CONINGTON & HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Administered by:

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27th May 2026

Dear Board Members

Upcoming meeting of the Board
Wednesday 3rd June 2026

Please find overleaf the agenda for the meeting of the Board to be hosted at the Holme Village Hall, Short Drove, Holme PE7 3PA at 5.30pm on Wednesday 3rd June 2026.

As you'll be aware, we administer over twenty Boards that mostly all meet within similar date ranges. Thank you to the majority of Members who already confirm their attendance proactively.

Please help us manage your Board effectively by **proactively letting Gemma know as soon as possible, by telephone or email, if you can attend the meeting, or not, or if you're uncertain.** This results in less abortive time and cost to the running of all Boards.

It is important that we have early confirmation whether or not the Board will be quorate.

Yours truly

P BURROWS, FCIWEM C.WEM CEnv

Clerk to the Board

CONINGTON & HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Wednesday 4th June 2025 at 5.30pm
Holme Village Hall, Short Drove, Holme PE7 3PA

Agenda:

Item No	*Topic*	*Format*	*Lead*
1	Welcome & apologies	Verbal	Chair
2	Declarations of Interest	Verbal	Chair
3	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	Pages 3 - 9	Chair
4	Constitution & Membership	Pages 10 - 12	Clerk
5	Clerk's Report	Pages 13 - 17	Clerk
6	Environment Officer's Report	Pages 18 - 19	Clerk
7	Consulting Engineer's Reports, including:	Pages 20 - 26	Clerk or Engineer
8	Health & Safety	Pages 27 - 33	Chair
9	District Officer's Report	Verbal	DO
10	Governance • Accounts Return for 2023/2024 • Auditors report for 2023/2024 (Link) • Annual Governance Statement	Pages 34 - 36 Pages 37 - 41 Pages 42	Clerk
11	Finance Report: looking back • Budgeting • Payments 2024 • Annual Accounts and Finance papers 2024/2025	Pages 43 - 44 Pages 45 - 46 Page 47 Pages 48 - 53	Clerk
12	Finance Report: looking forward • Rating Estimates for 2025/2026 • Agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levy requirements or 2025/2026	Pages 54 - 55 Pages 56 - 57 Pages 58 - 59	Clerk
13	Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 2nd June 2027 5:30pm	Verbal	Chair
14	Any other business	Verbal	Chair

(NB: If required for any agenda item:

In pursuance of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting when the above matters are being considered by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.)

CONINGTON & HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Conington & Holme IDB held at the Holme Village Hall on Wednesday 4th June 2025

PRESENT

P Keates (Chair)
D Elmore
R Elmore
J Racey
T Alban (HDC)
M Chudley (HDC)

Paul Burrows the Clerk was in attendance. The Chairman welcomed D Fabb, a prospective Board Member and Sophie Nott from the Rochester Bridge Trust (Conington Estate) as observers.

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from T Simpson,

B.1170 Declarations of Interest

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

No interests were declared.

B.1171 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

> That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 4th June 2024 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1172 Matters Arising

P Burrows outlined that since the last meeting the Board had received a complaint from a resident of Glatton regarding the condition of the Board's adopted drain downstream of the village and concerns that this was creating flooding issues within the village. A flood group has been established. Give the Board had previously received quotes for addressing this reach that were unaffordable and given the overall viability position of the Board was the current priority focus, a robust response was provided. P Burrows added that now the immediate and most pressing viability concerns had been addressed, there was opportunity for the Board to review with the local community and other partners.

B.1173 Constitution & Membership

P Burrows highlighted that since the last meeting T West had resigned from the Board and therefore there were currently three vacancies. The Chairman proposed D Fabb be co-opted as a member given his key interest and role within in the pumped area. This was seconded by J Racey and agreed unanimously. The Board noted the upcoming elections and agreed to re-appoint Chair and Vice Chair thereafter.

P Burrows outlined that the reconstitution of the Board to reduce its numbers was in progress by the Environment Agency and added that there was one outstanding decision for the Board to make now that the original constitution document had been located. The Board need to determine whether they wish for the current two electoral divisions, reflecting the pumped and gravity area, to remain within the new composition or to remove the electoral division clauses. P Burrows highlighted that removing the division would not impact the differential rating and the way accounts are managed for each area. D Elmore suggested that the electoral divisions were now an unnecessary constraint to the running of the Board. This position was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

D Fabb co-opted as Member

To state in the Board's new composition order that the clauses which created the electoral division shall no longer have effect, thereby removing the electoral division.

B.1174 Clerk's Report

P Burrows highlighted to the Board that the government had yesterday announced a long-awaited consultation on flood funding policy reform. It has been long felt that the Partnership Funding policy, introduced in 2011, has been overly complex and deficient in expediting efficient delivery, despite for IDBs largely being a financially positive policy as it removed the 45% grant cap that existed beforehand.

He added that the consultation seeks views on proposals to reform the floods funding approach and resolve those challenges by:

- Introducing a contribution free allowance so all flood and coastal erosion risk management projects have the first £3 million of their project costs fully funded by government.
- Applying a flat rate of 90% Defra funding to project costs above £3 million.
- Fully funding projects to refurbish existing assets which currently find it challenging to attract funding.

He added that project prioritisation would be important, given that the call on government funding from all potentially eligible projects typically exceeds the total amount of funding available from the government. Competition for government funding is likely to increase under the proposed new approach, given the more generous approach proposed to notionally funding projects.

He added that he would be providing a consultation response on behalf of the MLC and administered IDBs but also encouraged members to review and respond by the deadline of 29th July 2025, with the proposed implementation date being 1st April 2026.

The Board considered the written report and its content. P Burrows highlighted the improvement work that has been undertaken in terms of planning and consenting and the importance of the new fee model that has been launched. He added that the Middle level Board have now supported the creation of a new compliance and enforcement role to work in conjunction with the new fee model to better manage risks and bring in income for the IDBs and Middle Level Commissioners. The Board were supportive of the measures.

Fens Reservoir

Paul Burrows introduced the paper and outlined that whilst not directly affected, the Board will have an indirect interest given they pump water into the Middle Level Commissioners system which will be the reservoir's primary source of water. He added that the recommended resolutions are to cover the eventuality that the Board's interests need legal support.

RESOLVED

Approved that the Board act as one with the Middle Level Commissioners and other impacted IDBs. Therefore, the Middle Level Commissioners staff, consultants and legal service provider are authorised to act on behalf of and represent the Board.

Acknowledged that the Fens Reservoir DCO may need to overwrite/disallow existing statutory powers held by the Board and delegate the decision making on this to the Clerk, engaging with the Chairman/Vice Chairman as he sees fit.

B.1175 Environment Officer's Report

P Burrows introduced the report highlighting the new service package arrangement and increase fee, highlighting that this has been developed to help IDBs meet their minimum statutory compliance. He reported that the BAP was a legal requirement and meeting has been held with the Chairman as part of the review and update. He also advised the Board on the approach they ought to take regarding future bank-slips and the need for prompt action should piling be needed in order to reduce the likelihood of needing water vole displacement which add costs and working window constraint to such works.

B.1176 Consulting Engineers' Reports

The Chairman provided an overview of the refurbishment works undertake at Conington Pumping Station between October 2024 and March 2025 funding by the government's one-off IDB Fund. This included addressing the majority of sub-surface structural issues, removing and refurbishing one of the pumps, installation of a new control panel and associated electrical improvements, including repositioning of the meter and improving access to the station. He praised the work of D Fabb and the suppliers involved who had all come together to expedite successful delivery within a constrained delivery window. He thanked A Wool at the Middle Level Commissioners for negotiating with the Environment Agency to bring forward grant payments to ensure the IDB had sufficient cashflow.

He added the Members would get the opportunity to see the works during the inspection as part of the last item of business.

P Burrows referenced the M&E Engineers report and that there were decisions to be made now the works had been completed.

RESOLVED

To reinstate MLC M&E inspections from June 2026 once the warranties for the new equipment have run out.

D Fabb to pass all paperwork and electrical safety reports to the Middle Level Commissioners for the Board's records management.

B.1177 Health & Safety

D Fabb outlined that he had hosted COPE Safety Management on site at the Pumping Station and that H&S works had been woven into the refurbishment with asbestos removed and new lighting installed. He added that along with the access improvements the site was now much safer.

He added that the main residual issues were concerns regarding weed removal operations.

B.1178 Governance

a) Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2023/2024

i) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year that ended on the 31st March 2024

ii) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year that ended on the 31st March 2024

b) Review of Internal Controls

Paul Burrows reported that the internal controls that the Middle Level Commissioners have in place in their services to the Board have now been summarised and are available on the Board's web-page.

The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of internal controls.

c) Authorisations

The Board considered the review of authorisations.

RESOLVED

i) The Board considered and authorised that all employees and contractors of the Middle Level Commissioners are considered as duly authorised officers and are therefore able to use the Boards powers and IDB byelaws for their operational and regulatory roles on behalf of the Board.

ii) The Board confirmed their stance that their Chairman, Vice-Chair and Superintendents are considered as duly authorised officers and therefore able to use the Boards powers and IDB byelaws for their operational and regulatory roles on behalf of the Board.

e) Responsible Finance Officer

RESOLVED

The Board considered and approved the recommendations that:

i) That the role of the position of Head of Finance to the Middle Level Commissioners is to include the appointment as Responsible Financial Officer to the Board.

ii) That the person appointed as Head of Finance for the Middle Level Commissioners be added to the Barclays Bank PLC mandate and authorised to sign cheques and authorised to make payments on behalf of the Board.

iii) That the Chairman and Vice-Chair be approved to be added to the Barclays Bank Plc mandate.

iv) That the person appointed as clerk to the Middle Level Commissioners be added to the Barclays Bank PLC mandate and be authorised to sign cheques and to authorise payments on behalf of the Board.

v) That the person appointed as Head of Finance to the Middle Level Commissioners will be appointed as the administrator on behalf of the Middle Level Commissioners to the Barclays Bank PLC internet banking platform as used by the Middle Level Commissioners.

vi) That following Mr Robert Hill leaving the employment of the Middle Level Commissioners that the Head of Finance of the Middle Level Commissioners be delegated the authority to appoint a member of the finance team to be an additional administrator on the Barclays Bank PLC internet banking platform as used by the Board.

f) Policy Reviews & DPO

The Board considered the review of the policies.

