commissioners and the Middle Level Board focus on priority tasks, key risks and take decisions in the short, medium and long term interests of the Commissioners' and beneficiaries of their infrastructure and operations;
10. Promoting effective relationships and open communication, both inside and outside the boardroom between Commissioners, IDB Chairman and the MLC employees;
11. Leading the recruitment of the MLC Chief Executive;
12. Establishing a close relationship of trust with the Chief Executive, providing support and advice, whilst respecting executive responsibilities;
13. Being a positive role model and representing the Middle Level publicly, locally, regionally and nationally;
14. Play a figurehead and active role within the Middle Level IDB reform agenda;
15. Understanding the diverse aims and views of the Commissioners, other landowners, ratepayers, Local Authorities and other key beneficiaries and stakeholders of the MLC's infrastructure and operations;
16. Developing and maintaining a good awareness of the legislative and statutory responsibilities that underpins MLC operations and our services to other IDBs, and how compliance, risks and liabilities are managed to ensure a strong reputation and risk exposure is limited;
17. If required, determine employee appeals under the Commissioners' Disciplinary Procedure and negotiate agreement with IDB Chairman should there be a dispute in terms of MLC service provision that the Chief Executive cannot resolve due to their conflict of interest;
18. Delivering any actions as resolved by the Commissioners or Middle Level Board within their meetings.

The Chief Executive has executive responsibility for running the Commissioners' business with key responsibilities for the Chief Executive, Chief Engineer and Treasurer (Head of Finance) specified in the scheme of delegation.

To enact the responsibilities, the Chairman and Vice Chairman are expected to commit time over and above that expected by any other member of the Middle Level Board and its Executive Committee. Expenses for the additional commitment will be payable as follows.

- Casual mileage and subsistence allowances in line with HMRC guidance and to be claimed quarterly via an expenses form supported with receipts.
- Payment of an hourly rate for lost time from employment. Each incumbent will need to provide evidence of earnings to propose and justify their hourly rate (to be reviewed annually) and this will need to be agreed by the Treasurer (Head of Finance) and the Chief Executive. Expenses claims to be made quarterly and supported by a timecard outlining the activities and deliverables associated with the claim.
- Expenses to be reviewed and approved by the Chief Executive and reported to the Commissioners at their November meeting.
- Treasurer (Head of Finance) to undertake spot-checks on expenses claims as they do for all employees. These will also be subject to internal audit review.

The budget provision for these expenses to the Chairman and Vice Chairman will be £5,000 per annum with the level of the budget reviewed annually.

Recommendation:

The Middle Level Board and the Commissioners are asked to review this proposal and approve or otherwise the adoption of it. If adopted, the Middle Level Board and Commissioners:

- Authorise the Chief Executive and Head of Finance to develop the forms and adjust internal controls to implement the expenses approach.
- Authorise the Chief Executive and Head of Finance to review, approve or reject expenses payments and agree the hourly rate proposed for lost time from employment.
- Authorise the Chief Executive to change and re-publish their scheme of delegation and schedule of reserved matters.

Paul Burrows
Chief Executive, Middle Level Commissioners
chiefofficers@middlelevel.gov.uk
27 March 2025

The Chair, Vice Chair and Mr Allpress declared an interest in this item.

The Chief Executive talked through the proposal as tabled. He explained that the Middle Level Acts constrain what can be done. If the Board agree the paper, it will require some changes to the

Commissioners Scheme of Delegations. For time over and above the Boards commitments – as explained in the paper – expenses can be paid. He is therefore recommending moving to an expenses-based approach for the Chair and Vice Chair, with a £5k budget which has been woven into the budget proposal for consideration later in the meeting.

The Chair said he thought that the Board have been lucky over the years in that Chairman are not beholden to employers but this is changing. He added that he did not take the role expecting to be paid but thinks that it is important if doing the job to receive some renumeration.

Mr S Whittome said that he would prefer to pay a lump sum, but the Chief Executive explained that this would then make this a salary which the Act does not allow us to do. On that basis Mr S Whittome proposed that the paper be accepted, and payment goes ahead. The Chair then asked the Board to vote on this proposal, which was agreed unanimously.

The Chief Executive added that he and Ruth Martin are collating a list of clauses from the old Acts that are out of date, but do not propose to spend lots of money to change these but take action if the opportunity presents itself.

RESOLVED

That the proposal 'MLC: Chair responsibilities and renumeration' is approved and adopted, including

- Authorising the Chief Executive and Head of Finance to develop the forms and adjust internal controls to implement the expenses approach.
- Authorising the Chief Executive and Head of Finance to review, approve or reject expenses payments and agree the hourly rate proposed for lost time from employment.
- Authorising the Chief Executive to change and re-publish their scheme of delegation and schedule of reserved matters.

B.3878 Finance and Governance

Viz:

Summary of the Treasurers Report

Governance:

The Board is reminded of the Governance requirements as detailed in the Annual governance Statement. In view of the overarching roles concerning Governance and Risk Management the Board is requested to consider their policies and procedures.

Payments and miscellaneous receipts can be found in Appendix 1.

IDB1

The annual reporting form to Defra (form IDB1) has had significant amendments for further information required which delayed it being sent out to drainage authorities. The submission date was accordingly extended to 28th February 2025. The additional information required was completed. Forms were completed and submitted and reported and can be found in Appendix 2.

Looking Back: - Financial Year 2023/2024

The approved rating expenditure for 2024/2025 was £3,392,799.

A rate of 33.00p was set, to raise £3,392,799.

After penalties and write offs the value of rates and special levies raised was £3,399,512.

The projected out-turn for the year is £4,072,282, giving an estimated reduction in balances of £679,483. This would leave the balance of the Revenue account at £3,287,246.

Administration
Administration expenditure is approximately £90,000 under the budget provision. Expenditure is mainly in line with the approved budget. The main reason for the favourable variance is due to the income where a great deal of time has been spent on the Storm Recovery Projects of which we have been able to claim. There also has been an increase in fees raised.

St Germans
Pumping Station expenditure at St Germans is approximately £39,000 under the provision. Energy costs is the main driver for the favourable variance. Costs have been derived from Meter readings due to the continued problems with billings from our new supplier EDF Energy. Plant costs are higher than the budget provision by £8,000 however an additional £82,000 of repair costs were incurred which have been funded through the Storm Recovery Grant.

Bevills Leam
Pumping Station expenditure at Bevills Leam Pumping Station is approximately £6,000 over the budget provision. Energy costs have also been derived from Meter readings due to the continued problems with billings from our new supplier EDF Energy. Plant costs were higher than the budget provision by £3,000 however an additional £113,000 of repair costs were incurred which have been funded through the Storm Recovery Grant.

Property
Property expenditure was approximately £24,000 under the budget provision. Works at the Offices were less than anticipated, however the funds were approved to be funded through the property fund.

Structures
Structures expenditure was approximately £14,000 under the budget provision. Works at Stanground and Salters Lode were less than anticipated. Aqueduct Bridge was damaged during the year. The driver responsible for the damage has not been found and the costs associated with the damage are included here. We will try and recover these costs together with any additional repair costs through our Insurance Company.

Banks and Channels
Banks and Channels expenditure was approximately £7,000 over the budget provision. Grass Cutting and Weed control was the main reason for the overspend.

Environmental Risk Management (Conservation)
Environmental Risk Management expenditure was approximately £31,000 under the budget provision. Third Party Consultancy was the main reason for the underspend.

Navigation
Under the new Navigation Act (2018) the Commissioners are required to keep accounting records for the income and expenditure in relation to navigation activities.

The factors for the split of expenditure for 2024/2025 on waterways between the flood defence function and navigation remains the same as previously agreed.
Navigation Expenditure was higher than the budget provision by approximately £55,000. Proposed works of £50,000 for installation of moorings was not completed, however the removal and rectification of issues on the new of Marmont Priory d/s lock gates was completed instead at a cost of £127,922.

Highland Water/Storm Recovery Grant
Following the setting of the rates for 2024/2025 in April 2024 we were advised of the criteria for submissions of claims against the Government announced Storm Recovery Grant and a claim for the first phase of funding (T1) was submitted for £747,266.18.
Against this payment of £699,129.38 has been received and an updated claim has recently been submitted for funding towards the outstanding works associated with the claim.
When completing the budget proposal claims were estimated against the likely out-turn for 2023/2024 and the budgeted expenditure for 2024/2025. The winter storm events gave claims significantly more than previous claims but following an understanding that the Environment Agency were able to switch funding within their revenue/capital programmes the full estimated claims were included in the rating proposals. The highland water claim included within the rating estimates was £765,000.00. Following an earlier Government announcement, details were eventually released concerning the Storm Recovery Grant and a claim for the first trance (T1) was submitted in the sum of £747,266.18.

To adjust for this additional funding the relevant elements of the Storm Recovery Grant (T1) need to be adjusted against the Highland Water claims. The Highland Water calculation for these additional receipts amounts to £265,924.58, which will be adjusted from the Strom Recovery Grant.
£80,228 of the T1 Storm Recovery grant was claimed against maintenance costs at St. Germans and Bevill Leam which is the equivalent of a rate 0.78p.
The balance of the T1 Storm Recovery after adjusting for Highland Water and Maintenance is £401,114. This has been allocated to the General Fund.

Improvements
Included in Improvements is £7,172,337 of costs for the Middle Level River Management Scheme of which grant of £5,744,552 has been allocated leaving a cost in the year of £1,427,785. Included in the grant received amount is £372,244.17 still outstanding from the Environment Agency.

The forecast budget outturn for 2024/25 and the budget estimate for 2025/26 includes for the latest financial position on the Middle Level River Management Scheme (MLRMS). There has been a significant change that has manifested itself in Q4 2024/25 and this results in a significant risk to the financial health of the organisation.
This will be the subject of an update within a confidential Item on the Middle Level Board agenda and is subject to legal privilege.

In the autumn of 2024, several claims for projects were submitted for Storm Recovery resilience works (T2a).

The claims and subsequent works carried out were:

Grant	Amount	Equivalent rate value
St Germans Depot Resilience	£338,496	3.30p
Bevills Leam Depot Resilience	£254,595	2.50p
MLC Depot Resilience	£145,450	1.40p

Mobile Pumps Package	£539,710	5.30p
Total	**£1,278,251**	**12.50p**

Plant/Vehicles
Plant/Vehicle expenditure is approximately £95,000 over the budget provision. Depreciation charge was £18,000 higher than forecast. Actual surplus on the sale of assets was lower than forecasted. Two employees of the workforce on long term sick account for remaining unfavourable variance.

Income
Income was approximately £25,000 more favourable than the budget provision. Interest received was £18,000 better due to monies being held on Treasury Deposit generating a higher return than the normal Deposit Account Interest.

For the second year running the overall expenditure of the Commissioners will exceed the £6.5m threshold for audit purposes. As previously advised if the threshold is triggered for three consecutive years, then the third year will require a full external audit. Due to the allocation of the T2b funding the expenditure for 2025/2026 will now exceed the £6.5million threshold for the third consecutive year.

The Board are asked to note this position.