RESOLVED

i) The Board considered and approved the policy reviews for the Complaints Procedure, Privacy policy and the Anti-Bribery policy.
ii) The Board considered and approved adoption of updated Finance Regulations covering the period 2025-2035 and its Policy Statement.
iii) That the Board approve that while there is a service level agreement for provision of clerking services in place between the Board and the Middle Level Commissioners, the Middle Level Commissioner's Lead Clerk acts as their Data Protection Officer.

g) IDB1 and Annual Governance Statement

RESOLVED

The Board noted and supported the IDB1 return submitted on their behalf.

The Board noted and approved the submission of their Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 authorising the Chairman and Clerk to sign the statement.

g) Exercise of Public Rights

Paul Burrows referred to the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual return, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit and Right to inspect the Annual Return.

h) Consideration of potential litigation, liabilities, commitments.

P Burrows reported that as part of the Annual Governance review the Board were required to consider if there were any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end that have a financial impact on the authority. He confirmed that there were no such matters that have been raised through the office of the clerk. Members gave consideration to the position.

RESOLVED

That there are no such events that would have an adverse financial impact on the Board that would need to be included within the accounting statements for the financial year ended 31st March 2025.

i) Insurance valuations

The Chairman wishes to speak to S Ablett at the Middle Level Commissioners to better understand the insurance cover, particularly whether it caters for temporary pumping costs in the event of a break-down.

B.1179 Finance Report – Looking Back

The Board reviewed and noted the Finance Officers' report and key messages. They were grateful for the IDB Fund Storm Recovery grant of £9,213.81 that had been received as part of Tranche 1 of the fund and the £129,920 from Tranche 2 for the pumping station refurbishment.

The Chairman highlighted that given the priority focus has been on addressing the pumping station this has now given the Board and ratepayers a degree of security for the next 10 years. He added that because of the need to prioritise these works, he had not invested the time he had originally planned into overseeing and improving the drain maintenance schedule and delivery, adding that this would now be an area of priority focus for 2025/26 ensuring the full district's needs are assessed. He added that there had been the need to ensure a clean slate with sentry as they exited their tenancy within the pumped area.

R Elmore highlighted the need to address the slips on the bend within Glatton Brook, D Elmore adding it had a gravel seam and was addressed some years ago but now needs doing again.

D Fabb outlined how he had met a representative from Network Rail on site to review the condition of their culverts. The session was a positive one in that the representative acknowledged the poor condition and that it was the worst he'd seen across his large jurisdiction. He had no budget to address but commitment was made to resolve. D Fabb will continue to chase for the maintenance to happen as it is affecting conveyance upstream along Conington Brook and somewhat nullifies any Board maintenance upstream.

<u>RESOLVED</u>

That all payments and developer contributions noted.
The Board considered and approved their annual accounts for 2024/25

<u>B.1180 Finance Report – Looking Forward</u>

The Board considered the paper from their Responsible Finance Officer. The Chairman added that he felt the Board needs to continue to reinstate its reserves and pay-off it's internal loans and that dropping the rate would create a bigger hole.

D Fabb outlined that the refurbished pumping station now had improved controls with automatic modes set to maximise on cheaper rate electricity. In 12-months' time the Board would be in a better position to understand the financial benefit of this and feed into subsequent budgets and rate decisions. J Racey reflected that money was hard to find and the Chairman also shared that perspective.

With no alternative proposals tabled, it was unanimously agreed to hold the rates for Area 1 (Gravity) and Area 2 (Pumped) at 17p and 70p respectively.

<u>RESOLVED</u>

i) To continue to subscribe to be a member of the Association of Drainage Authorities.

ii) That a total sum of £55,578 be raised by drainage rates and special levy (Area 1 - £20,884; Area 2 - £34,694).

iii) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are:-

	Area 1	Area 2
Drainage rates	£11,298	£33,846
Special levy	£ 9,586	£ 848

iv) That a rate of 17.00p in the £ in Area 1, and 70.00p in the £ in Area 2 be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.

v) That a Special levy of £10,434 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.

vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution iv).
vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available

B.1181 Middle Level IDB Change

P Burrows summarised the work and referred to the report that was sent to Members separately. The Board were open to reform and supportive of continued design work.

RESOLVED

To prove a £300 contribution towards the costs of developing the detailed design.

B.1182 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That next meeting of the Board will be 3rd June 2026, 17:30 at Holme Village Hall.

B.1183 Any Other Business

J Racey thanked the Chairman and D Fabb for their work on the station and maximising the grant funding opportunity to secure a positive future for the Board.

B.1184 Inspection

D Elmore, R Elmore, P Burrows, J Racey and S Nott joined the Chairman at Conington Pumping Station to see and further discuss the refurbishment works (as reported under the Consulting Engineer's item)

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**	**4**
Meeting:	**CONINGTON & HOLME IDB**	**Subject:**	**CONSTITUTION & MEMBERSHIP**
Date:	**Wednesday 3rd June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Gemma Ashby**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Note the position regarding elections and consider the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments within its appointment of officials.
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. Outline the training undertaken in the last year as well as future needs or plan for training.

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	8	N/A		5
Actual	6	2 HDC	8	
Vacancies	2		2	

1.2 The table below details the current elected members of the Board

No	Name	Status (one of four categories)	Commentary
1	D Elmore	Ratepayer	
2	R Elmore	Ratepayer	
3	P Keates	Ratepayer	Chairman
4	J Racey	Ratepayer	
5	T Simpson	Ratepayer	
6	D Fabb	Ratepayer	
7			
8			

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

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, e.g. major infrastructure, commerce, community groups, environmental interests.

No	Name	Appointing Council	Commentary (one of three categories)
1	T Alban	HDC	Councillor
2	G Allen	HDC	Councillor

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	4/6/2025	4/6/2024	6/3/2024	8/6/2023
1	D Elmore	Present	Present	Present	Present
2	R Elmore	Present	Present	Present	Present
3	P Keates	Present	Present	present	Present
4	J Racey	Present	Present	Present	Present
5	T Simpson	Apologies	Present	Apologies	Present
6	D Fabb	Present	N/A	N/A	N/A
7					
8					

Attendance at Chairs Meetings

No	Name	5/12/2025	6/12/2024	6/10/2023	13/12/2022
1	P Keates	Present	Present	Present (as V-Chair)	N/A

Appointed Members (current and previous)

No	Name (Council)	4/6/2025	4/6/2024	6/3/2024	8/6/2023
1	T Alban (HDC)	Present	Present	Present	Present
2	G Allen (HDC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

3. Elections, vacancies & appointments

3.1 To consider the appointment of a Chair and Vice Chair.

3.2 In appointing the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Board is expected to follow the principles within the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, there is a strong presumption that no individual should serve in any one post for more than ten years. The tenure of the current Chairman is 2 years.

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). See 'The IDB governance future within the Middle Level of the Fen' within the Clerk's Report.

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 IDBs are expected by Defra to support relevant externally accredited training and/or professional development of its Board Members, officers and employees (if appropriate). It is therefore recommended that the Board identifies and budgets for any such requirements.

5.2 In addition, IDBs are expected by Defra to provide in-house training and/or professional development opportunities for its Board Members, officers and employees (if appropriate).

5.3 Topics that Defra suggest are i) Governance ii) Ethics iii) Finance iv) Environment v) Health, safety & welfare and vi) Communications & engagement.

5.4 The Board are asked to outline the training undertaken in the last year as well as future needs or plan for training. 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.

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

Author Name: Gemma Ashby
Role: Senior Business Support Officer

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**	**5**
Meeting:	**CONINGTON & HOLME IDB**	**Subject:**	**CLERK'S REPORT**
Date:	**Wednesday 3rd June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Paul Burrows**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Note the content of the report and feedback on items as appropriate.
B. The Board is asked to delegate the approval and publication of new and/or updated policies to the Clerk.
C. Ensure their District Officers keep records to enable completion of Questions 26 & 27 within the IDB1 Annual Report to Defra.

This paper was drafted in February 2026 for use within all the MLC administered IDB agendas over the Spring 2026 meeting season. Verbal updates to the content below will be provided as necessary.

1. MLC Overview

Delivery has been the primary focus within 2025/26. We were successful in securing approximately £4.5m of grant for several IDB Fund (Tranche 2b) submissions and the administration and delivery of these commitments has been a primary focus, particularly for staff in M&E, Operations, Environment & Ecology and Finance, meaning some 'business as usual' activity has been impacted.

This fund, coming with fewer constraints than FCRM grant-in-aid, has enabled us to think and invest differently. We are starting to change gear in terms of our business model and philosophy to become more commercially minded within the boundaries of a not-for-profit public authority. At St Germans Pumping Station for example, we now are starting to gear our infrastructure, turning our assets from feeling like a financial burden into engines that drive our business more efficiently. Whilst there remains work to do within our improvement and modernisation journey, our organisational foundations are now in a much healthier position to build from, albeit our base staff capacity and capability are a constraint to what needs to be, and could be, achieved. We will need to identify and nurture partnerships not only with traditional partners but with the innovators within our local agricultural and the development sectors.

It is also clear that MLC and the IDBs need to reduce our collective reliance on government grant in aid funding and highland water payments. Whilst we remain focussed on influencing and informing policy shifts, MLC and IDB assets are of the age that we cannot avoid the scale of capital works ahead of us that will cost hundreds of millions of pounds to develop and deliver. Collectively we have a significant gap in both capacity and capability, alongside a dependence on Fens 2100+ driving a case for change in how our assets are invested in.

Thanks to the support of the Middle Level Board, we now have greater capability to press our regulatory teeth and turn the significant development pressures we face within our catchment into a risk management and financial opportunity rather than seeing it negatively. A further increase in staff capacity has been approved to better cater for the workload, increase cost recovery to further reduce costs to ratepayers. Fees from developers are also a critical source of funding to develop and deliver the capital works on the MLC and/or IDB infrastructure that serves and benefits developments.

2. MLC Services to IDBs

As previously reported, we have made the business decision to focus our clerking and technical services offer to IDBs within the Middle Level where there is water management connectivity with the Middle Level Commissioners' catchment.

Given that our focus in 2025/26 has been on establishing and strengthening our Planning, Compliance & Enforcement Service for MLC/IDBs, IDB Fund Delivery for MLC/IDBs and enabling the transfer of seven IDBs outside of the Middle Level to new service providers, the Service Guide and associated fee structure will continue to be developed during 2026 with a view to being ready to implement for 2027/28.

3. Policy Reviews

There are several new policies that need to be developed and published over the course of the next year, along with updates to existing policies. Given the nature of our catchment and our services to administered IDBs, most policies need to be consistent rather than bespoke for each IDB. Any policy also needs to come into effect at the same time across MLC and/or all relevant IDBs.

Planned new policies include:

- IT Policy
- Artificial Intelligence Policy
- Approach to CDM Regulations 2015 and the Procurement Act 2023
- Compliance & Enforcement Policy (primarily to support our regulation of consent compliance, unconsented works and associated enforcement)

The Board is asked to delegate the approval and publication of new and/or updated policies to the Clerk.

4. Waste Exemptions

Defra and the Environment Agency introduced waste exemptions in circa 2008/09 and there is a suite of exemptions available to IDBs (including D1 exemption which allows for depositing waste from dredging inland waters). We followed Environment Agency advice at the time and have one suite of exemptions that covers the MLC and all our administered IDB operations.

This approach now requires improvement and mitigation to de-risk operations for IDBs and MLC individually and collectively. Following discussion with MLC and IDB Chairs, over the next 12-months we aim to move to MLC and each administered IDB having their own suite of waste exemptions and associated implementation controls. There will also likely be a need for associated training materials for IDBs and their District Officers.

We will likely require external resources/services to deliver this improvement and the cost associated with the work will be divided equally.

5. The IDB governance future within the Middle Level of the Fens

IDBs and Board members had the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on the outline design in Q1 of 2025/26. Members of the 'Case for Change' working group met in September 2025 to review the feedback on the Outline Design and agree next steps. The consensus is that people need something more specific to debate. We also, unsurprisingly, have people on either extreme of the spectrum between staying as we are and not seeing any need for change, and those that feel radical change is long overdue. Most are somewhere in-between.

A proposal has been conceived that the working group supports moving to 'Detailed Design'. This proposal is to move from the current 25 IDBs to 7 IDBs, in phases, over the next 15 years. The proposal aims to balance:

1 Hydrological common sense and logical alignment.
2 The Outline Design feedback.
3 Respective readiness for and need for change.
4 Likely trigger points for change.

This proposal aims to provide:

1 An option for detailed design and subsequent debate.
2 The ability to phase change and make it more bite-sized.
3 Time for IDBs to make steps to align 'standards' ahead of amalgamation.
4 A meaningful change that will enable improvements and efficiency within MLC & IDB working.
5 A middle ground between the 'go big' and 'stay small' views.
6 A platform for further and quicker change should it be needed or if the Fens Reservoir enables.

We aim to have the Detailed Design undertaken by April 2026 so we can have an IDB Chairs session on it ahead of consultation through Autumn 2026. Depending upon response and agreement, Boards would be asked to approve any final proposal (particularly any Boards amalgamating in any Phase 1) at their 2027 AGMs.

6. Data Provision

We are receiving an increasing number of data requests from a variety of sources. These can be complex and time consuming to service, sometimes for projects or purposes with little to no direct benefit to the Commissioners and our administered IDBs (where we act as their data controller).

To better protect our interests, we have developed and are now using a formal data sharing agreement with third parties. We will introduce a cost recovery approach to servicing such requests.

7. Electricity

The 12-month group (MLC and IDBs) contract with EDF Energy ceased on 30th September 2025. This contract was facilitated by brokers GEAB.

A sub-committee of MLC Board Members and IDB Chairmen reviewed options alongside MLC staff. We are now in contact with British Gas and are self-managing this within the Finance team for the 12-months to 30th September 2026.

8. IDB Funding & Costs Research

A joint Defra and MHCLG IDB funding and costs research project is now underway. It is being led by ICF, a consultancy with expertise in economic and financial analysis, particularly in evaluating the costs and benefits of environmental and regulatory policies in the water and land use sector. Supporting ICF is Logika, a consultancy specialising in flood risk management, drainage, and sustainable development and valuable experience from the water sector. The project is scheduled to conclude by July 2026.

The overarching goal of the project is to conduct a comprehensive review of IDBs' operations, focusing on financial efficiency and value for money, with the aim of assessing whether changes are needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of IDBs. The research is structured around three core objectives:

1. Funding and Financial Review: To analyse IDB funding mechanisms, operational costs and financial pressures over the past decade and explore future funding options.
2. Benefit Evaluation: To assess the economic and social value of IDBs' work, both locally and nationally.
3. Data Modernisation: To explore how the annual IDB1 Form can be improved and modernised for better data collection and reporting.

The project will include:

- an evidence review,
- analysis of financial information and IDB1 reports,
- interviews with selected IDBs and stakeholders,
- an IDB survey to identify any gaps in the data, and
- case studies.

We have been in touch with the consultants leading the work and provided them with information to get them started and provided them with the information we have to hand for their data requests. W also hosted a case study visit in January 2026. Given we collectively represent c25% of the IDB sector nationally, we will, in one way shape or form, inform their results and associated recommendations for change. Whilst this research is an opportunity to highlight and influence much needed policy change for collective benefit, there is equally the likelihood that it will draw out some uncomfortable truths.

In September 2025 we also hosted the Local Delivery & Rural Floods Policy Team from Defra. We took them on a whistlestop tour from Stanground Lock through the Middle Level to St Germans Pumping Station and used the time and the backdrop to discuss and showcase our system and breadth of water management operations.

We highlighted the 'big ticket' areas of efficiency we are driving at the MLC, including how we are using the governments 'IDB Fund' wisely. We discussed the strengths and successes in how we work across the Middle Level but also the areas of policy and associated financing that are constraining our collective ability to plan and be as efficient and as effective as possible in a world that's changing, due largely to factors beyond our control.

9. IDB 1 (Annual Reporting to Defra)

There is another step-change in reporting expectations on us all both in terms of financial and non-financial information we provide annually to Defra within the 2024/25 IDB1. This will take additional time to pull together and is an indication as to the increased expectations Government has on the sector in terms of governance and responsibilities.

Whilst MLC can derive most of the financial and non-financial information on behalf of our administered IDBs, there are an increasing number of questions where we require information from the Boards directly. Including, for IDBs that do not use the MLC for their operational services their District Officer will need to keep records of the length (in kilometres) of i) the length of watercourse maintained by the Board in the financial year and ii) the cumulative length of works on maintained watercourses (Questions 26 & 27 in the form).

If no answers are received from Boards, then questions will be left blank within returned forms.

10. IDB Precept

Section 139(1) of the Water Resources Act 1991 (WRA 1991) empowers the Environment Agency to require a contribution from Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) each year towards its operational costs. The mechanism for collecting the contribution is for the Environment Agency to issue a precept to the relevant IDBs requiring payment of the amount due.

There is a statutory duty to spend IDB precept revenue "only in the carrying out of the Environment Agency's flood and coastal erosion risk management functions… in or for the benefit of the flood risk management region in which [the precept] is raised".

The amount of the contribution should be what the Environment Agency considers to be ‘fair’ and the legislation places a duty upon the Environment Agency to provide to the IDB a statement which provides detail of the purposes of which the contribution demanded by precept will be applied and the basis of the calculation of the contribution.

The Environment Agency, via the Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) has committed to improve the clarity and transparency of how and where IDB Precept is spent along with the associated calculation. The existing approach is rooted in discussions and agreements that have been lost in time with changing corporate knowledge; therefore, it is likely to take a few years of incremental improvement to get to a clearer position.

Author Name: Paul Burrows
Role: Clerk

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	6
Meeting:	**CONINGTON & HOLME IDB**	**Subject:**	**ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**
Date:	**Wednesday 3rd June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Sofi Lloyd**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. **Review and approve the new Biodiversity Action Plan** – available from the IDB's webpage on the Middle Level Website: **www.middlelevel.gov.uk/conington-holme/**

B. Note that Key Environmental Compliance Indicators (KCIs), as below, have been launched this year to assess and report the environmental compliance of the IDB in a consistent way. This will help to ensure that any areas of environmental risk are flagged promptly, and the environmental achievements of the Board are recognised and published.