Middle Level Commissioners

Budget monitoring -2024/2025
Summary

Detail	Budget	Quarter 1 April - June Budget	Out-turn	Variance	Quarter 2 July - September Budget	Out-turn	Variance	Quarter 3 October - December Budget	Out-turn	Variance	Quarter 4 January - March Budget	Out-turn	Variance	Year Forecast to 31.03.2025 Budget	Out-turn	Variance	Variance
	£	£	£	%	£	£	%	£	£	%	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Administration	1,304,500	362,463	353,311	(2.5)%	244,944	343,545	40.3%	432,111	391,649	(9.4)%	264,983	126,224	(52.4)%	1,304,500	1,214,729	(89,771)	(6.9)%
Works																	
St Germans	703,000	150,125	154,310	2.8%	149,125	184,391	23.6%	203,125	194,363	(4.3)%	200,625	130,856	(34.8)%	703,000	663,920	(39,080)	(5.6)%
Bevills Leam	189,750	37,439	41,413	10.6%	36,883	41,930	13.7%	49,773	63,475	27.5%	65,656	49,347	(24.8)%	189,750	196,165	6,415	3.4%
Structures	106,000	26,500	19,712	(25.6)%	26,500	22,965	(13.3)%	31,500	20,957	(33.5)%	21,500	28,840	34.1%	106,000	92,473	(13,527)	(12.8)%
Property	129,000	17,025	10,700	(37.2)%	69,125	37,261	(46.1)%	28,725	13,289	(53.7)%	14,125	43,765	209.8%	129,000	105,015	(23,985)	(18.6)%
Banks & Channels	609,000	116,250	140,140	20.6%	196,006	208,028	6.1%	207,738	164,803	(20.7)%	89,006	102,871	15.6%	609,000	615,843	6,843	1.1%
Environmental Risk Management - (Conservation)	156,400	63,688	25,398	(60.1)%	41,938	62,294	48.5%	54,063	9,746	(82.0)%	(3,288)	27,552	(938.1)%	156,400	124,990	(31,410)	(20.1)%
Navigation	(15,000)	(97,375)	(72,886)	(25.1)%	11,125	(5,150)	(146.3)%	37,375	(10,450)	(128.0)%	33,875	128,629	279.7%	(15,000)	40,143	55,143	(367.6)%
Highland Water	(765,000)	-	-		-	-		(765,000)	(694,678)	(9.2)%	-	(84,948)		(765,000)	(779,626)	(14,626)	1.9%
Improvements	197,500	15,000	20,291	35.3%	45,000	11,580	(74.3)%	87,500	71,248	(18.6)%	50,000	1,396,259	2692.5%	197,500	1,499,377	1,301,877	659.2%
Plant/Vehicles	65,000	-	55,191		15,000	8,017	(46.6)%	25,000	46,863	87.5%	25,000	48,517	94.1%	65,000	158,588	93,588	144.0%
E A Precept	18,490	9,245	2,106	(77.2)%	-	8,192		9,245	8,191	(11.4)%	-	-		18,490	18,488	(2)	(0.0)%
	2,698,640	700,359	749,685	7.0%	835,645	923,053	10.5%	401,154	279,456	(30.3)%	761,482	1,997,911	162.4%	2,698,640	3,950,106	1,251,466	(68.3)%
Income - rents etc	(95,583)	(28,803)	(27,937)	(3.0)%	(20,479)	(34,752)	69.7%	(23,348)	(30,393)	30.2%	(22,953)	(27,258)	18.8%	(95,583)	(120,340)	(24,757)	25.9%
Storm Recovery T1A	-	-	-		-	-		-	-		-	(401,114)		-	(401,114)	(401,114)	0.0%
	2,603,057	671,556	721,748	7.5%	815,166	888,301	9.0%	377,806	249,064	(34.1)%	738,529	1,569,539	112.5%	2,603,057	3,428,652	825,595	(75.9)%
Loan Repayments																	
St Germans	688,242	-	-		344,121	344,121	(0.0)%	-	-		344,121	344,121	(0.0)%	688,242	688,242	-	0.0%
Office/Depot	-	-	-		-	-		-	-		-	-		-	-	-	
	3,291,299	671,556	721,748	7.5%	1,159,287	1,232,422	6.3%	377,806	249,064	(34.1)%	1,082,650	1,913,660	76.8%	3,291,299	4,116,894	825,595	(79.9)%
Approved use of	(78,500)	(6,500)	-	(100.0)%	(57,000)	(19,020)	(66.6)%	(15,000)	-	(100.0)%	0	(25,591)		(78,500)	(44,611)	33,889	(43.2)%
Reinstatement of balances	180,000	-	-		-	-		0	-		180,000	-	(100.0)%	180,000	-	(180,000)	(100.0)%
	3,392,799	665,056	721,748	8.5%	1,102,287	1,213,402	10.1%	362,806	249,064	(31.4)%	1,262,650	1,888,069	49.5%	3,392,799	4,072,282	679,484	20.0%

Rates raised 2024/25		
Agriculture - 33.00p		2,201,780
Special Levy		
B.C.K.L. & W. N.	265,525	
HDC	269,191	
FDC	656,294	1,191,010
		3,392,790

MIDDLE LEVEL COMMISSIONERS

Summary of Revenue Account - April 2024 to March 2025

2023/24		2024/25
	INCOME	
2,051,804.74	Rates Raised	2,208,502.06
1,094,133.00	Special Levies	1,191,010.00
95,932.31	Income - Rents etc.	120,339.75
424,361.97	Highland Water	779,626.05
63,316.48	Insurance Claim Receipt	-
-	Storm Recovery Grant	401,113.60
3,729,548.50		4,700,591.46
	EXPENDITURE	
954,704.65	Administration	1,214,728.85
	Maintenance work	
1,032,476.31	St Germans Pumping Station	663,920.09
410,293.90	Bevills Leam Pumping Station	196,165.24
106,202.19	Structures	92,472.96
71,420.90	Property	105,014.98
-	Funded from Reserves	(44,611.32)
581,830.43	Banks & Channels	615,843.10
60,235.19	Environmental Risk Management (Conservation)	124,989.97
31,298.88	Navigation - (Direct costs)	40,142.67
1,220,832.20	Improvements - Expenditure	8,748,933.68
(1,067,945.12)	Improvements - Funded	(7,249,556.29)
59,292.19	Plant/Vehicles	158,587.99
17,950.07	E A Precept	18,488.42
	Loan repayments	
688,241.54	St Germans	688,241.54
810,603.96	Office/Depot	-
(782,464.33)	Funded from Reserves	-
4,194,972.96		5,373,361.88
(465,424.46)	(Deficit) for the period	(672,770.42)

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st March 2025

2023/24		2024/25
	FIXED ASSETS	
517,625.00	Freehold Land	517,625.00
2,168,855.50	Office/Depot	2,168,855.50
190,060.00	Operational buildings	190,060.00
8,247,077.00	Pumping stations	8,247,077.00
87,150.00	Investment property	87,150.00
36,500.00	Office equipment	36,500.00
654,578.75	Plant and Vehicles	863,257.36
11,901,846.25		12,110,524.86
	CURRENT ASSETS	
295,834.51	Stocks and Work in progress	267,586.02
753,044.65	Debtors and Prepayments	1,802,117.05
6,227,026.09	Bank and Cash balances	5,663,641.07
20.00	Investments	20.00
7,275,925.25		7,733,364.14
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
2,227,606.16	Creditors and Accruals	3,528,379.37
-	Public Works Loan - (Office/Depot)	-
7,059,021.56	Public Works Loan - (St. Germans)	7,059,021.56
9,286,627.72		10,587,400.93
(2,010,702.47)	**NET CURRENT LIABILITIES**	(2,854,036.79)
9,891,143.78	**NET ASSETS**	**9,256,488.07**
	FUNDS AND RESERVES	
1,897,451.25	Capital Provisions - Asset Revaluation	1,897,451.25
1,763,052.86	Capital Provisions - General Fund Revaluation	1,763,052.86
596,502.19	Capital Provisions - Revaluation Reserve	596,502.19
67,164.59	Development Contribution Account	102,490.22
42,599.73	Channel Maintenance Future Works Account	42,599.73
18,146.23	Discharge Consents A1(M) Account	18,575.41
782,346.27	Commuted Sum - (Cardea Management)	777,693.79
202,008.20	Sale of land and buildings	206,785.95
4,425,441.35	Revenue Account	3,960,016.89
140,718.90	Revenue Account - Navigation	170,552.36
421,136.67	Revenue future works account	393,537.84
(465,424.46)	Surplus/Deficit for Period	(672,770.42)
9,891,143.78		**9,256,488.07**

NAVIGATION ACCOUNT

(Wisbech Canal Act 1794)
(Nene Navigation Act, 1753 and Middle Level Acts, 1844 and 1862)
Requirements to keep separate accounts regarding the above repealed with the Middle Level Act 2018

(Middle Level Navigation Act 2018)

EXPENDITURE		£ p	INCOME	£ p
Fees:			Balance in hand on 1st April 2024	140,718.90
Registration/Licence collection		294.57		
			Interest	3,328.18
Waterways management		60,840.62		
			Registration/licence fees	200,478.35
Link Route			Temporary visitor passes	2,412.07
Installation of facilities		23,782.00	PaddleUK	2,371.30
			Sale of lock handles and keys	656.69
PaddleUK			Services for Environment Agency	487.00
Installation of facilities		2,203.61		
Works:			Works:	
Operation/maintenance of locks		67,592.67	Operation/maintenance of locks	67,592.67
Maintenance of channels		163,784.43	Maintenance of channels	163,784.43
Improvement works:			Improvement works:	
Structures		132,922.00	Structures	-
Watercourses		-	Watercourses	-
Professional fees/Administration			Professional fees/Administration	
Professional fees		-	Professional fees	-
Administration		29,143.93	Administration	29,143.93
In accordance with Middle Level Act 2018 - 25% of income for			Deficit on Operations	40,142.67
Link Route Funding at 1st April 2024	137,390.48			
Installation of facilities	50,119.59			
Less: Spent in year	(23,782.00)			
Interest to Fund	3,249.46	166,977.53		
General Balance at 1st April 2024	828.42			
Interest to Balances	19.59	848.01		
PaddleUK at 1st April 2024	2,500.00			
Contribution Received	2,371.30			
Less: Spent in year	(2,203.61)			
Interest to Fund	59.13	2,726.82		
		651,116.18		651,116.18

BALANCE SHEET - NAVIGATION

CAPITAL SECTION

Liabilities		Assets	
Capital Loan (Middle Level)	40,169.24	Plant & Vehicles	40,169.24

REVENUE SECTION

General Balances	848.01	Bank & Cash Balances	170,552.36
Link Route Funding	166,977.53	*(Held Within MLC Banking Accounts)*	
PaddleUK Funding	2,726.82		
	170,552.36		170,552.36

Cash Balances at 31.03.2025

Accountants Account

•	£501,382.70
Business Premium Account – 1	
•	£2,265,362.34
Current Account	
•	£15,000.00
Business Premium Account – 2	
•	£2,663,316.16
National Savings Account	
•	£218,507.66
Petty Cash	
•	£72.18
Per Accounts	£5,663,641.07

Rates and Special Levies
Rate Set – 33.00p

Agricultural Drainage Rates – 2024/2025
Drainage Rates Raised - £2,201,780
Balance Outstanding on 31st March 2025 - £150,350

Special Levies Issued – 2024/2025

	Raised	Balance Outstanding
Fenland District Council	656,294	-
Huntingdonshire District Council	269,191	-
Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	265,525	-
	1,191,010	-

Looking Forward: - Financial Year 2025/2026
The estimates for the 2025/2026 rate requirement have been based around standard budget provisions, with specifics included where known. Provisions have been included for the new approved staffing arrangements and the 2025 pay award.

The budget provisions include for ML Board approval of resolutions as presented in the Annual Report, including the recommendations regarding Optimising St Germans Pumping Station and Compliance and Enforcement

Plant:
The estimates include a general provision of £209,063 for annual depreciation.
The Executive Committee considered and approved the general make-up of the budget estimates and focussed in detail on the likely three main risks to be considered when setting the rate for the coming year.

Pumping costs:
When estimating pumping costs for 2025/2026 consideration needs to be given to the impact of climate change on rainfall patterns and the impact of potential new contract rates from October 2025 onwards. This matter was again discussed by the Executive Committee and their proposal was to continue to use the 5-year average for volume which was then multiplied by 125% and to use unit rates at a 5% increase on current rates from October 2025 onwards.

Highland water:
When drafting the budget for 2025/2026 claims will be less than previous year due to less pumping costs for 2024/2025, and for the budget proposal the sum of £430,000 has been included; fully calculated claims will be submitted later in the year. The Executive Committee reviewed this position and in the light of current likely funding models have agreed to retain the full estimate within the 2025/2026 budget estimates.