C. Propose to set the biodiversity budget at £250 to purchase a swift box and request suggestions for it to be put up on an agricultural building (6m + from ground) ideally near a channel.

D. Note that a review of the IDBs Environmental and waste permits is required and will be planned with the Chair and VC in the coming months.

Review of Key Environmental Compliance Indicators (KCIs)

Key:	Not Achieved / Information Not Available	Partly complete / A date has been set for completion (provide date and resource)	Complete
Name of Board Environmental Representative:		**Peter Keates**	
KCI:	**Description of KCI:**	**Status:**	**Comments:**
1.	A current channel categorisation map & reasoning is available		SL will assist PK to compile in June
2.	Standard Operating Procedures audit has been undertaken and works considered compliant		SL will audit in 2026
3.	The previous year's maintenance record is available for review and to inform the following year's works planning.		Will review in June 26
4.	A channel maintenance plan (flail mowing and de-silting) has been prepared for Board review and approval.		Yes
5.	All non-routine works undertaken in the previous year were screened for environmental impacts and opportunities using the ESR process		N/A
6.	The Biodiversity Action Plan has been reviewed and objectives for the previous year have been met and following objectives set		As Above
7.	Biodiversity budget is proposed and defined		As Above
8.	At least one Board Representative has attended at least one biodiversity training / information event in the year and reported relevant details to the board		In progress – will attend BioDay in Dec
9.	There has been no net loss of open watercourse (via culverting or other) in the district in the previous year		
10.	A current map of badger setts in the district is available and licensable works around them was undertaken compliantly and in line with licence conditions		In Progress

middle level commissioners

Conington & Holme IDB

Annual Environmental Review - Notes from Meeting

Attended by: Peter Keates, Sofi Lloyd

Date: 18/05/2026

Point No.	Notes:	Action by and due date
1	The KCI's for the Board report were completed	
2	Noted that Barn Owl pairs have been spotted at points 20-5 and 46	
3	The pump drain was pumped down, slubbed out and flail mowed last year from the station to point 3	
4	SL to relay location of possible bank seepage from Monks Lode to ML, between points 2-3	SL 26
5	Noted that points 22-21 also need desilting and cutting this year, as does all East of the railway line	
6	Noted that little maintenance work has been undertaken west of the railway line in recent years apparently, especially south of Conington	
7	Noted that PK has been approached by a private landowner in Conington to help to clear out a private drain that runs into the Boards drain that has become overgrown. PK has relayed that clearance at the moment is not possible due to bird nesting. SL confirmed it will require environmental screening.	
8	Noted that there was lots of flooding east of the railway line last year and some crops were lost.	
9	PK & others have reported lots of cuckoos calling in the district	
10	Confirmed that the IDB do not own any land.	
11	SL will arrange a day in June to assist PK in planning and mapping the channel maintenance.	SL 26
12	SL will provide a map of the water level control structures recorded in the district. 1 x slacker known at point 5.	SL 26
13	Noted that soils in the district have been tested and show organic matter content of 35%	
14	Noted that Network Rail (Rob Woodger) is progressing the work to eradicate the Japanese Knotweed along the railway.	
15	Noted that Conington potentially have a Parish council the IDB could work with	
16	Noted that there are some SFI provisions alongside the IDB channels and MLC New Dyke and Minks Lode, mainly field corners, and some margins elsewhere.	
17	SL stressed the importance of recording and reporting more species that are found within the area to better inform efforts for conservation and enhancement. Please use the **iRecord** app: **www.irecord.org.uk/app** and join the **Middle Level Commissioners Activity** or online *www://irecord.org.uk/join/middle-level-commissioners-nature*	ALL 26
18	Discussed that many of the Boards' drains were themselves designated county wildlife sites due to the diversity of aquatic and marginal plant species present. The channel categorisation map and works plan needs to take into account that the regime that has favoured this diversity should be maintained. SL to investigate when the last CWS review was undertaken and work with PK to integrate the vegetation management recommendations of the CWS into the plan before August	SL 26
19	Discussed that there was an unusually high density of woodland priority habitat within the district next to IDB channels so while this is not usually a conservation focus for IDBs, it will have to be for this IDB to some extent as they will have some influence over their condition.	
19	Highlighted that the LNRS habitat opportunity mapping highlights areas that will become attractive for conservation funding in future years	
20	Remaining points captured in the draft BAP.	
21	Discussed that swifts aren't doing very well and maybe the Board could set their biodiversity budget this year to purchase a swift box and ask for suggested private locations at the Board meeting. Boxes are approx. £250. Best locations are under the eaves of higher agricultural buildings, near water.	PK 26
21	SL will load draft BAP onto the C&H webpage on the MLC website and make a link available to Board members in the Board papers ahead of the meeting for them to review. The aim is to have the BAP approved by then end of June.	

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:		7
Meeting:	**CONINGTON & HOLME IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: CHIEF ENGINEER'S SUMMARY & CAPITAL PROGRAMME**	
Date:	**Wednesday 3rd June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**		**Nicola Oldfield**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Authorise the Chairman and Vice Chairman to take decisions on enforcement action on behalf of the Board with advice from MLC.
B. Consider the development of an investment plan for future asset refurbishment/replacement and grant funding and to confirm acceptance of recommendations to the Consulting Engineer.
C. Confirm if you would like MLC to restart the quarterly routine maintenance inspections.
D. Provide meter readings, or would prefer, the MLC can take quarterly readings; these will be at a cost to the Board for the time and mileage involved.
E. Confirm if the site telemetry has been refitted with the new control panel or if any assistance is needed with it.
F. Confirm if a new EICR has been completed as part of the station works, and if so, please provide a copy for file.
G. Review the pumping station key dates below, confirm any amendments and additional details.

1. Enforcement & Compliance Overview

Our Enforcement and Compliance Officers Dave Coles and Tony Payne joined us on the 23 June 2025 as a job share. They are currently investigating cases across 17 boards plus Middle Level Commissioners, including:

- 47 active enforcement cases,
- 23 surface water or surface water and foul discharges,
- 24 byelaw cases.

Cases already concluded:

- Eight cases in the last two months including trespass, unlicenced moorings, unauthorised structures and encroachment,
- Six major developments have been referred to Technical Services following enforcement action, as consent applications for outstanding discharge consents.

In September and October, they were successful in recovering more than £70,000 of historic outstanding drainage charges for three developments across two boards and the MLC.

It is recommended that the Board authorise the Chairman and Vice Chairman to take decisions on enforcement action on behalf of the Board, having taken advice from MLC Officers. They will engage other Board Members as they see appropriate and determine whether a Special Meeting of the Board is needed on a risk and complexity basis.

2. Summary of Key Planning Issues

We will, when possible, seek the Board's input, rather than wait for Board meetings. This will be done via correspondence with the Chair, Vice Chair, District Officer and any appropriate sub-committees.

3. New FCERM grant funding guidance

The Government published new FCERM funding guidance on 3 March 2026.

To be eligible for funding a project must deliver strategic objectives and government policy. Governments' objectives most relevant to IDBs include:

- value for money (Net Present Value)
- reducing flood risk
- focusing on deprived areas
- prioritising projects with contributions from others (this would include funding provide by IDBs themselves)
- a percentage investment in Natural Flood Management (NFM) across the programme

Project types that are eligible for grant funding include:

- refurbishing or replacing existing assets
- building new assets
- NFM projects
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)

<u>Asset Refurbishment Projects</u>

Asset refurbishment is a significant renewal to one or more components in an existing asset that is not covered by routine maintenance.

It includes work to mitigate for the loss of asset performance. This covers issues that asset maintenance cannot manage and that would be significant and permanent if not fixed.

It does not include asset replacement projects where an existing asset at the end of its life is replaced with another like for like asset which sustains the standard of service.

Under the new FCERM funding policy existing FCERM assets are eligible for 100% of funding for refurbishment.

<u>New or Improved Asset Projects</u>

Projects that are not refurbishment are eligible for 100% for the first £3 million, and 90% for costs above £3 million.

These include:

- projects replacing existing assets with a like for like replacement
- projects building new or improved assets
- projects with combined asset interventions

Projects cannot be artificially split into smaller components to fall below the £3 million fully funded threshold.

<u>Applying for funding</u>

It should be noted that there will be more projects that are eligible for investment than funding available. Projects will need to be prioritised to meet government targets and achieve best value for money.

Therefore, it is recommended that should the Board wish to apply for FCERM grant funding, they consider part-funding projects. This is similar to the funding rules that were in place prior to 2011 when IDBs only received 45% of project costs.

Should the Board wish to submit a new project to be considered for funding, the first step is to collate relevant cost and benefit data to submit to the Environment Agency from 1 July 2026. This requires collating costs and benefits and other relevant data required by the EA to determine a project's eligibility and prioritise the programme. The Consulting Engineer can provide resources to do this, and this will be recharged to the Board.

If a project already appears on the FCERM investment programme with an allocation for future years, an application for grant funding approval/business case will need to be submitted. The Consulting Engineer can provide resources to do this.

<u>Timescales</u>

The Consulting Engineer currently has limited resources to develop and deliver projects, although recruitment is currently in progress to address this. The likely timescales for project delivery are:

- submit for funding consideration July 2026 onwards
- prepare and submit applications for subsequent funding approval onwards
- delivery 2027/28 onwards

The Consulting Engineer will prioritise workload based primarily on Key Health Indicators.