To prevent the duplication of funding, if an asset is funded in full or in part by this IDB Storm Recovery and Asset Improvement Fund grant (Tranche 2b) the asset should be excluded from Highland Water Contribution claims for the period of 2025/26.
Therefore, whilst the T2b funding is considered capital and Highland Water claims cover certain revenue activities, meaning there should not be a duplication in funding, we need to plan and budget that we will have to discount assets from our 2025/26 Highland Water claims.

Improvements:
On the 13th of November 2024 the Government announced additional funding under the Storm Recovery Grant Fund (T2b) for the modernisation, innovation, and upgrade of IDB assets and waterways, making them more effective, sustainable, environmentally friendly for agricultural land, flood risk and rural communities. These projects are to be delivered by March 2026.

Following several expressions of interest we were awarded the following T2b grants:

Grant		Amount	Equivalent rate value
St Germans Asset Resilience		£1,030,228	10.00p
Mobile Pumps		£1,215,092	11.80p
Bevills Pond:			
Bevills Leam Pumping Station	£94,057		
Tin Dump Weed Screen	£123,280		
Hydraulic Monitoring	£50,232	£267,569	2.60p
Total		£2,512,889	24.40p

Urgent Capital Works:
There are £698,600 of essential improvement works that have been prioritised for budgeting in 2025/26. If this was all be factored into rates, it would be the equivalent of 6.79p.

Public Works Loans for Urgent Capital Works:
To keep the rate more affordable, the recommendation is to take out Public Works Loan(s) to cover the need and only draw-down the loan when delivery costs are certain and closer to the window to

deliver the works. This reduces the 2025/26 cost of serving any loan to approximately the equivalent of 0.5p, with the cost in 2026/27 and future years being the equivalent of 0.75p.

As of 16/04/2025, a £700,000 loan repayable over 10 years equates to an annual repayment of £90,061 and a total repayment sum of £900,607. A 15-year loan term equates to an annual repayment of £68,776 and a total repayment sum of £1,031,634.

The Board is asked to consider and approve:
The Board is asked to authorise the RFO to progress the applications of between one and four Public Works Loans totalling up to £700,000 and repayable over up to a 15-year repayment term to provide the capital for the four Essential Improvement Works Projects

St Germans - Pump Inverters and Air Circuit Breakers Refurbishment	200,000
Bevill's Leam - Pump Overhaul	100,000
Ashline Lock Gate Replacement	320,000
Revetment/Bank Slip Repairs - Yaxley - Yards End Dyke	78,600

The Board is asked to delegate the decision for enacting the loan application(s) therefore drawing-down the capital and entering repayment agreements, to the Chairman as advised by the RFO, Chief Engineer and Chief Executive.

The Board is asked to consider and approve:
The recommendations of the Executive Committee for inclusion of the specific amounts as detailed.
The recommendations of the Executive Committee concerning pumping costs and highland water.

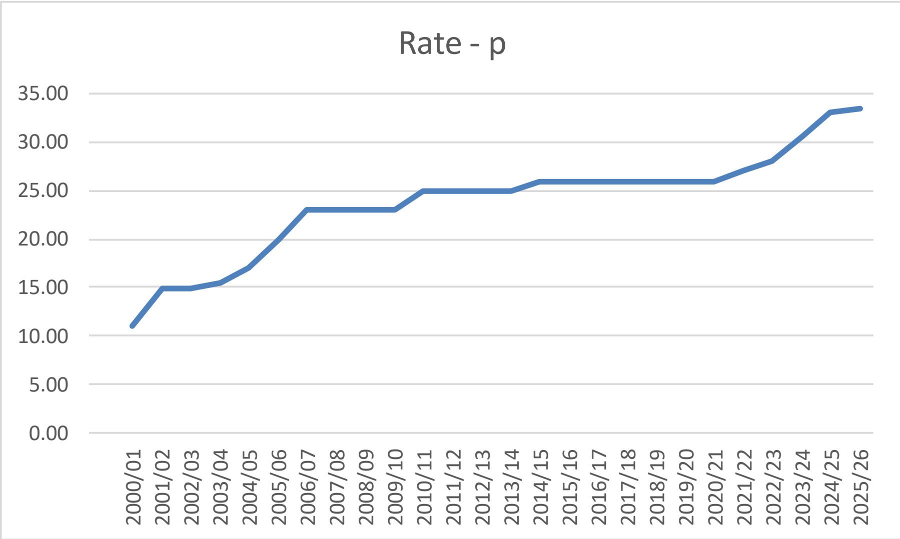
Rating and Special Levies for 2025/2026:
After full and careful consideration of the budget estimates for 2025/2026 it is the recommendation of the Executive Committee that a rate on agricultural land and buildings, together with corresponding special levies of 33.50p be set.

Details of rates and special levies page 21.

Further, members are advised that these figures are estimating pumping costs to be in-line with the budget proposal against which the rates have been set and should therefore also take into account the significant financial implications major storm events can have on Drainage Board budgets.

Rating Trend 2000/01 to 2025/26

Rate Year	Rate - p
2000/01	11.00
2001/02	14.96
2002/03	14.96
2003/04	15.40
2004/05	17.00
2005/06	20.00
2006/07	23.00
2007/08	23.00
2008/09	23.00
2009/10	23.00
2010/11	25.00
2011/12	25.00
2012/13	25.00
2013/14	25.00
2014/15	26.00
2015/16	26.00
2016/17	26.00
2017/18	26.00
2018/19	26.00
2019/20	26.00
2020/21	26.00
2021/22	27.00
2022/23	28.00
2023/24	30.50
2024/25	33.00
2025/26	33.50



Description	Approved Budget 2024/2025 £	Probable Actual Expenditure 2024/2025 £	Proposed Budget 2025/2026 £	Remarks
1 ADMINISTRATION AND ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT				
a) Salaries, Superannuation and National Insurance contributions	1,535,000	1,590,476 [A]	1,725,000 [B]	A - Employers Pension contribution (LGPS 20.50%, NEST 4%) = £225,654 Employers National Insurance contribution (Main Rate) = £191,490
b) Audit charge	23,500	23,500	24,500	
c) Travelling expenses, etc	42,500	42,488	37,544	B - Employers Pension contributions (Estimated) = £203,776 Employers National Insurance contribution (Main Rate) = £248,108
d) Lighting, heating, cleaning and telephone charges (office)	41,000	49,180	53,522	C - Includes provision for computer equipment replacement programme - £10,000
e) Printing, stationery and equipment (office)	27,000	35,613	47,000 [C]	D - Provision for Cope Safety Management and additional compliance measures
f) Postages, statutory fees, stamp duties, advertisements, etc	36,000	59,119	83,078	E - General provision of £2,000 to be raised in year
g) Health and Safety service contract	10,000	6,699	10,000 [D]	F - Includes provisions for: Enforcement action 20,000 External legal advice 20,000
h) Statutory payments for work etc in connection with Middle Level	6,500	6,486	6,500	
i) Consultancy (Reservoir influencing)	15,000	15,000	0	
j) Land/property registration	0	0	0	
k) Publicity	2,000 [E]	2,000 [E]	2,000 [E]	
l) Web Site Design and Build	2,500	2,500	2,500	
m) Staff Training	5,000	4,461	5,000	
	0	0	0	
m) Professional fees and recovery of costs	32,000	29,655	40,750 [F]	
	1,778,000	1,867,177	2,037,394	
Deduct:-				
Receipts (Net) Consulting Fees, pumping station service and supervision fees		0		
Internal Drainage Boards' administration charges and contribution from balances	473,500	652,448	667,539	
	1,304,500	1,214,729	1,369,855	

Receipts	2024/2025	2025/2026
Engineering fees less Indemnity Insurance	203,500	286,000
Internal Drainage Boards' Administration	270,000	307,829
Recharge to Fens Reservoir	0	73,710
	473,500	667,539

Description	Approved Budget 2024/2025		Probable Actual Expenditure 2024/2025		Proposed Budget 2025/2026		Remarks
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
NAVIGATION		-		-		-	
2 Expenditure:							
Management							
Registration/licence fee collection	10,000		295		12,000		A - Provision for Navigation Officer and
Waterways Management	68,000	A	60,841	A	76,486	A	operational costs
Operational maintenance							B - Apportionment of maintenance
Operation/maintenance of locks	100,000		67,593		61,827		expenditure
Maintenance of channels	140,000	B	163,784	B	178,342	B	
Replace lock doors - Marmont Priory	25,000		127,922		-		C - Access improvements and installation
							of facilities - Stanground lock
Improvement works							
Structures	50,000		-		-		D - Consultancy - Public Safety Risk
Watercourses	-		-		-		Assessment
Installation of facilities	50,000		28,782	C	-		
Installation of facilities - Floating Pontoon Dock	-		2,204		-		E - Provision for administration/supervision
Professional fees/Administartion							F - Estimate of income for 2024/25
Professional fees	10,000	D	-	D	10,000	D	
Administration	22,000	E	29,144	E	22,000	E	G - Estimate of income for 2025/26
		475,000		480,564		360,655	
Income							H - Provision to provide 25% of Navigation
Registration fees	220,000	F	204,034		211,250	G	income for installation of new facilities
Less 25% - installation of facilities	(55,000)	H	(50,120)	H	(51,688)	H	
Contribution - Landing stage	-		-		-		I - Transfer of navigation expenditure not
		165,000		153,914		159,562	covered by navigation income to
Operational surplus/deficit		(310,000)		(326,650)		(201,093)	Middle Level General Fund
Use of balances:							
Installation of facilities (Stanground)	50,000	50,000	23,782	23,782	-	-	
Transfers to Middle Level Gneral Fund							
(Operational subsidy)							
Waterways Management	-		-		-		
Operation/maintenance of locks	100,000		67,593		61,827		
Maintenance of channels	140,000		163,784		178,342		
Replace lock doors - Marmont Priory	25,000		-		-		
Installation of facilities - Floating Pontoon Dock	-		2,204		-		
Professional fees	-		-		10,000		
Administration	10,000		29,144		22,000		
		275,000		262,725		272,169	
Operational Surplus/(Deficit)		15,000		(40,143)	I	71,076	

Description	Approved Budget 2024/2025 £	£	Probable Actual Expenditure 2024/2025 £	£	Proposed Budget 2025/2026 £	£	Remarks
ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT -(Conservation)		-		-		-	
2 Expenditure:							
Management							
Employment costs	85,000 A		81,732 A		103,473 A		A - Provision for Ecologist(s) and operational costs
Vehicle running costs	8,750		9,461		10,500		
Vehicle depreciation							
Direct administration	-		-		-		B - Environmental studies access
Environmental data sharing	-		-		-		
							C - Consultancy - Badger set management
Works							
MLC BAP project	5,000		618		-		D - IDB service agreements
Conservation Schemes	5,000		14,728		5,000		
St Germans Eel Pass Refurbishment	40,000		40,000		-		E - Consultancy on Environmental requirements (major scheme inputs)
					-		
Professional fees/Consultancy							
Environment Access fees	4,000 B		1,071		- B		F - Contributions for Environmental studies access
Consultancy - Administration	-		-		-		
Consultancy - Operational	50,000 C		4,621 C		20,000 C		
		197,750		152,231		138,973	
Income							
Contributions - IDB	28,350 D		27,241 D		76,190 D		
Contributions - Third party							
Consultancy (Grant Aided schemes)	5,000 E		-		- E		
Cost re-charges	8,000 F		-		- F		
		41,350		27,241		76,190	
Net expenditure *transferred to maintenance*		156,400		124,990		62,783	