4. Capital Programme

It is recommended that the Board considers the development of an investment plan for future asset refurbishment/replacement.

The Board is asked to consider the development of a capital investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement and instruct the Consulting Engineer accordingly.

Author Name: Nicola Oldfield
Role: Chief Engineer

Appendix 1: List of applications since last meeting
Appendix 2: Operational Services Report
Appendix 3: M&E Report

Appendix 1

There have been 3 planning applications responded to since the last meeting.

There have been no Byelaw Consent (to undertake works in and around watercourses or to discharge to a watercourse) or infiltration device applications processed since the last meeting.

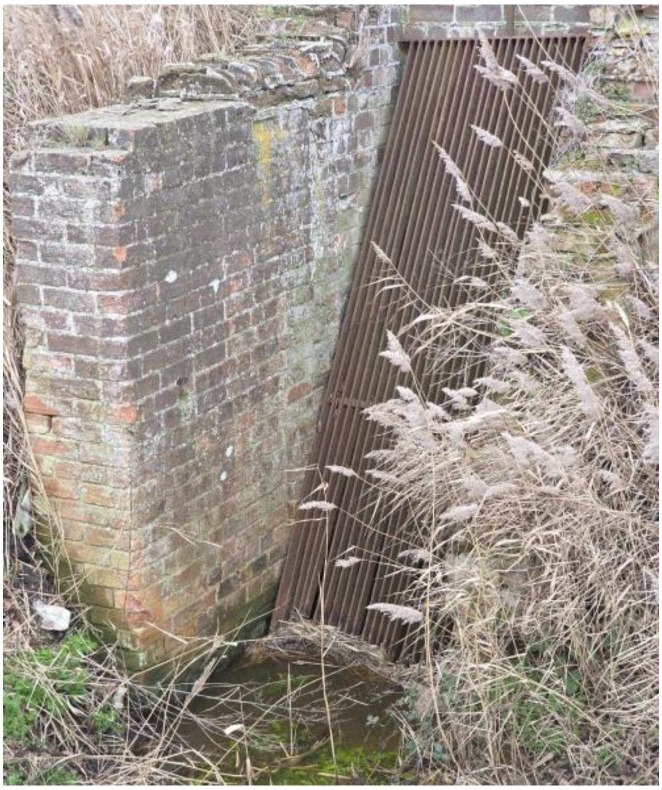
Appendix 2

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:		7
Meeting:	**CONINGTON & HOLME IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: OPERATIONAL SERVICES**	
Date:	**Wednesday 3rd June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**		**Morgan Lakey**

1. Weed Control & Drain Maintenance

1.1 Following a request from the Board, a site meeting was attended at Sawtry Road, Glatton, to discuss the maintenance downstream of point 72. The first section is land locked with residential properties and high boundary fences at the top of both banks, restricting the bankside access. It was agreed the best possible action for the Board, would be to investigate the un-adopting of the section between the two properties, moving the start of the Board's drain to the East of the residential boundaries. The Chairman was going to consider this further and discuss with the Board at their next annual meeting.

It was also agreed to carry out an inspection of the syphon at Point 5, whilst everyone was available and local to the site. A visual inspection revealed the syphon appears to be in good order, however without the correct PPE it was difficult to fully assess the integrity of the steel pipe from the bankside. The Chairman will discuss the findings with the Board and consider if further inspections are required and a proposal to carry out remedial works by inserting a smaller diameter twinwall plastic pipe, inside the existing steel one. A steel conversion plate could be fabricated for either end of the syphon, allowing the proposed works to be completed without excavating through the road.



Syphon @ Point 5

Author Name: Morgan Lakey
Role: Assistant Operations Engineer

Appendix 3

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**	**7**
Meeting:	**CONINGTON & HOLME IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL**
Date:	**Wednesday 3rd June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Dave Bantoft**

1. M&E key messages and advice

1.1 No routine inspections have been carried out at the station since June 2024 as the board had refurbishment plans in place.

Please confirm if you would like MLC to restart the quarterly routine maintenance inspections, and if so, please provide a key for the station.

If you would like MLC to hold any of the O&M files for the refurbishment works, then please forward electronic or paper copies.

1.2 Electricity Readings

Taking regular and accurate manual electricity meter readings is very important; even for sites with meters that are read remotely. There have been cases of significant variances between bills and actual usage, regular meter readings and pump hours readings are essential for verifying bills and forecasting usage.

Moving forward it is requested that the Pump Attendants/District Officers take electricity meter readings and pump run hours readings monthly (as close to the 1st of each month as they can) and then forward them onto the M&E Engineer David Bantoft on david.bantoft@middlelevel.gov.uk or 07768 026119.

If you are unable to provide readings, or would prefer, the MLC can take quarterly readings; these will be at a cost to the Board for the time and mileage involved. Please approve this if it is required.

Without regular electricity meter readings, the MLC cannot verify electrical bills.

2. Pumping summary

The site telemetry has not been communicating since 12th April 2025. Please confirm if this has been refitted with the new control panel or if any assistance is needed with it.

3. Inspections

3.1 The mandatory site Electrical Installation Condition Report was completed in May 2024

Please confirm if a new EICR has been completed as part of the station works, and if so, please provide a copy for file.

EICR Date	EICR Due
22 May-2024	22 May 2029

4. Pumping Station Key Dates

4.1 **Please review the pumping station key dates below, if there are any discrepancies or you can add any details, please let me know. The key dates are an important reference and will feed into the upcoming Key Health Indicators and investment plan.**

Station				Weedscreen
Built	**Pump**	**Pump Overhaul**	**Controls**	**Bars**
1970	1970	2025	2025	1970

5. Water level Management

The pumping stations have summer and winter pump level references based on historic values which serve as very good reference points. I would actively encourage pump attendants to vary these to suit their current catchment conditions. For example, running pump start and stop levels at intermediate settings above the base winter settings during times of high Soil Moisture Deficit and then reducing towards winter level setpoints as the SMD reduces or if there is heavy rainfall forecast. This needs to be balanced with ensuring the pump has a good operating range so it is never short cycling (hunting). This can also be used to ensure maximum benefit of the lower night electricity rate.

Ultimately this takes more operator time but will produce more efficient running and reduce costs. We can advise on this if needed and show some good and bad examples to help with setting and monitoring your pumps.

Author Name: Dave Bantoft
Role: M&E Engineer

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	8
Meeting:	**CONINGTON & HOLME IDB**	**Subject:**	**HEALTH & SAFETY**
Date:	**Wednesday 3rd June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Paul Burrows**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Note its Health & Safety accountabilities.
B. Take initial actions to strengthen its governance of Health & Safety (Section 3).

1. Introduction

The ADA Good Governance Guide covers Health & Safety (P90-91) and there is a new guide in development that will go much deeper into responsibilities and standards. The Annual Report (IDB1) to Defra also asks the following questions:

- Whether the Board has a current Health & Safety Policy
- Whether the Board has a Board Member focussed on ensuring that Health & Safety is considered when Board decisions are made.
- Whether the Board has a responsible officer for Health & Safety.
- The number of 'near miss' incidents in the reporting period.
- Details of any reportable incidents in the reporting period.

2. Clarification of H&S accountabilities

For the avoidance of doubt, an IDB and the MLC are each different public bodies, independent from each other. In the UK, a public body can delegate specific health and safety *tasks* and *functions* to another body, but it cannot transfer its ultimate legal accountability or liability for ensuring that those duties are carried out safely. The original public body retains overall responsibility. Accountabilities and responsibilities cannot be outsourced to H&S service providers either.

Delegation of statutory functions requires explicit laws to enable, and these do not exist within MLC and IDB legislation. Specific day-to-day tasks can be delegated to competent individuals or organisations, provided there are clear arrangements for supervision, monitoring, and reporting. Delegation should be set out in formal, robust contracts or agreements (e.g., a written contract or a scheme of delegation) that clearly define roles, responsibilities, reporting arrangements, and monitoring procedures.

Currently, the only H&S task that MLC provides for administered IDBs is to facilitate specialist H&S advice via a group arrangement currently with AW Safety Management Ltd (previously COPE) as the supplier. As MLC further matures their own Health & Safety capacity, capability and standards, it may be that they can offer a broader service to administered IDBs.

The specific scope of services/advice that each IDB wants or needs from AW Safety Management Ltd is within their gift and responsibility to determine. Each Board essentially pays for an annual day with the H&S advisor as well as their ad hoc advice as required. These days have in recent years been focussed on a site inspection (e.g. pumping stations), however there is a diminishing value in repeat inspections of the same asset. It is also not clear whether Board's are making use of the ad hoc advice arrangements that they are paying for.

Where MLC are delivering specific operational services for an IDB (e.g. overseeing the maintenance programme, M&E works, ecological surveys) then they have responsibility to manage the H&S associated with those activities and any contractors they use. The IDB remains accountable for assuring themselves of MLC's competence in this regard.

3. Strengthening IDB H&S governance

It is recommended that the Board review its governance of its Health & Safety accountabilities. This should include the following initial actions, but not necessarily be limited to these:

a) Reconfirm if they have a lead Board Member and responsible official for H&S, and if so, who they are.
b) Confirming which Board Members and officials (e.g. District Officers, Pump Attendants) have been suitably trained in H&S leadership (e.g. IOSH Managing Safely) via their 'day job' employers, providing certification to MLC so it can be held on the Board's file.
c) Identifying Members and Officials (and employees) who ought to be trained*. This will then need to be budgeted for and arranged.
d) Review the Board's near miss and accident reporting approach and ensure any records are sent to MLC Offices for inclusion on the Board's file. MLC have template forms for their own H&S management that can be provided.
e) Consider its wider H&S risk exposure and target the days with AW Safety Management Ltd accordingly.
f) Provide feedback as to whether a broader H&S service from the MLC would be valued (reducing or replacing the need for a 3rd party service provider) and what range of services would be most valuable.