Description	Approved Budget 2024/2025		Probable Actual Expenditure 2024/2025		Proposed Budget 2025/2026		Remarks
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
3 <u>MAINTENANCE WORK</u> (including Environmental measures)							A - Includes provision for: electricity usage £495,418
a) St Germans Pump. Station	703,000 [B]		663,920 [A]		606,732 [B]		B - Includes provision for: electricity usage - £464,000 service/repairs - £40,000
b) Bevills Leam Pumping Station	184,750 [D]		186,887 [C]		218,900 [D]		
Control Sluice	5,000		9,278		9,000		C - Includes provision for electricity usage £165,000
c) Structures	106,000		92,473 [E]		74,427		D - Includes provision for: electricity usage - £132,068
d) Weed Control, Banks & Channels	609,000		615,843		641,725		E - Includes for insurances - £12.000
e) Environmental Risk Management - (Conservation)	156,400		124,990		62,783		
f) Property	129,000 [G]		105,015 [F]		106,175		F - Includes improvements to property: Office/depot - £14,510 31 Sluice Road refurbishment - £25,591 Salters Lode cottage - £4,510
		1,893,150		1,798,406		1,719,742	
DEDUCT Contributions							G - Payment of calculated claims
Highland Water - maintenance	765,000 [H]		779,626 [G]		430,000 [H]		H - Calculated full Highland Water claims
Contribution to works from Navigation	15,000 [I]		(39,975)		71,076 [I]		I - Estimated contribution from navigation towards standard navigation operational expenditure
		780,000		739,651		501,076	
Carried forward		1,113,150		1,058,755		1,218,666	

Description	Approved Budget 2024/2025 £	£	Probable Actual Expenditure 2024/2025 £	£	Proposed Budget 2025/2026 £	£	Remarks
Brought forward		1,113,150		1,058,755		1,218,666	A - Funding for future improvements
4 IMPROVEMENT WORKS (including							
Environmental works)							B - Grant aided study (Woodwalton Fen)
Telemetry Improvements	10,000 [A]		153		10,000 [A]		
Alternative upstream storage	144,500 [B]		6,500 [B]		-		C - Funded maintenance works
Middle Level River Management Scheme (MLRMS)	2,000,000		7,172,337		2,433,253		
Cardea Attenuation Lagoon Maint.	30,000 [C]		24,163 [C]		- [C]		D - Estimate for fencing works in year
Gt Drove culvert (Tin Dump)	10,000 [D]		-		- [D]		
Woodwalton Fen Reservoir	12,500		71,421		12,000		E - Funded study - Horsey Toll catchment
Priory Lock d/s Door Replacement	25,000		-		-		
Horsey Toll System Study	75,000 [E]		-		-		F - Moorings at Ramsey
Installation of Moorings	50,000 [F]		-		-		
St Germans Impellor Inspection	15,000 [G]		-		20,000 [G]		G - Estimate for inspection on one pump
St Germans Fuel Monitoring	10,000		-		10,000		
Horsey Toll LAPSIP works	130,000		138,783		-		H - Estimate for identified slips to date
Revetment/Bank Slip Repairs	100,000 [H]		-		-		
St Germans Radiator Repair	25,000 [I]		50,000 [I]		-		I - Work Funded by Storm Recovery T1A
Bevills Leam Electrical Improvements	25,000 [I]		30,228 [I]		-		
St Germans Depot Resilience	-		300,876 [J]		1,030,228 [K]		J - Work Funded by Storm Recovery T2A
MLC Operational Depot Resilience	-		151,769 [J]		-		
Mobile Pumps	-		539,334 [J]		1,215,092 [K]		K - Work Funded by Storm Recovery T2BA
Bevills Leam Depot Resilience	-		263,367 [J]		94,057 [K]		
Tin Dump Weed Screen Repair	-		-		123,280 [K]		L - Essential Repair works
Hydraulic Monitoring	-		-		50,232 [K]		
St Germans - Pump Inverters and Air Circuit Breakers Refurbishment	-		-		200,000 [L]		
Bevill's Leam - Pump Overhaul	-		-		100,000 [L]		
Ashline Lock Gate Replacement	-		-		320,000 [L]		
Revetment/Bank Slip Repairs - Yaxley - Yards End Dyke	-		-		78,600 [L]		
		2,662,000	-	8,748,931		5,696,742	
Deduct Grants and Contributions in respect of Improvement Works							
Horsey Toll LAPSIP Works/Study	205,000 [A]		138,783 [A]		- [A]		A - Funded by grant and Fenland Soil
Alternative Upstream Storage	144,500 [B]		6,483 [B]		- [B]		B - Grant-in-aid funding
Middle Level River Management Scheme (MLRMS)	2,000,000 [C]		5,744,552 [C]		2,433,253 [L]		C - Grant-in-aid funding
Cardea Attenuation Lagoon Maint.	30,000 [D]		24,163 [D]		- [D]		D - Funding received from developer
Gt Drove culvert (Tin Dump)	10,000 [E]		- [E]		- [E]		E - Funds raised in previous years
Priory Lock d/s Door Replacement	25,000 [F]		-		- [F]		F - Funds raised in previous years
Installation of Moorings (Navigation Account)	50,000 [G]		- [G]		- [G]		G - Funded direct from Navigation account
St Germans Radiator Repair	-		50,000 [H]		-		H - Funded by Storm Recovery Grant T1A
Bevills Leam Electrical Improvements	-		30,228 [H]		-		I - Funded by Storm Recovery Grant T2A
St Germans Depot Resilience	-		300,876 [I]		1,030,228 [J]		J - Funded by Storm Recovery Grant T2B
MLC Operational Depot Resilience	-		151,769 [I]		-		K- Funded through PWL
Mobile Pumps	-		539,334 [I]		1,215,092 [J]		L- Funded through Revenue Account
Bevills Leam Depot Resilience	-		263,367 [I]		94,057 [J]		
Tin Dump Weed Screen Repair	-		-		123,280 [J]		
Hydraulic Monitoring	-		-		50,232 [J]		
St Germans - Pump Inverters and Air Circuit Breakers Refurbishment					200,000 [K]		
Bevill's Leam - Pump Overhaul					100,000 [K]		
Ashline Lock Gate Replacement			-		320,000 [K]		
Revetment/Bank Slip Repairs - Yaxley - Yards End Dy	-				78,600 [K]		
		2,464,500	-	7,249,555		5,644,742	
		1,310,650		2,558,131		1,270,666	

Description	Approved Budget 2024/2025		Probable Actual Expenditure 2024/2025		Proposed Budget 2025/2026		Remarks
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Brought forward		1,310,650		2,558,131		1,270,666	Plant and vehicle purchases to be capitalised to balance sheet.
5 <u>PLANT & VEHICLES</u>							
a) Operation/Maintenance	60,000 [A]		68,031 [A]		70,000 [A]		
Depreciation charge	160,000 [B]		178,345 [B]		209,063 [B]		
b) Surplus/deficit on sales	(35,000) [C]		(10,601) [C]		- 0 [C]		A - Expenditure of plant operation account B - Provision for annual depreciation of plant and vehicles.
		185,000		235,775		279,063	C - Surplus/deficit on disposal of assets
Deduct income from plant hire	100,000 [D]		108,413 [D]		128,980 [D]		D - Recharges for use of plant and vehicles E - Provision for surplus on works
Deduct surplus on works admin. a/c	20,000 [E]		(31,226) [E]		44,083 [E]		administration account
		120,000		77,187		173,063	
		1,375,650		2,716,719		1,376,666	<u>Plant replacement strategy updated</u> <u>See engineers report</u>

	Approved Budget 2024/2025 £	Probable Actual Expenditure 2024/2025 £	Proposed Budget 2025/2026 £
6 PRECEPT FROM ENVIRONMENT AGENCY	18,490 [A]	18,488 [A]	18,858 [A]
7 Income from rents, bank, interest, etc	95,583	120,340	85,900 [B]
8 Storm Recovery Grant	-	401,114	-
	95,583	521,454	85,900

	2025/2026
A - IDB precept refund	16,710
E.A. precept charge	2,148
	18,858

B - Estimate made for accrued interest during period

SUMMARY	Approved Budget 2024/2025 £	Probable Actual Expenditure 2024/2025 £	Proposed Budget 2025/2026 £	Increase/(decrease) on previous year's Estimates £
Administration and Engineer's Department (Net)	1,304,500	1,214,729	1,369,855	*65,355*
Works (Net)	1,375,650	2,716,719	1,376,666	*1,016*
Environment Agency precept	18,490	18,488	18,858	*368*
	2,698,640	3,949,936	2,765,379	*66,739*
DEDUCT Income from rents, bank interest, etc.	95,583	521,454	85,900	(9,683)
	2,603,057	3,428,482	2,679,479	*57,056*
ADD Estimated Loan Repayments				
St. Germans pumping station replacement	688,242	688,242	688,242	-
Improvement Works			79,519	*79,519*
Net amount to be met from Rates and Special levies	**3,291,299**	**4,116,724**	**3,447,240**	**136,575**
Add: Use of balances - Property Fund	(78,500)	(44,611)	-	*78,500*
Net amount to be met from Rates and Special Levies	**3,212,799**	**4,072,113**	**3,447,240**	*234,441*
Rate requirement to meet est. expenditure	**31.25** p		**33.53** p	
Adjust for use of balances Replacement of 23/24 balance reduction	180,000	-	-	(180,000)
Net amount for rates nd Special Levies	**3,392,799**	**4,072,113**	**3,447,240**	**54,441**
Rate requirement	**33.00** p		**33.50** p	

As to financial year 2024/2025

The probable actual expenditure in 2024/2025 was £679,483 more than the amount for which provision was made in the estimates that the rate income provided for.

As to financial year 2025/2026

The Commissioners balance on 31st March 2025 is estimated at approximately £3,280,000 – No account being taken of the balance of the Development and Future Works Contributions Accounts (approximately £1,330,000).

Under Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the appropriate proportions in which the net expenditure of the Commissioners must be borne in 2025/2026 is:-

a) Proportion to be borne by the Agricultural Sector – 64.84%
b) Proportion to be borne by Special Levies issued to District Councils – 35.16% of which the proportions to be borne by each of these Councils is:-

Fenland District Council -	19.39%
Huntingdonshire District Council -	7.93%
Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk -	7.83%
Peterborough City Council	0.00%

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £66,723.
In 2025/2026 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levies would raise £102,902.

The estimated net expenditure for 2025/2026 is £3,447,240 and equivalent to a rate on agricultural land and buildings, together with corresponding Special Levies of:

33.50p

In setting the rate for 2025/2026 consideration should be given to ongoing cash flow requirements, future capital improvement requirements and the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

The estimated net expenditure for revenue and capital of £3,435,240 is equivalent to:-

a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of - 33.50p
b) a Special levy on Fenland District Council of - £668,505
c) a Special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of - £273,272; and
d) a Special levy on the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk of £270,208.
e) a Special levy on the Peterborough City Council of £70.

In 2024/2025 a rate of 33.00p in the £ was raised together with Special levies totalling £1,191,010 on the District Councils.

P BURROWS, FCIWEM C.WEM CEnv
Clerk and Chief Executive

April 2025

Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

As has been reported at previous meetings, the Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory annual accounts and governance statements was updated, with the revised 2018 edition being applied to annual returns commencing on or after 1st April 2018.

The Joint Practitioners Advisory Group (JPAG) have recently approved some amendments to the wording of Governance and accountability. The content is not greatly changed, but a minor error affecting Parish meetings has been corrected and some of the explanations in part 5 have been made clearer.

As previously reported, as part of the updated guidance, there will be additional items for the Board to review and record in the minutes, and these will be included in agenda papers as required. A copy of the updated guidance will be published on the Middle Level website for Members to review.