**The Institution of Occupational Health & Safety (IOSH) Manging Safely Course is a 3-day classroom style course costing circa £600 (exc VAT). There are also online learning options available.*

Author Name: Paul Burrows
Role: Clerk

Site Safety Inspection Record

Conington and Holme IDB 06.02.26

Complete

Name of organisation:	Conington and Holme IDB 06.02.26
Date of site visit	6 Feb 2026 12:50 PM GMT
Address of inspected premises	Conington Pumping Station
Name of Advisor	Scott Butters
Time of arrival at site:	6 Feb 2026 12:50 PM GMT
Audit Name	Conington and Holme IDB 06.02.26

Audit

An opening meeting was held with

Peter Keates (by telephone)

1

An unaccompanied visit was made to the pumping station. Unfortunately, access to the pumping station building was not possible, however it was reported that the station had been refurbished since the previous inspection.

It was previously reported that the pumping station was provided with a PTO shaft for the transfer of power in an emergency for the pumps, both internal. However it was reported that these are seldom used. A number of mobile pumps are available to Middle Level Commissioners (MLC) to be used in the event of an emergency. This would negate the need for PTOs to be used.

As previous, focus was placed on the following items, to determine where improvements could be made, if applicable:

- Signage. Determine the type and locations of site identification and hazard warning signage to try and get consistency of signage with just one sign for each location that has the name of the site, location details (e.g. What3Words, grid ref), contact details and warning pictograms.
- Gate pedestrian access. Where gated access is provided, particularly double gates, identify any sites where the gates do not align and are difficult to open/close. In addition, assess the quality of the pedestrian access to, and around the pumping station grounds.
- Site vehicle access. Following on from the above identify any sites where access might be difficult or hindered for telehandler/tractor, etc., due to location of gates relative to the weed piles area, tight corners, steep inclines or poor surfaces (e.g. grass, mud or loose stones making it slippery).
- Weed piles. How the weed piles are being managed/removed at pumping station sites where either manually or machinery cleared. MLC are sometimes contracted by the IDBs to remove them when they have got too big making it difficult to scoop up with telehandler/tractor or in-position trailer overflowing.
- Lighting. Identify what lighting provision is at each site, if none or there is any - what, where, etc., to determine if any improvements can be made across all sites. Although access to pumping stations is typically infrequent and for short durations, particularly during darkness, suitable internal and external lighting is recommended to be provided, such as external PIR lighting. In the interim, pump attendants can use vehicle lights or a torch to provide temporary lighting, if required.

2

Conington Pumping station.

This small brick built building contains the electrical control panel for the two internal pumps. A large weedscreen is cleared manually using a rake/crome when necessary. It was previously reported that in addition, a 360 degree long reach excavator may also be used on occasion to clear significant weed accumulations from the basin. Testing of the electrical panel had been undertaken prior to the 2025 inspection. Ensure that suitable evidence is available for any newly installed electrical equipment. In any case, inspections are to be repeated every 5 years.

- Signage. There is currently a sign displayed on the side of the building indicating the location and contact details. Consistent signage across all locations, applicable to each site, has been recommended.
- Pedestrian access. Considered suitable, the access from the farm track has been covered with road planings, as has the higher level access gate to provide a parking/turning area. The weedscreen deck is a concrete surface. However, as previously recommended, an intermediate rail, or as a minimum a chain, should be provided above the weedscreen to provide additional support and protection when manually cleaning the screen.
- Vehicle access. Access to the site is along a suitable farm track and then down the planings access. In addition, the other side of the building can be accessed from a track above the site.
- Weedpile management. Only a small weedpile was observed, this was placed on the ground of the weedscreen deck and presented a slip and fall hazard.
- Lighting. There appeared to be external lighting provided to the front of the building to illuminate the weedscreen area, and additional lighting for access to the building. The lighting appeared to be on PIR. As the visit was made in daylight, it could not be confirmed if the lighting was working.

- Entrance and flooring. It was previously reported that the double doors to the building and floor tiles inside the building were to be replaced. The double doors appeared to be new.

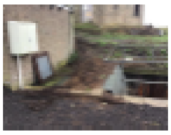


Photo 1


Photo 2

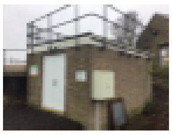


Photo 3

Photographic Risk Assessment

Signature of person informed

Signature of person informed 1

Signature of person informed

Peter Keates
6 Feb 2026 7:16 AM GMT

Advisor's signature

Scott Butters
6 Feb 2026 8:57 PM GMT

Departure time	6 Feb 2026 1:15 PM GMT
Number of outstanding Photographic Risk Assessments	0 From 0 to 99

Media summary

Photo 1

Photo 2

Photo 3

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**	**11**
Meeting:	**CONINGTON & HOLME IDB**	**Subject:**	**GOVERNANCE**
Date:	**Wednesday 3rd June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Paul Burrows**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Note the Annual Return submitted for 2024/2025
B. Note the continued appointment of Whitings as Internal Auditor and consider the Internal Auditors Report for 2024/2025 (link)
C. Consider any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions occurring during or after the year-end that have a financial impact on the Board.
D. Review the effectiveness of existing Internal Controls and identify any new or strengthened Internal Controls that they may require.
E. Highlight if there are any specific risks or issues not covered within its Risk Management Strategy that may need review ahead of the next formal update.
F. Review pumping station valuations for insurance purposes.
G. Note the submission of the IDB1 form to Defra. (link)
H. Assure themselves that they provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
I. To review and approve the submission of their Annual Governance Statement for 2026 and authorising the Chair and Clerk to sign the statement.

1. Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) and Internal Auditor

1.1 The AGAR provides the framework by which the governance of the Board is assessed. The Board's last AGAR is available on its page via www.middlelevel.gov.uk

1.2 As part of their AGAR return, the Board is asked whether it has considered any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions occurring during or after the year-end that have a financial impact on the Board.

1.3 The Board/Commissioners to consider the comments of the auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025. (Appendix 1)

1.4 The Board are reminded that Whitings LLP were appointed as internal auditor for a five-year period commencing 1st April 2023 (financial years 2023/24 to 2027/28). The Board is asked to act on the advice of the Auditor within its decision making.

1.5 The latest report of the Internal Auditor is available on the MLC website for the consideration. This report covers the MLC and all administered IDBs.

2. Internal Controls

2.1 Within the financial operations at the Middle Level offices there are a series of controls in place to ensure the segregation of duties, so as far as practical within a small workforce, that no one person has control of a single operation from start to finish. The Internal Controls are available via the website within the 'Governance' section on the Board's page.

2.2 Note the Financial Regulations for the Board is also available on its page via www.middlelevel.gov.uk

2.3 The Board needs to ensure there is adequate separation of duties within its running and decision making. Members are asked to refresh themselves as to the Member Code of Conduct (available within the Governance Documents on the Board's webpage) and ensure their declarations of interests are clear and up-to-date.

2.4 If a Board Member (or their business) undertakes contracted work (or bids for such work) for the Board it is recommended that they be excluded from any decision making as a matter of course and that appropriate contractual arrangements are in place.

2.5 If the Member also has a lead role for the Board (e.g. Chair/Vice Chair) then it is important that the Board puts in place safeguards to ensure a separation of duties, particularly being clear on who is acting as lead client for the contractor.

3. Risk Assessment and Insured Values

3.1 The Board are asked to consider their Risk Management Strategy and review the insured values for their pumping stations as detailed below:

CONINGTON & HOLME IDB
INSURED VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS

PUMPING STATION

	As At 1st April 2026	
CONINGTON PUMPING STATION	793,572.00	Index linked

4. IDB1 (Annual Report to Defra)

4.1 All IDBs are required to report annually to Defra via an Annual Report called an IDB1 form. These reports are copied to the Environment Agency and to the relevant District Councils. The most recent form submitted on behalf of the Board is available on the Board's webpage.

5. Exercise of Public Rights

5.1 For completion of the Annual Governance Statement the Board is required to confirm that they provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

5.2 In order to warrant a positive response to this assertation the authority needs to have taken the following actions in respect of the previous annual return:

Exercise of Public Rights: The authority provided for the exercise of public rights set out in Sections 26 and 27 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Part 5 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requires the RFO to have published including on the authority's website or other website:

- Sections 1 and 2 of the annual return
- A declaration that the status of the statement of accounts is ‘unaudited;’ and
- A statement that sets out details of how public rights can be exercised, as set out in Regulation 15(2)(b), which includes the period for the exercise of public rights.

5.3 In addition, a notice of the conclusion of the external auditor’s limited assurance review of the annual return, together with relevant accompanying information, has been published in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. We also display the ‘Local Authority Accounts – A Summary of Your Rights’ with the notice.

5.4 The Clerk to refer to the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual Return, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return.

6. Annual Governance Statement

6.1 That the Chair be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement on behalf of the Board for the financial year ended 31st March 2026 (Appendix 2)

Author Name: Paul Burrows
Role: Clerk

Appendix 1 Annual Return 2024/2025
Appendix 2 Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026

Conington & Holme Internal Drainage Board

Notice of conclusion of the audit

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2025

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
Section 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 /234)

1 The Audit of accounts for the Conington & Holme Internal Drainage Board for the year ended 31st March 2025 has been completed and the accounts have been published.

2 The Annual Governance & Accountability Return including the auditor's certificate and opinion is available for inspection and copying by any local government elector of the area of Conington & Holme Internal Drainage Board on application to:

The Clerk
Conington & Holme Internal Drainage Board
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambridgeshire
PE15 0AH

between the hours of 9.00am and 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays (excluding public holidays), when any local elector may make copies of the Annual Return.

3 Copies will be provided to any local elector on payment of £2.40 for each copy of the Annual Return

Announcement made by: P Burrows - Clerk to the Board

Date of Announcement: 10th September 2025

Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25

CONINGTON & HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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During the financial year ended 31 March 2025, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2024/25 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2023/24, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. *(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2023/24 AGAR tick "not covered")*			✓
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations *(during the 2024-25 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2023-24 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).*	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2023/24 AGAR *(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).*	✓		

O. (For local councils only)	Yes	No	Not applicable
Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

29/05/2025 02/06/2025 10/06/2025

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

WHITINGS LLP

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit G. BEECH – WHITINGS LLP

Date 10/06/2025

***If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).**

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

We acknowledge as the members of:

CONINGTON & HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, that:

	Agreed Yes	Agreed No*		'Yes' means that this authority:
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✔			*prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.*
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✔			*made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.*
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✔			*has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.*
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✔			*during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.*
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✔			*considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.*
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✔			*arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.*
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✔			*responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.*
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✔			*disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.*
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A	*has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.*

***Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.**

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

04/06/2025

and recorded as minute reference:

B.1178

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair

Clerk

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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

CONINGTON & HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	*Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.*
1. Balances brought forward	34,249	36,615	*Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.*
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	40,751	55,578	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	5,424	141,758	*Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.*
4. (-) Staff costs	0	0	*Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.*
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	*Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).*
6. (-) All other payments	43,809	174,849	*Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).*
7. (=) Balances carried forward	36,615	59,102	*Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).*
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	57,480	103,912	*The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March –* ***To agree with bank reconciliation.***
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	610,000	610,000	*The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.*
10. Total borrowings	0	0	*The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).*

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				*The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.*
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				*The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.*

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2025 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

AWood

Date 23-05-2025

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

04/06/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

B.1179

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2024/25

In respect of **Conington and Holme Internal Drainage Board – DB0018**

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2025; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2024/25

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

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None

3 External auditor certificate 2024/25

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature: PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date: 05/09/2025

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

CONINGTON & HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	*No**	*'Yes' means that this authority:*
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		*prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.*
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		*made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.*
3. We have assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		*has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.*
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		*during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.*
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		*considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.*
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		*arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.*
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		*responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.*
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		*disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.*
9. **(For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.**	Yes	No	N/A — *has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.*
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.	✓		*has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.*

***Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.**

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

DD/MM/YYYY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk SIGNATURE REQUIRED

ENTE WWW.MIDDLELEVEL.GOV.UK E/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	11
Meeting:	**CONINGTON & HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**	**Subject:**	**FINANCE REPORT: LOOKING BACK**
Date:	**Wednesday 3rd June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Note the Budgeting review within Appendix 1.
B. Note the Highland Water contributions
C. Consider and approve the payments detailed within Appendix 2.
D. Consider and approve the Annual Accounts & Finance Papers 2025/2026 within Appendix 3.

Finance Officer's review and key messages

GRAVITY AREA - AREA 1

For 2025/2026 Gravity area 1 had estimated expenditure for the year of £20,884 equivalent to a rate of 17.00p and the Board set a rate of 17.00p which raised £20,884 in agricultural drainage rates and special levy. Included in the estimated expenditure was £2,457 to be raised to reinstate balances following the events of 2023/2024.

Net expenditure in 2025/2026 was lower than the estimated budget. The main reason for the underspend was because of lower Drain works of £3,340 against a budget of £11,821. For future years the board should consider a phased maintenance programme.

Therefore, the general fund balance has increased by £10,747 to £24,304 as of 31st March 2026.

PUMPED AREA - AREA 2

For 2025/2026 Pumped area 2 had estimated expenditure for the year of £34,693 and the Board set the rate of 70.00p which raised £34,693 in agricultural drainage rates and special levy. Included in the estimated expenditure was £5,933 to be raised to reinstate balances following the events of 2023/24.

Net Expenditure in 2025/2026 was £14,797 lower (after adjusting for the amount raised for restatement of balances) than the estimated budget because of several reasons. Drain works were £11,385 lower than budget. Fuel costs were £2,189 lower than budget, following a dry summer and below average year for pumping volumes. Repairs and Renewals was under budget by £1,559.

Therefore, the general fund balance has increased to £30,869 as of 31st March 2026.

Summary:

Works carried out last year on the viability of the board which have been invoiced, as agreed were not paid and remain outstanding.

Both areas have General Fund balances now at a level of a year's expenditure in hand.

These balances are reflected in the Boards financial statements and Annual Return which they are requested to review and approve.

1. **Budgeting**

1.1 The budget comparison of the forecasted out-turn as at 30th November 2025 for the financial year ending 31st March 2026 is included as Appendix 1.

2. Payments for 2026

2.1 Payments are detailed within Appendix 2

3. Highland Water Contributions

3.1 Under Section 57 of Land Drainage Act 1991 the Board can make a claim for funding to the Environment Agency for the additional costs of the onward management of water from the district's highland. It is at the Environment Agency's discretion if they pay the contribution and it is accounted for within the local team's annual maintenance budget.

When completing the budget proposal claims were estimated against the likely out-turn for 2024/2025 and the budgeted expenditure for 2025/2026. The highland water claim included within the rating estimates was £2,441.77 (£911.97 Area 1 and £1529.80 Area 2).

Following the submission of claims for contributions the net sum of £(96.49) (£2,833.73 less £2,930.22 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) was netted off against the 2025/2026 claim based on the Boards' actual expenditure on maintenance work for that financial year and the sum of £2,564.17 in respect of 80% of the Boards' estimated expenditure for the financial year 2025/2026.

4. Annual Accounts and Finance papers 2025/2026:

4.1 Annual Return 2025/2026:

To consider the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2026 and the completion of Section 2 of the Annual Return as required in the Audit Regulations. Appendix 3

Author Name: Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett
Role: Responsible Officer/Assistant Treasurer

Appendix 1 Budget Review
Appendix 2 Payments for 2025/26
Appendix 3 Annual Accounts & Finance Papers 2025/26

Appendix 1

CONINGTON AND HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET MONITORING 2025/2026
GRAVITY AREA (AREA 1)

		Budget 2025/2026 £	Actual to 30/11/2025 £	Forecast to 31/03/2026 £	
1	Drainworks (including Environmental measures	11,821	329 [A]	11,821	A - Includes: Flail Mowing 329
2	Repairs and renewals	50	-	50	B - Increased Premium
3	Insurances	218	234 [B]	234	C - Provision to start to restore balances to a years expenditure in hand - provision equals a rate of 2p
4	Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	5,556	2,777	5,556	
5	Environment Agency - Precept	1,739	1,739	1,739	
6	Reinstatement of balances	2,457	-	2,457 [C]	
		21,841	5,078	21,857	
	LESS Deposit Accounts interest, etc	957	969	969	
		20,884	4,109	20,887	

CONINGTON AND HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET MONITORING 2025/2026
PUMPED AREA (AREA 2)

		Budget 2025/2026 £	Actual to 30/11/2025 £	Forecast to 31/03/2026 £
1	Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	11,979	-	11,979
2	Electricity	8,200	1,595	8,200
3	Repairs and renewals	1,559	-	1,559
4	Insurances	563	532	532
5	Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, etc	5,320	2,777	5,320
6	Environment Agency - Precept	580	580	580
7	Improvement works	-	3,624	3,624
8	Loan repayments *(Year 8 of 10)*	1,055	-	1,055
8	Loan repayments *(Year 3 of 3)*	595	-	595
8	Loan repayments *(Year 3 of 3)*	383	-	383
10	Reinstatement of balances	5,933		2,309
		36,165	9,106	36,134
	LESS Deposit Accounts interest, etc	1,473	1,598	1,598
		34,693	7,508	34,536

Appendix 2

CONINGTON AND HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Payments 2025/2026 (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026)

SC Electrical Contracting - Electrical refurbishments at the pumping station	975.66
DRA Fabb Construction Ltd - Brick sill under new door	540.00
DRA Fabb Construction Ltd - Removal of asbestos floor tile, clean and paint floor at the pumping station	2,520.00
DRA Fabb Construction Ltd - Drain maintenance	7,108.80
Middle Level Commisssioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)	93.30
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery, travelling, health & safety contract and storm recovery - tranche 1 claim	5,390.59
Greenwillows Associates Ltd - Ecology desk-based study, preliminary roost assessment site survey, report findings from the study and PRA, project management, quality control, DNA analysis, data search and mileage for works at Conington pumping station	1,150.20
DRA Fabb Construction Ltd - Pumping station improvement works	7,680.00
DRA Fabb Construction Ltd - Hire of 8" pump and pipes for 2 weeks	2,707.20
DRA Fabb Construction Ltd - Supply of external meter cabinet, move electricity meter into cabinet, dig and expose cable ready for UKPN to move meter head, backfill amd level with sand.	1,574.40
Brown & Co. - Professional fees in connection with the pumping station refurbishment	3,000.00
Environment Agency - Precept	1,159.09
Environment Agency - Refund of grant overclaims	79.75
DRA Fabb Construction Ltd - Supply of 16 tons of tarmac planings, finish hradstanding area. Level off area and stone for Hiab to remove pump	1,022.40
DRA Fabb Construction Ltd - Underpinning and repair to sheet piles at Conington pumping station	21,438.00
Holme Village Hall - Expenses in connection with Board meeting	30.00
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2025	813.60
DRA Fabb Construction Ltd - Additional hire of 8" pump and pipes	3,286.80
SC Electrical Contracting - Electrical refurbishments at the pumping station	1,061.47
PKF Littlejohn LLP - Audit Fee (2024-2025 accounts)	504.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, storm recovery tranche 2A claim, IDB change contribution, internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners, 2024-2025 accounts)	6,666.05
Middle Level Commisssioners - Fees for Production of Board report	99.90
IMServ - Annual half hourly electricity data collection to 22nd October 2026	138.34
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	765.26
Environment Agency - Precept	1,159.08
Middle Level Commisssioners - Fees for Production of Board report	295.20
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2026	854.40
IMServ - Meter operator agreement	44.71
V & J Services - Flail mowing	443.10
Information Commissioner - Renewal of Data Protection registration	52.00
EDF Energy - Electricity supply to pumping station	6,611.71
British Gas - Electricity supply to pumping station	4,390.05
	83,655.06