Appendix 1

MIDDLE LEVEL COMMISSIONERS

Payments - October 2024 to March 2025

3Q Sports Teamwear Ltd	325.92	
Aquatic Control Engineering	43,512.00	
AIM Electrical Services Ltd	77,695.77	Bevills PS WSC Platform Cable Replacement, Overhaul Control Panel for W/Com & Iron Bridge & WSC @ Nightlayers & Dumcombes PS (Recoverable)
Allertons	691.03	
Antifriction Components Ltd	382.01	
B J Plant Hire Ltd	7,008.00	
J Bates & Sons	4,593.60	
Beebys Ltd	3,084.84	
L Bennett & Son Ltd	363.29	
Blue Compass Ltd	79,838.95	Consulting Fees Consenting Engineer/Bank Raising
Boston Crop Sprayers Ltd	348.59	
C Brewer & Sons Ltd	274.46	
Ben Burgess Coates	366.42	
Button Engineering Ltd	3,420.00	
CWA Enterprises Ltd	522.00	
Cope Safety Management ltd	1,009.87	
Davies Contracting Ltd	9,072.00	
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd	101.40	
Engineering & Hire Ltd	1,043.28	
Fenland Fire Appliance LLP	120.00	
Fishers of March Limited	928.00	
Grafton Projects Ltd	334.44	
T C Harrison Ford	882.00	
Alfred Harrold (Containers) Ltd	1,434.00	
H L Hutchinson Ltd	212.40	
Iliffe Media Publishing Ltd	163.80	
Kal Fixings Uk Ltd	113.10	
Latta Hire Ltd	120.96	
Liquitherm Technologies Group Ltd	2,846.40	
Lyreco Uk Ltd	190.85	
B W Mack (Machinery) Ltd	5,435.39	
March Electrical Supplies Ltd	106.88	
Mastenbroek Environmental Ltd	3,506.84	
Maxey Grounds & Co LLP	2,988.06	
N L Hydraulics	199.11	
Narford Scaffolding Ltd	5,489.92	
Tim Norton	539.44	
Officeflow Ltd	379.59	
Ogden Motor Engineers Ltd	234.00	
Pro-Purus Ltd	92.56	
Pulsar Measurement	1,458.72	
E Rand & Sons Ltd	11,108.40	
David J Richards Ltd	323.24	
Huws Gray (Ridgeons)	525.76	
Royal Mail	85.59	
RS Components Ltd	172.28	
Rutterford Construction Ltd	630.00	
Shoebridge & Sons Ltd	5,300.40	
Stantec	7,029.60	
Streamline IT Solutions Ltd	2,606.07	
Technology Services Group Ltd	150.00	
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	102.12	
TMC Lifting & Engineering Supplies	541.44	

Uk Training (Worldwide) Ltd	442.80	
Upwell Drainage Board	16,382.00	
Veolia Environmental Services	8.64	
Water Management Alliance	799.76	
Watson Fuels (WFL Uk Ltd)	28,188.60	
Whitings LLP	9,300.00	
Witham Group	308.90	
Wrights Tools Ltd	1,400.70	
Xylem Water Solutions Uk Ltd	32,577.53	
British Telecom	1,184.50	
Phoenix people Consulting Ltd	517.92	
Phoenix people Consulting Ltd	517.92	
HM Land Regisry	12.00	
CW Group	5,994.00	
Steven Eagell Toyota	360.85	
CIEEM	158.00	
Balfour Beatty	549,422.55	Bank Raising Contractor Work
Carlile's Nursery & grds Maint	1,940.00	
Veolia Environmental Services	8.93	
Scottish Power	19.45	
Aquatic Control Engineering Ltd	8,295.00	
V & J Knitwear Ltd	764.71	
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd	2,966.40	
Weightmans LLP	2,865.60	
Staff Reimbursement	25.00	
Barclaycard	2,162.65	
645 Services Ltd	6,960.00	
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council	170.00	
Burley Fluid & Air	119.65	
Collins Nets	396.00	
PKF	4,536.00	
Broadland Radiators & heat Exchanges Ltd	8,640.00	
EE	537.65	
CCC Pensions Income	17,258.23	
Unison	39.75	
Staff Reimbursement	20.00	
Pitney Bowes	800.00	
Sulzer Services (UK) Ltd	2,136.00	
HMRC Tax & NI	48,865.95	
D & J Transport Ltd	682.63	
Fenland District Council	5,324.00	
Andrews & Arnold	6.58	
Witham Oil & paint (Soham) Ltd	3,295.01	
John Oldfield	2,518.90	
Staff Reimbursement	25.09	
Prudential AVC	3,670.00	
Barclaycard	143.74	
Allstar	2,107.94	
Month 7 - Salaries	78,556.42	
Month 7 - Wages	29,618.08	
Balfour Beatty	28,234.87	Bank Raising Contractor Work
Balfour Beatty	259,851.65	Bank Raising Contractor Work
Balfour Beatty	316,783.27	Bank Raising Contractor Work
B W Mack (Machinery) Ltd	114,360.00	New Tractor
Carlile's Nursery & Grds Maint	1,895.00	
CMS Electrical Services	216.00	
Fraser Dawbarns LLP	1,204.80	

Scottish Power	23.87	
Corona Energy - Gas	2,717.12	
Corona Energy - Electric	33,129.23	
Bidwells LLP	18,720.00	
Broadland Radiators & heat Exchanges Ltd	12,416.40	
Bidwells LLP	1,200.00	
D & J Transport Ltd	18,659.54	
CW Group	8,667.60	
Witham Oil & paint (Soham) Ltd	226.37	
NEST	10,559.76	
Bottomline	98.02	
Salix River & Wetland Services Ltd	7,156.80	
Phoenix people Consulting Ltd	250.00	
Biffa waste Services Ltd	327.53	
AF Group	6.15	
Allstar	2,134.77	
Staff Reimbursement	90.85	
Barclaycard	1,068.08	
Carlile's Nursery & Grds Maint	1,950.00	
Corona Energy - Gas	508.76	
Fenland District Council	165.62	
HMRC Tax & NI	47,103.65	
N & J Aluminium Linings Ltd	1,924.00	
Switch	912.00	
V & J Knitwear Ltd	1,776.73	
Mrs D Morton	196.42	
Mr J Izzard	160.00	
645 Services Ltd	5,328.00	
British Telecom	1,181.38	
TML	75.65	
AIM Electrical Services Ltd	32,344.06	
Allertons	331.32	
Andrews Sykes Hire Ltd	824.42	
3B Design & Print Ltd	78.00	
L Bennett & Son Ltd	174.76	
L R Boon & Sons Ltd	37.03	
Ben Burgess Coates	434.06	
Blue Compass Ltd	78,755.00	Consulting Fees Consenting Engineer/Bank Raising
B J Plant Hire Ltd	10,584.00	
Burley Fluid & Air	851.74	
B A Bush & Son Ltd	926.74	
Button Engineering Ltd	224.40	
Clean & Clear	650.00	
Cope Safety Management ltd	1,009.87	
CTS Security Ltd	216.00	
Davies Contracting Ltd	4,972.80	
Eurofins Chemtest Ltd	671.98	
Fishers of March Limited	90.00	
Grafton Projects Ltd	354.93	
T C Harrison Ford	2,318.07	
Hayley Group Ltd	2,783.13	
Iliffe Media Publishing Ltd	187.20	
Kew Grasscare	640.56	
Latta Hire Ltd	115.20	
G & CA Lombardo Ltd	174.60	
B W Mack (Machinery) Ltd	720.00	
March Electrical Supplies Ltd	540.38	

Metreel Ltd	1,158.84	
Mill Stainless	1,619.04	
Newsquest Media Group	181.67	
NTSS Ltd	1,296.00	
Officeflow Ltd	402.72	
Outwell Timber	102.40	
Pro-Purus Ltd	50.28	
Pure-PAT Electrical Testing Ltd	820.98	
Huws Gray (Ridgeons)	495.29	
Royal Mail	80.00	
RS Components Ltd	527.93	
SCCS Survery Eqipment Ltd	1,560.00	
Streamline IT Solutions Ltd	3,333.35	
Trade UK (Screw Fix)	146.36	
V & J Knitwear Ltd	118.26	
Veolia Environmental Services	8.93	
Watson Fuels (WFL Uk Ltd)	5,502.00	
Whitings LLP	1,200.00	
Wrights Tools Ltd	843.39	
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council	170.00	
HM Land Regisry	6.00	
Staff Reimbursement	36.99	
Staff Reimbursement	25.00	
Staff Reimbursement	140.00	
Carlile's Nursery & Grds Maint	1,895.00	
EE	537.65	
Staff Reimbursement	25.00	
CCC Pensions Income	17,536.28	
Unison	42.80	
Andrews & Arnold	7.58	
Barclaycard	601.05	
Fenland District Council	5,324.00	
Environment Agency	1,053.21	
Hygiene Quality Forklifts Ltd	415.99	
Allgood Ltd	463.66	
Ben Burgess Coates	3,600.00	
Allstar	1,924.84	
Prudential AVC	3,670.00	
ADA	360.00	
Staff Reimbursement	63.84	
Maxey Grounds	1,050.06	
Pulsar Measurement	1,511.52	
Towergate	2,066.40	
Balfour Beatty	347,826.77	Bank Raising Contractor Work
Balfour Beatty	400,000.00	Bank Raising Contractor Work
Balfour Beatty	400,000.00	Bank Raising Contractor Work
British Gas	513.19	
British Gas	131.11	
Cambridge Outboards Ltd	43.99	
Anglian Water _ Wave	126.77	
EE	539.16	
Hygiene Quality Forklifts Ltd	415.99	
Month 8 - Salaries	77,898.49	
Month 8 - Wages	30,082.59	
Staff Reimbursement	19.65	
T C Harrison Ford	34,621.50	
Mental Health Training	880.00	

Axflow	37,007.08
NEST	10,199.14
Bottomline	142.37
Biffa waste Services Ltd	462.31
Phoenix People Consulting Ltd	250.00
AF Group	448.48
Staff Reimbursement	22.50
Hunt & Coombs	1,000.00
Staff Reimbursement	64.74
The Atkin Partnership	2,033.85
Mr M Green	34.16
NCC Farm Estate	146.80
Yaxley Riding	89.10
Anglian Water _ Wave	20.45
J Bates & Sons	24,150.00
Beebys	1,542.42
Broadland Radiators & Heat Exchangers	24,832.80
Civil Safety Training & Rescue Ltd	360.00
CW Group	199.20
Fenland District Council	165.62
Scottish Power	22.71
Staff Reimbursement	158.55
AIM Electrical Services Ltd	2,520.00
Carlile's Nursery & Grds Maint	1,950.00
DXB pump & Power Ltd	31,390.50
Allstar	2310.32
TML	75.54
Aquatic Control Engineering	1,848.00
AIM Electrical Services Ltd	115.75
Allertons	1,430.82
Andrews Sykes Hire Ltd	1,465.88
Ben Burgess Coates	101.80
L Bennett & Son Ltd	247.13
B J Plant Hire Ltd	20,940.00
L R Boon & Sons Ltd	52.42
C. Brewer & Sons Ltd	174.36
Button Engineering Ltd	5,448.00
Hugh Crane (Cleaning Equipment) Ltd	262.48
CTS Security Ltd	197.40
Cope Safety Management ltd	1,009.87
CWA Enterprises Ltd	522.00
Davies Contracting Ltd	4,322.40
Elite Documents Solutions Ltd	2,133.01
Fenland Fire Appliance LLP	27.60
Fishers of March ltd	18.00
Fleet Timber Supplies Ltd	654.80
Grafton Projects Ltd	309.41
Guardian Fluids Group	1,467.60
HaskoningDHV Uk Ltd	24,157.20
Hayley Group Ltd	1,461.57
Handling Truck Services Ltd	113.06
Hygiene Quality Forklifts Ltd	415.99
Kal Fixings Uk Ltd	65.45
Lyreco Uk Ltd	348.76
March Electrical Supplies Ltd	1,353.81
March West & White Fen Drainage Board	38.93
Mastenbroek Environmental Ltd	1,224.00

Maxey Grounds & Co LLP	277.50	
Narford Scaffolding Ltd	120.00	
Newbrook Engineering Company Ltd	5,100.00	
N L Hydraulics	380.81	
Officeflow Ltd	388.26	
Ogden Motor Engineers Ltd	45.00	
Peleman	310.03	
Pro-Purus Ltd	100.56	
Pure-Pat Electrical Testing Ltd	187.80	
David Richards Ltd	130.97	
RS Components Ltd	310.80	
R.Y.R. Community Liaison Consultants Ltd	7,008.00	
Streamline IT Solutions Ltd	1,573.74	
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	586.02	
T.M.C. Lifting & Engineering Supplies	82.76	
Technology Services Group Ltd	2,160.00	
Veolia Environmental Services	8.64	
V & J Knitwear Ltd	614.52	
Watson Fuels (WFL Uk Ltd)	2,372.40	
Witham Oil & Paint (Soham) Ltd	211.10	
Wrights Tools Ltd	1,125.20	
British Telecom	1,185.13	
British Telecom	73.20	
Barclaycard	1,955.22	
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council	339.95	
Chris Manning	538.93	
Potamii Limited	14,267.76	
CCC Pensions Income	17,868.73	
Unison	42.80	
Pitney Bowes	807.48	
Bank Commission 16Oct/12Nov refunded	121.76	
Andrews & Arnold	4.49	
Fenland District Council	5,324.00	
CW Group	112,203.00	Deposit for Weedscreen Cleaner Upgrade Works at Bevills Leam & South Brink Weedscreen Cleaner Refurbishment
G Fowler	150.00	
WH Shoebridge & sons Ltd	800.89	
Balfour Beatty	475,000.00	Bank Raising Contractor Work
Balfour Beatty	462,440.85	Bank Raising Contractor Work
HM Land Registry	3.00	
Barclaycard	56.15	
HMRC Tax & NI	48,341.95	
A Patrick (AP Plumbing & Heating)	330.00	
Towergate	83.26	
Prudential AVC	3,670.00	
EDF Energy Customers Ltd	2,506.32	
NEST	10,213.54	
Allstar	2,150.78	
British Gas	67.89	
British Gas	283.04	
Catering Supply	330.00	
Month 9 - Salaries	79,921.54	
Month 9 - Wages	28,716.71	
Phoenix People Consulting Ltd	980.83	
645 Services Ltd	5,238.00	
J Bates & Sons	1,050.00	
EDI Surveys Ltd	13,584.00	
Greenwillows Associates Ltd	1,643.10	

EE	539.16	
Staff Reimbursement	237.50	
D & J Transport Ltd	552.00	
Staff Reimbursement	29.95	
Power Different Ltd	52,830.91	Deposit Solar PV Installation at St Germans
Staff Reimbursement	311.00	
Bottomline	101.47	
Beebys	1,380.11	
Broadland Radiators & Heat Exchangers Ltd	12,465.79	
Corona Energy Retail 4 Ltd	56,986.81	Electricity - September 2024 Charges
CW Group	835.20	
Highway Safety Management Ltd	2,046.00	
IMServ Europe Ltd	85.32	
Landfall Artwork	400.00	
Mr J Oldfield	3,455.34	
Biffa waste Services Ltd	1,256.21	
AF group	6.15	
Phoenix People Consulting Ltd	250.00	
Allstar	2,345.16	
TML	75.40	
British Telecom	1,179.40	
Allertons	3,174.68	
B J Plant Hire Ltd	43,446.00	
J Bates & Sons	1,050.00	
L Bennett & Son Ltd	255.68	
L R Boon & Sons Ltd	245.88	
Ben Burgess Coates	34.80	
B A Bush & Son Ltd	2,761.38	
Chartered Institution of Water And Environmental Management	446.50	
CTS Security Ltd	21.60	
Cope Safety Management ltd	1,009.87	
D & J Transport Ltd	277.20	
Explore 4 x 4	5,460.00	
Fenland Fire Appliance LLP	122.10	
Grafton Projects Ltd	157.09	
Hayley Group Ltd	830.63	
Highway Safety Management Ltd	3,036.00	
G & CA Lombardo Ltd	743.44	
Lyreco Uk Ltd	70.62	
March Electrical Supplies Ltd	167.84	
Maxey Grounds & Co LLP	1,054.50	
Norcam Hydraulic Services Ltd	403.26	
Officeflow Ltd	439.68	
Outwell Timber	25.00	
PHS Group	884.48	
RS Components Ltd	1,105.10	
E Rand & Sons Ltd	200.40	
Huws Gray (Ridgeons)	210.79	
Rutterford Construction Ltd	180.00	
Streamline IT Solutions Ltd	1,533.36	
Trade UK (Screw Fix)	193.03	
Veolia Environmental Services	8.93	
West & East Anglian Asbestos Removals (Contracts) Ltd	780.00	
Wrights Tools Ltd	1,524.92	
Staff Leaver	347.21	
Staff Leaver	1,689.73	
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council	341.00	

Scottish Power	21.30	
D C Roberts & Son	1,220.00	
Barclaycard	1,606.18	
HMRC Tax & NI	50,108.74	PAYE/NI
Pitney Bowes	400.00	
CCC Pensions Income	17,699.69	
Unison	42.80	
NEST	10,213.54	
Staff Reimbursement	25.00	
Fenland District Council	5,324.00	
Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd	612.00	
CW Group	53,692.20	Deposit Remedial Works Marmont Priory Lock
Lyreco UK Ltd	874.52	
Staff Reimbursement	104.91	
J D SIGNS Ltd	960.00	
Barclays Bank - Commission	79.07	
Allpress Farms Ltd	895.00	
Towergate	567.84	
Anglian Water	181.36	
Andrews & Arnold	5.27	
Barclaycard	43.40	
Allstar	1,816.46	
Prudential AVC	3,670.00	
Month 10 - Salaries	77,456.15	
Month 10 - Wages	24,283.98	
Gradeas Consulting Ltd	4,465.50	
Staff Reimbursement	108.67	
Staff Reimbursement	104.15	
Staff Reimbursement	33.62	
Staff Reimbursement	25.00	
Staff Reimbursement	25.00	
ADA	813.60	
CycleScheme Ltd	935.00	
HaskoningDHV Uk Ltd	43,680.00	
Mr J Oldfield	1,666.67	
Royal Mail	80.00	
R.Y.R Community Liaison Consultants Ltd	6,864.00	
Balfour Beatty	250,000.00	Bank Raising Contractor Work
Balfour Beatty	278,925.59	Bank Raising Contractor Work
Hygiene Quality Forklifts Ltd	415.99	
Bottomline	97.25	
British Gas	166.75	
British Gas	746.52	
Phoneix People	250.00	
A F Group	846.15	
Biffa waste Services Ltd	499.94	
Land Registry	7.00	
Allstar	1,635.55	
TML	75.41	
British Telecom	1,180.96	
EDF Energy	145,187.62	Electricity Charges Charged in error, Refunded
AIM Electrical Services Ltd	3,470.47	
Allertons	27.48	
3B Design & Print Ltd	439.20	
J Bates & Sons	1,050.00	
Beebys Ltd	2,760.22	
L Bennett & Son Ltd	61.15	

Ben Burgess Coates	89.40	
Burley Fluid & Air	607.87	
Cope Safety Management ltd	1,009.87	
Hugh Crane (Cleaning Equipment) Ltd	128.27	
Curf & Wimblington IDB	3,960.00	
Davies Contracting Ltd	6,520.80	
Fenland District Council	165.62	
Grafton Projects Ltd	399.99	
Hygiene Quality Forklifts Ltd	415.99	
Highway Safety Management Ltd	3,915.00	
Hartlington Fencing Supplies Ltd	904.80	
Jacobs UK Ltd	9,275.30	
Malary Ltd	330.00	
March Electrical Supplies Ltd	1,173.23	
March Golf Club Ltd	975.00	
Mastenbroek Environmental Ltd	425.92	
Narford Scaffolding Ltd	120.00	
Norcam Hydraulic Services Ltd	169.82	
Officeflow Ltd	451.09	
Ogden Motor Engineers Ltd	90.00	
Power Different Ltd	24,951.03	
Pulsar Measurement	20,277.60	
Pro-Purus Ltd	50.28	
Huws Gray (Ridgeons)	217.33	
RS Components Ltd	551.70	
R.Y.R Community Liaison Consultants Ltd	7,548.00	
Riverside Automation Ltd	2,728.80	
Rutterford Construction Ltd	630.00	
Streamline IT Solutions Ltd	2,574.71	
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	588.00	
Trade UK (Screw Fix)	33.99	
Veolia Environmental Services	12.65	
Watson Fuels (WFL Uk Ltd)	1,537.39	
K & P J Wilderspin	555.00	
Wrights Tools Ltd	447.37	
Barclaycard	2,662.51	
CMS Electrical services	654.00	
CTS Security Ltd	8,704.20	
EE	538.40	
Gaswise Services Ltd	108.00	
Old Nene Golf & Country Club	170.00	
Power Different	89,817.42	Stages Payments for Solar PV @ St Germans PS & Depot
Scottish Power	156.29	
Towergate	138.76	
Staff Reimbursement	25.00	
Staff Reimbursement	13.95	
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council	341.00	
CCC Pensions Income	16,865.12	
Unison	42.80	
HMRC Tax & NI	46,086.09	
Barclaycard	31.09	
Staff Reimbursement	25.00	
Staff Reimbursement	3,440.94	
HGV Direct Ltd	3,679.53	
Andrews & Arnold	4.94	
Prudential AVC	3,670.00	
Allstar	1,567.78	

Month 11 - Salaries	79,344.78	
Month 11 - Wages	24,854.65	
Anglian Water - Wave	144.18	
CMS Electrical services	1,752.00	
CW Group	8,256.50	
IMServ Europe ltd	235.08	
J T Boiler Services	120.00	
UP Country Autoparts	10,617.60	
Gradeas Consulting Ltd	3,513.12	
Addison Motors - Lookers	48,520.00	
Perrys East Midlands Ltd	50,190.00	New vehicle
HM Land Registry	14.00	
NEST	10,213.54	
Bottomline	89.95	
Balfour Beatty	940,792.00	Bank Raising Contractor Work
British Gas	191.29	
British Gas	865.59	
Landfall Artwork	450.00	
Biffa waste Services Ltd	679.24	
CTS Security Ltd	8,555.20	
EE	588.16	
T C Harrison Ford	46,890.00	
HaskoningDHV UK Ltd	32,568.00	
Magpie security (Norfolk) Ltd	90.25	
Mr J Oldfield	7,867.47	
Tapflo UK Ltd	69,720.00	Tractor Driven Flood Control & Dewatering Pump
Towergate	69.38	
BOC Ltd	357.36	
T C Harrison Ford	37,648.46	
T C Harrison Ford	45,240.00	
A F Group	6.15	
Phoneix People	250.00	
Allstar	2,069.84	
TML	75.45	
Staff Reimbursement	102.01	
March Hire Centre Ltd	169.20	
Grafton Projects Ltd	33.56	
Scottish Power	149.51	
Towergate	594.36	
Technical Control Systems	1,971.00	
Shaun Amps Plumbing & Heating	660.00	
Staff Reimbursement	29.00	
Allertons	829.85	
J Bates & Sons	1,050.00	
L Bennett & Son Ltd	237.22	
B J Plant Hire Ltd	144,453.43	Tranche 2 Works Ramsey 1st IDB (Recoverable), Supply Plant/Operative for Cardea Water Control Works, Reservoir Badger Exclusion Bank Maintenance @ Woodwalton, EA PSCA @ Swavesey and Repair to Tidal Wing walls @ St Germans PS
Ben Burgess Coates	169.00	
CTS Security Ltd	818.40	
Cope Safety Management ltd	1,009.87	
Hugh Crane (Cleaning Equipment) Ltd	171.55	
D & J Transport Ltd	666.23	
Datashredders Ltd	78.00	
Energy And System Technical Ltd	2,575.67	
Fishers of March Ltd	296.00	
Fleet Timber Supplies Ltd	4,791.70	
Grafton Projects Ltd	193.46	

Hayley Group Ltd	996.73	
Highway Safety Management Ltd	3,036.00	
H L Hutchinson Ltd	55.68	
Hygiene Quality Forklifts Ltd	811.99	
Jacobs UK Ltd	8,659.36	
Lyreco Uk Ltd	397.18	
March Electrical Supplies Ltd	302.44	
Mastenbroek Environmental Ltd	177.34	
Mill Stainless	322.16	
N L Hydraulics	73.08	
Officeflow Ltd	614.51	
Ogden Motor Engineers Ltd	49.50	
Peterborough PartsPlus	396.96	
Power Different Ltd	51,687.72	Solar PV Installation at Depot & St Germans PS
Pro-Purus Ltd	17.94	
Pulsar Measurement	1,376.40	
E Rand & Sons Ltd	6,448.44	
Ransonmoor DDC	4,000.00	
Huws Gray (Ridgeons)	90.58	
Riverside Automation Ltd	27,939.60	
Royal Mail	80.00	
RS Components Ltd	1,893.50	
R.Y.R Community Liaison Consultants Ltd	8,186.40	
Ann Sherwood	218.00	
Streamline IT Solutions Ltd	2,422.42	
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	51.95	
T.M.C. Lifting & Engineering Supplies	101.78	
Turner Contracting Ltd	7,329.98	
Veolia Environmental Services	11.42	
V & J Knitwear Ltd	430.38	
Wrights Tools Ltd	1,045.79	
Xylem Water Solutions Uk Ltd	50,552.74	Pump for Sutton & Mepal (Recoverable)
British Telecom	73.20	
British Telecom	1,181.56	
HMRC Tax & NI	48,032.04	
CCC Pensions Income	16,823.05	
Unison	42.80	
PWLB	344,120.77	Loan Repayment St Germans PS
Barclaycard	2,648.98	
Aim Electrical Services Ltd	8,492.30	
Shaun Amps Plumbing & Heating Ltd	60.00	
AxFlow Ltd	37,007.08	
IMServ Europe Ltd	594.08	
Multi Factor Europe Ltd	1,171.28	
MT Construction & Groundworks ltd	2,508.00	
OEM Automatic Ltd	7,393.20	
Towergate	83.26	
Turner Contracting Ltd	23,379.60	
N Oldfield	399.00	
Staff Reimbursement	25.00	
Commission - 13/1 - 12/2	21.00	
Pitney Bowes	400.00	
Mr Signs ltd	36.00	
Andrews & Arnold	4.54	
Barclaycard	30.40	
Prudential AVC	3,920.00	
NEST	10,319.86	

Month 12 - Salaries	81,806.46	
Month 12 - Wages	24,494.47	
Aim Electrical Services Ltd	4,419.23	
Anglian Water	20.45	
Anglian Water	176.99	
Anglian Water	121.07	
AxFlow Ltd	4,320.00	
Staff Reimbursement	40.00	
CW Group	23,061.00	
J D Signs Ltd	960.00	
J Oldfield	4,487.57	
Staff Reimbursement	40.00	
Tapflo Uk Ltd	129,991.37	Deposit for Mobile Pumps (Tranch 2 Works)
Towergate	83.26	
UP Cuntry Autoproducts UK Ltd	3,871.20	
Balfour Beatty	411,275.20	Bank Raising Contractor Work
Balfour Beatty	411,275.20	Bank Raising Contractor Work
Tapflo Uk Ltd	7,788.12	
Allstar	2,507.97	
Mitchell & Mayle Ltd	170.00	
Davies Contracting Ltd	6,909.60	
EE	630.02	
Balfour Beatty	21,685.70	
Staff Reimbursement	213.47	
B W Mack(Machinery) Ltd	787.46	
Weightmans LLP	2,355.60	
Bottomline	73.85	
Biffa waste Services Ltd	295.40	
EDF Energy	366,231.95	Electricity Charges October 2024 to Feburary 2025
Scottish Power	175.38	
Scottish Power	792.86	
CMS Electrical Services	16,638.00	
Pitney Bowes Ltd	468.00	
Neil Cawthorn Accident Repairs Ltd	942.24	
Phoneix People	250.00	
A F Group	6.09	
Wilkin Chapman LLP	138.00	
Staff Reimbursement	65.98	
Barnwell Trailers	17,424.00	
DXB Pump & power Ltd	127,418.66	Pipes & Accessories for Mobile Pumps
Hypack	304.30	
Hypack Bank Charges	19.00	
Barnwell Trailers	600.00	
64S Services Ltd	6,996.48	
B A Bush & Son Ltd	294.58	
Tapflo Uk Ltd	3,255.38	
Stuart Group Ltd	12,780.00	
Scottish Power	121.19	
CW Group	7,015.78	
Pumping & Drainage Systems Uk Ltd	216.00	
Staff Reimbursement	78.02	
Allstar	1,752.58	
British Telecom	1,180.40	
TML	41.18	
	10,573,559.06	

Appendix 2

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Internal drainage boards in England

Annual Report for the year ended

31 March 2024

The Law – the following annual report is provided in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the Land Drainage Act 1991.

No later than 28 February 2025 a copy must be provided to:

- Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Division, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs via flood.reports@defra.gov.uk
- Asset Management and Engineering, Environment Agency via idbfund@environment-agency.gov.uk
- The Chief Executives of:
  - all local authorities that pay special levies to the Board;
  - all County Councils or London Boroughs within which the Board is situated.

Please complete the form electronically, and please answer **ALL QUESTIONS.**

Please round all cash figures down to nearest whole £.

MIDDLE LEVEL COMMISSIONERS

Section A – Financial information

Preliminary information on special levies issued by the Board for 2024-25

Special levies information for financial year 2024-25	
Name of local authority	**£**
1. BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KINGS LYNN & WEST NORFOLK	265,525
2. FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL	656,294
3. HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL	269,191
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
Total	1,191,010

Section A – Financial information (continued)

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2024

All internal drainage boards must ensure that the Income and Expenditure information provided below is consistent with the Board's annual accounting statements which have been prepared in accordance with proper practices found in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – A Practitioners' Guide to proper practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory annual accounts and governance statements March 2023*[1]

	Notes	Year ending 31 March 2024 £
INCOME		
A. Drainage Rates		2,051,805
B. Special Levies		1,094,133
C. Higher Land Water Contributions from the Environment Agency		424,362
D. Contributions received from developers/other beneficiaries		12,702
E. Government Grants (includes capital grants from EA and levy contributions)		1,027,522
F. PSCAs overall total Breakdown: from EA from other RMAs		11,068 11,068 0
G. Loans		0
H. Rechargeable Works		335,517
I. Interest and Investment Income		98,254
J. Rents and Acknowledgements		24,242
K. Other Income (please specify, adding rows as necessary)		794,026
		0
		0
Total income		5,873,631
EXPENDITURE		
L. New Works and Improvement Works		1,348,194
M. Total precept to the Environment Agency		17,950
N. Watercourse maintenance		542,795
O. Pumping Stations, Sluices and Water level control structures		435,490
P. Administration		1,471,377
Q. PSCAs		11,068

[1] https://saaa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/PractitionersGuide_2023.pdf

R. Rechargeable Works		335,517
S. Finance Charges		1,498,846
T. Biodiversity enhancement and conservation – overall total Breakdown: General, across the whole region SSSI specific, where relevant		28,771 28,771 0
U. Other Expenditure (please specify, adding rows as necessary)		99,553
Electricity costs – overall total Breakdown (if possible): Standing charge (per annum) Unit charge (per annum)		1,029,851
Fuel (petrol and diesel costs) – overall total Breakdown: Pumping stations Fleet and plant machinery		272,680 199,392 73,288
Total expenditure		7,092,092
EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS		
V. Profits/(losses) arising from the disposal of fixed assets		295,750
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		**(922,711)**
W. Developers Funds income not applied in year		910,257
X. Grant income not applied in year		589,522

Value of drainage rates outstanding at year end?

1.165 %
£ 23,730.63

Value of special levies outstanding at year end?

0 %
£ 0

Notes:

K. Include all other income, such as absorption account surpluses (for example plant and labour absorption accounts). Please include sub-total of all other income in the first row and then a breakdown in separate rows below.

L. State the gross cost of undertaking minor capital works that have not been capitalised and the annual depreciation charges of all major schemes that have been capitalised. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the schemes.

M. State the total precept demanded for the year as properly issued by the Environment Agency, in accordance with section 141 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Providing that the precept has been properly issued as before stated it should always be included here, even when the Board has appealed against the amount of contribution, in accordance with section 140 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Where the Board knows with certainty the outcome of any such appeal, it should also include the appropriate accrual/prepayment.

N. State all costs associated with the maintenance of watercourses, meaning work associated with open channels, pipelines, culverts, bridges, etc. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the maintenance programme. Please do not include electricity or fuel costs as these are captured separately.

O. State all costs associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures. Please do not include electricity or fuel costs as these are captured separately.

P. Include the cost of non-technical staff only, office accommodation, annual depreciation of office equipment that has been capitalised, minor office equipment that has not been capitalised, postages, telecoms', stationery, printing, advertising, auditing of accounts, general insurances and all other costs associated with supporting the organisation. Please note that this does not include support costs, which are directly associated with the delivery of front line services. Please do not include electricity or fuel costs as these are captured separately.

Q. State all costs associated with the PSCA.

R. State all costs associated with undertaking work for third parties. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with undertaking the rechargeable work.

S. Include the cost of servicing any borrowing, in terms of bank/loan/hire purchase Interest payable.

T. State all costs associated with undertaking works – capital or maintenance – that are likely intended to help enhance and/or conserve biodiversity. These costs are likely to be incurred in implementing actions set out in an IDB's Biodiversity Action Plan or other conservation actions. If possible, you should identify the overall costs and break them down into two groups: general across the whole IDB area, and SSSI specific areas (in implementing actions set out in SSSI Water Level Management Plans or SSSI River Restoration Plans). Please do not include electricity or fuel costs as these are captured separately.

U. Include all other expenditure, such as a provision for bad/doubtful debts, write-offs, and absorption account deficits (for example plant and labour absorption accounts). Please include sub-total of all other expenditure in the first row and then a breakdown in separate rows below.

V. For the disposal of assets, state the difference between any proceeds from the sale/disposal of the asset and the cost of the asset less accumulated depreciation.

W. Total balance of developer fund year end.

X. Unspent grant at year end.

Section B – IDB Reporting

Please answer **ALL QUESTIONS**. We will assume a negative response for any that are not answered.

Policy Delivery Statement

Boards are required to produce a publicly available policy statement setting out their plans for delivering the Government's policy aims and objectives. It is recommended that these statements be published on Boards' websites where they have them and reviewed every three years.

1. Is an up to date statement in place and copy (or weblink) provided to Defra, and EA? .... Yes ☒ No ☐

2. What year was your statement last updated?.. 2019

Biodiversity

3. Please indicate whether your Board has a Biodiversity Action Plan ....Yes ☒ No ☐

4. If "yes" is the Biodiversity Action Plan available on your website? ....Yes ☒ No ☐

5. What year was your Biodiversity Action Plan last updated?............................ 2022

6. Have you reported progress on BAP implementation on your website?..............................Yes ☐ No ☒

7. When was biodiversity last discussed at a Board meeting (date)?............................. 24/04/2024

8. Do you have a biosecurity process?...Yes ☒ No ☐

SSSI water level management plans

9. Are you responsible for any SSSI water level management plans?..................................Yes ☒ No ☐

If so, please complete the following table:

Name	Partners	Date of last review	Date of last update
Woodwalton Fen WLMP	N.E/W.TCBN/EA/KDC	2019	2019

10. Do you contribute towards any SSSI water level management plans?..............................Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, please complete the following table:

Name	Partners	Date of last review	Date of last update

11. Area of SSSI with IDB responsible for water level management plan/s.. 209.06 hectares

12. Area of SSSI with IDB contribution towards water level management plan/s.. 209.06 hectares

13. Area of SSSI where IDB water level management activities are contributing to recovering or favourable condition?... 82.67 hectares

14. Area of SSSI where IDB water level management actions are needed to achieve recovering or favourable condition?... 126.39 hectares

Access to environmental expertise

Does your IDB have access to environmental expertise? If so please tick all those options below through which environmental expertise is regularly provided to your IDB:

15. Appropriately skilled Board Members (e.g. Board member from an Environmental Body/Authority) ☐

16. Co-opted members ☐

17. Directly employed staff ☒

18. Contracted persons or consultants ☐

19. Environmental Partners/NGOs ☐

20. Other ☐

If so, please list:

Public sector cooperation agreements (PSCAs)

21. How many active PSCAs are you working on? One

22. Which risk management authorities are you working with on a PSCA?

Environment Agency	X
Lead local flood authority	
Local authority (not a lead local flood authority)	
Internal drainage board	
Water company	
Other	

If other, please list:

23. Please indicate the type of work being undertaken.

Routine maintenance	X
Asset operation and monitoring	
Asset repairs	
Support during flood incident	
Support during flood recovery	
Other	

If other, please list:

Asset Management

What system/database does your Board use to manage the assets it is responsible for?

24. ADIS ☐

25. Paper Records ☐

26. Other Electronic System ☒

If so, please list:

Excel

27. Has your Board continued to undertake visual inspections and update asset databases on an annual basis?..Yes ☒ No ☐

28. What is the cumulative total of identified watercourse that the Board periodically maintains?

192.64 kilometres

29. How many pumping stations does the Board operate?

2 pumping stations

30. How many pumps does the Board operate?

electric	10
diesel	3
renewable energy pumps (e.g. directly powered by wind, solar, hydro, etc)	
temporary / mobile pumps	
other type of pumps	

31. If other, please list:

32. What is the cumulative design capacity of the Board's pumping station(s) (enter zero if no stations are operated)?

120 cm3/sec

Health and Safety

33. Does the Board have a current Health and Safety policy in place? Yes ☒ No ☐

34. Does the Board have a Board Member focused on ensuring that Health and Safety is considered when board decisions are made? Yes ☐ No ☒

35. Does the Board have a responsible officer for Health and Safety? Yes ☒ No ☐

36. Have there been any reportable incidents in the past year? Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, please summarise in the box below:

Guidance and Best Practice

37. Has your IDB adopted a formal Scheme of Delegation? Yes ☒ No ☐

Has your IDB provided, or accessed via a third party, training for board members in the last year in any of the following areas?

38. Governance ☒

39. Finance ☒

40. Environment ☒

41. Health, safety and welfare ☐

42. Communications and engagement ☐

43. Other ☐

If so, please specify:

44. Is your Board's website information current for this financial year? (Board membership, audited accounts, programmes of works, WLMPS, etc)........ Yes ☒ No ☐

45. Has your IDB adopted computerised accounting and rating systems?........ Yes ☒ No ☐

46. Has your board published all minutes of meetings on the website?........ Yes ☒ No ☐

47. Does the Board publish information on its website on its approach to maintenance works and provide contact details to allow for and encourage public engagement?........ Yes ☒ No ☐

48. When planning maintenance and capital works are environmental impacts taken into account and wherever possible best practice applied?........ Yes ☒ No ☐

Has your Board adopted the following governance documents:

49. Standing Orders .... Yes ☒ No ☐

50. Have the Standing Orders been approved by Ministers .... Yes ☒ No ☐

51. Byelaws .... Yes ☒ No ☐

If you have Byelaws, have:

52. you adopted the 2021 model byelaws........ Yes ☒ No ☐

53. Or have you adopted the 2012 model byelaws........ Yes ☐ No ☒

54. the byelaws been approved by Ministers........ Yes ☒ No ☐

55. Code of Conduct for Board Members........ Yes ☒ No ☐

56. Financial Regulations........ Yes ☒ No ☐

57. Register of Member's Interests........ Yes ☒ No ☐

58. Anti-fraud and corruption policy........ Yes ☒ No ☐

Board membership and attendance

59. How many Board members (in total – elected and appointed) do you have on your IDB?	19
60. Seats available to appointed members under the Land Drainage Act 1991.	8
61. Number of elected members on the board at year end.	15
62. Number of appointed members on the board at year end.	4
63. Mean average number of elected members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	11

64. Mean average number of appointed members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	3

65. Have you held elections (with or without a vote) within the last three years?......................Yes ☐ No ☒

66. If you have held elections, did they comply with the requirements specified by the Secretary of State under Regulation 28 of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938?..N/A......Yes ☐ No ☐

Complaints procedure

67. Is the procedure for a member of the public to make a complaint about the IDB accessible from the front page of its website?..Yes ☒ No ☐

68. Number of complaints received in the financial year?	5
69. Number of complaints outstanding in the financial year?	2
70. Number of complaints referred to the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman?	0
71. Number of complaints upheld by the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman?	0

Public Engagement

Set out what your Board has done in this financial year to engage with the public (tick relevant box(es) below):

Published:

72. your completed IDB1 Form ☒

73. press release/s ☒

74. newsletter/s ☒

75. notice/s ☒

76. public consultation ☒

77. updated your IDB website ☒

Media engagement with:

78. national and/or local media e.g. TV, radio, etc ☒

79. national and/or local media e.g. newspaper, magazine, etc ☒

80. trade media ☐

81. social media ☒

Public meetings:

82. Held public meeting/s ☒

83. Attended meetings e.g. Parish Council, local interest group, local flood group, etc ☒

Public events:

84. attended show/event/s e.g. county shows, fairs, etc ☐

85. attended trade event e.g. Flood and Coast, Flood and Water Live, etc ☒

86. hosted IDB open day ☒

Section B: NOTES

Guidance and Best Practice

Has your Board published **all** minutes of meetings on the website? In answering this question, this should apply to all the main Board meetings held in the year and any appropriate meetings the Board has held with external stakeholders.

Board membership and attendance

When referring to **elected members** of the Board, this relates to the number of landowners/drainage rate payers that are elected to the Board.

When referring to **appointed members** of the Board, this relates to the number of members appointed by the local authorities to represent the local council taxpayers.

When referring to mean average number of elected and appointed members in attendance at meetings at each board meeting – **this should be expressed as a number of attendees** and not as a percentage attendance.

With regard to elections, under Schedule 1 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, elected members should hold office for three years, at which point a further election is held. When elections are held, they should comply with the requirements under Regulation 28 of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938 – to advertise and notify local stakeholders accordingly.

Section C – Declaration

MIDDLE LEVEL COMMISSIONERS

I confirm that the information provided in sections A-C or with this form is correct.

Signature	AWool
Date	19-02-2025
Name in BLOCK LETTERS	MR ANDREW WOOL
Designation	HEAD OF FINANCE/TREASURER
Email address	Andrew.wool@middlelevel.gov.uk

Mr Wool introduced his first Report to the Board. He said that his first 8 months in post have been interesting, working with Mr Hill for the first 5 months. He has produced a slimmed-down report than that produced in the past and would welcome any feedback.

Referring to the 2024/2025 Budget Monitoring in the report, Mr Wool reminded the Board that the rate set in 2024/25 was 33p. Going through the figures in the report, Mr Wool highlighted that the rates raised £3,392,799 with an outturn of £4,072,282.

The Storm Recovery claim of £747,266.18 was received but after adjusting for the Highland Water Claim the net amount received was £401,144. The total overspend for the year is £679,484, assuming the outstanding grant claim on the Middle Level River Management Scheme is paid and the variances detailed within the notes and commentary of the report. Nearly £1.3 million was received from the T2a Storm Recovery Grant Fund, and as shown in the report (pg 5) this is equivalent to a rate of 12.5p.

Grant funding also provided £730k of funding for IDB works, including a weed screen package and pumps and channels, all delivered within a short timescale. The last point of the 'Looking Back' section of the report (pg 5) reports that for the third consecutive year the expenditure of the Commissioners will exceed £6.5 million and so this will trigger a full external audit.

The Chief Executive advised that the Government have consulted on the audit threshold with ADA feeding back the view that with grant money included in that figure, those sums are effectively being audited twice.

With no questions being raised Mr Wool moved on to the 'Looking Forward' section of the report.

He reported that the estimates include an increase in pay award, the costs for an Enforcement Officer, and the proposed changes at St Germans along with all other aspects covered within the Annual Report. The Highland Water basis has been noted and the loan repayments for essential works outlined previously have been included. Improvement works include Middle Level River Management Scheme costs have been earmarked against General Fund Reserves.

In addition, £2.5 million has been received from the T2B Fund which includes £1.03 million for St Germans asset resilience, £1.2m for mobile pumps and £267k for the Bevills Pond. These figures are included in the budget but are being funded through T2B funding.

The graph on Pg. 13 shows previous years ratings provided just for information.

The Budget proposal for 2025/26 is shown on Pg. 20. Mr Wool explained in is recommending a small increase in the rate, to 33.5p, which will cover expenditure. This is an increase of £54k on the previous year.

The Chief Executive explained that we are now restarting billing Peterborough City Council for their special levy. This stopped in the early 1990s due to the small amount demanded, but this land is now earmarked for development and the levy may subsequently increase.

Ms Morris said she could see why the rate would need to increase but given everything discussed so far this is only a small rise. She questioned if things change would an emergency loan be needed? The Chair added that the loan may not be needed but it is a useful facility to have. Mr S Whittome asked if an interim rate could be set, but Ms Morris would prefer to leave things as proposed.

The Chief Executive warned that the reserves are not great even without the known issues and proposed in terms of loans for the immediate capital works, that up to 4 loans could be taken out if we need to reduce the rate burden. Today's decision gives us that licence, but we won't draw any loan until we need it. However, given the scale of capital works identified that loan would be needed. Mr Wool reminded the Board that loan interest currently sits at 5%.

The Chair added that the Executive Committee felt very uncomfortable taking rate up knowing what landowners are facing. Mr Wool advised that in 2024/25, before the Storm Recovery grant and the River Management Scheme, the Commissioners had a net expenditure of £3 million against a budget raised of £3.4 million. This included funding to reinstate balances. Had the current issues not surfaced, the Commissioners would have reinstated their balances by March 2025.

The Chair thought that the fact Mr Wool had calculated an uplift of only 0.5p, his team have done well to come up with a good proposal, and Mr R Brown agreed.

The Chair then asked the Board to consider and approve the proposals, and they were agreed unanimously.

The Chief Executive asked that the ADA membership also be agreed.

The payments by Commissioners were taken as read, and the determination of annual values, rate arrears, and contributions from developers as presented in the confidential papers were reviewed. Both items were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

i) That the resolutions listed in the Head of Finance Report are supported by the Board.

ii) The Board approved that the RFO progress the applications of between one and four Public Works Loans totalling up to £700,000 and repayable over up to a 15-year repayment terms to provide the capital for the four essential improvement works projects. The Board delegated the decision for enacting the loan application(s), therefore drawing down the capital and entering repayment agreements, to the Chairman as advised by the RFO, Chief Executive and Chief Engineer.

iii) The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2025/2026 and were informed by the Head of Finance that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met be drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 64.84% and 35.16%.

iv) That the following recommendations be submitted to the Commissioners, viz:-

a) That the estimates be approved.

b) That a total sum of £3,447,240 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.

c) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in b) above be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are £2,235,232 and £1,212,008 respectively.

d) That a rate of 33.50p in the £ be recommended to the Commissioners and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.

e) That Special levies totalling £1,212,008 be made and issued as follows for the purpose of meeting such expenditure if the rate was approved, viz:-

£668,505 to Fenland District Council

£273,272 to Huntingdon District Council

£270,208 to the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

£23 to Peterborough City Council

B.3879 Miscellaneous Items

Complaints

The Chief Executive advised that we do still receive complaints from developers, but these are not now at an excessive level. We have had a few boater complaints, and some IDB related complaints but there has been nothing that requires reporting back to the Board.

B.3880 Annual Inspection and Date of Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the Executive Committee had identified the need to hold a Board inspection on 24th June 2025 between 10am and 2pm and within this include for approval of accounts.

RESOLVED

That an inspection and Accounts Approval meeting will be held on 24th June 2026.

B.3881 Any other business

Mr R Brown asked if anyone was aware if the Netherlands, given their position as a low-lying country, have similar issues to the Middle Level. The Chief Executive advised that the Fens 2100+ programme is looking at this. The Netherlands are very different in that lying at a low level affects much of country and its water management has a different funding model. We recognise that something needs to change here but we can’t rely on outside agencies supporting us and so we need to work for ourselves. Ms Lloyd added that ADA are also strongly linked in that respect.

With nothing further raised, the Chair closed the meeting at 12.20pm

…………………………………………..
Chair

……………………………
Date