(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)

CONINGTON AND HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

GENERAL FUND

INCOME

		TOTAL	GRAVITY AREA	PUMPED AREA
2025				
Apr-01	Balance brought forward	23,694.48	13,556.60	10,137.88
2026				
Mar-31	Rate income and Special levy	55,577.90	20,884.20	34,693.70
	Interest of Deposit Accounts	232.64	133.10	99.54
	Development Charges	56.00	56.00	0.00
	Highland Water Contributions	2,467.69	911.97	1,555.72
	Write Back of Provisions	0.00	0.00	0.00
		82,028.71	35,541.87	46,486.84

EXPENDITURE

		TOTAL	GRAVITY AREA	PUMPED AREA
2026				
Mar-31	Expenditure during the year:-			
	Precept	2,318.17	1,738.63	579.54
	Insurances	765.26	233.68	531.58
	Repairs and renewals	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Fuel	5,911.26	0.00	5,911.26
	Drainworks	3,981.50	3,339.75	641.75
	Administration charge, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising etc	11,240.55	5,620.27	5,620.28
	Loan Repayment	2,032.50	0.00	2,032.50
	Balance Carried Forward	55,779.47	24,609.54	31,169.93
		82,028.71	35,541.87	46,486.84

CONINGTON AND HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2026

LIABILITIES

		TOTAL	GRAVITY AREA	PUMPED AREA
CAPITAL SECTION				
Capital Provisions Account		610,000.00	2,080.00	607,920.00
Loan account - Area 1 to Area 2		-	(2,080.00)	2,080.00
REVENUE SECTION				
General Fund		55,779.47	24,609.54	31,169.93
Development Charges Account		1,052.50	1,052.50	-
Discharge Consent Contributions - A1(M) Account		36,678.93	36,678.93	-
Future works account		-	-	-
Sundry Creditors		16,894.01	6,774.51	10,119.50
		720,404.91	69,115.48	651,289.43

ASSETS

		TOTAL	GRAVITY AREA	PUMPED AREA
CAPITAL SECTION				
Pumping Station (Valuation)		610,000.00	-	610,000.00
REVENUE SECTION				
Value added Tax - Refunds due		1,917.91	892.55	1,025.36
Ratepayers Account - Arrears		4,520.05	3,824.89	695.16
Sundry Debtors		585.42	267.00	318.42
Balance in hand:-				
Barclays -Treasurer's Account	30,651.89			
Barclays -Business Premium	72,125.20			
National Savings - Treasurer's Account	604.44			
		103,381.53	64,131.04	39,250.49
		720,404.91	69,115.48	651,289.43

Conington & Holme Internal Drainage Board

Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2026

Barclays - Treasurers Account 2025/2026

1st April 2025			31st March 2026	
Balance brought forward		103,313.27	Payments made during the year	83,655.06
31st March 2026				
Receipts during the year				
Clerk's collection account	82,544.59			
Interest on deposit accounts	574.29	83,118.88	Balance carried forward	102,777.09
		186,432.15		**186,432.15**

National Savings - Treasurers Account 2025/2026

1st April 2025		31st March 2026	
Balance brought forward	598.45	Payments made during the year	0.00
31st March 2026			
Interest on deposit accounts	5.99	Balance carried forward	604.44
	604.44		**604.44**

Barclays Bank PLc

Current Account

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2026	30,651.89
Less unpresented cheques	0.00
O/S lodgement	0.00
Balance per Trial Balance	**30,651.89**

Cash balances as at 31st March 2026

Barclays Bank PLc

Current Account	**30,651.89**
Business Premium Account	**72,125.20**

National Savings

Investment Account per passbook	**604.44**
Total reconciled cash balances per accounts	**103,381.53**

Conington & Holme IDB
Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return
Financial year ended 31st March 2026

				Per Annual Return
Line 1	**Balances brought forward**			
	General Fund	23,694.48		
	Development Charges Account	1,097.72		
	Discharge (A1M) Account	34,309.57		
	Future Works Account	0.00		
			59,101.77	**59,102**
Line 2	**Rates and Special Levies**			
	Agricultural rates	45,143.90		
	Special Levies	10,434.00		
	Penalty	0.00		
	Costs	0.00		
	Write-off	0.00		
			55,577.90	**55,578**
Line 3	**Total other receipts**			
	Interest			
	General fund	232.64		
	Development charges account	10.78		
	Discharge (A1M) account	336.86		
	Grant in Aid	0.00		
	Highland Water	2,467.69		
	Discharge contributions	0.00		
	Write back of provisions	0.00		
			3,047.97	**3,048**
Line 4	**Staff costs**			
	Wages/salaries	0.00		
	National insurance contributions	0.00		
	Pension costs	0.00		
	Travelling expenses	0.00		
			0.00	**0**
Line 5	**Loan repayments**			
	PWLB - Principal	0.00		
	PWLB - Interest	0.00		
			0.00	**0**

Line 6	**All other payments**			
	Precept	2,318.17		
	Rates, insurances, telephones	765.26		
	Repairs and renewals	0.00		
	Fuel	5,911.26		
	Drainworks	3,981.50		
	Administration	11,240.55		
	Development charges fees	0.00		
	Improvement works	0.00		
			24,216.74	**24,217**

Conington & Holme IDB
Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return
Financial year ended 31st March 2026

				Per Annual Return
Line 7	**Balances carried forward**			
	General Fund	55,779.47		
	Development Charges Account	1,052.50		
	Discharge (A1M) Account	36,678.93		
	Future Works Account	0.00		
			93,510.90	**93,511**

Reconciliation

Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6 93,510.90

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

CONINGTON & HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	*Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures **must** agree to underlying financial records.*
1. Balances brought forward	36,615	59,102	*Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value **must** agree to Box 7 of previous year.*
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	55,578	55,578	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	141,758	3,048	*Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.*
4. (-) Staff costs	0	0	*Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.*
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	*Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).*
6. (-) All other payments	174,849	24,217	*Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).*
7. (=) Balances carried forward	59,102	93,511	*Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. **must** equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).*
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	103,912	103,382	*The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – **To agree with bank reconciliation.***
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	610,000	610,000	*The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.*
10. Total borrowings	0	0	*The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).*

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	
11 Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?			*For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.*

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date 26/05/2026

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

DD/MM/YYYY

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	12
Meeting:	**CONINGTON & HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**	**Subject:**	**FINANCE REPORT: LOOKING FORWARD**
Date:	**Wednesday 3rd June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Consider the Finance Officer's summary
B. Fees, remuneration and subscriptions
C. Note the Precept to the Environment Agency
D. Review & Approve Rating Estimates for 2026/2027
E. Consider & approve the Agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levy requirements for 2026/2027
F Note that we will be introducing a consistent naming convention for MLC and IDB reserves during 2026/27, this will include some rationalisation of funds.

Finance Officer's summary and key messages

GRAVITY AREA - AREA 1

For the rating estimates for 2026/2027 standard provisions have been made for general expenditure with specific items included where known. The provision for drain maintenance works has been increased to a level which is more reflective of the works to being carried out.

PUMPED AREA - AREA 2

For the rating estimates for 2026/2027 standard provisions have been made for general expenditure with specific items included where known. The provision for drain maintenance works has been slightly reduced although a lot of works in 2025/2026 were carried out by the ratepayers themselves free of charge to the Board.

Estimates for pumping costs are as problematical as last year in that we need to factor in an 'average' pumping year, taking-into-account the impact of climate change. Further, we will have a new electricity supply contract from October 2026 with no current indications of possible unit costs, especially with the current uncertainty because of the conflicts within the Middle East. The provision is therefore an estimate of pumping volumes at an estimate of possible new contract rates (20% increase on 2025/26 rates). Members should therefore consider if they think the provision is reasonable when setting the rate. The Board also need to consider any increase in Contractor costs also with higher Fuel costs again as result of the conflict in the Middle East. Members should therefore consider if they think the provision is reasonable when setting the rate.

The budget proposal does not include any amounts for improvement works at the pumping station and members should also consider likely future capital investment requirements at the pumping station.

Summary:

The Board have benefited greatly by the Storm Recovery Grants. Boards must continue to address the problems of increased maintenance/operational costs of dealing with the likely effects of climate change and addressing the significant financial impact of dealing with the 2023/2024 rainfall events. The Board needs to continue to move towards a more financial resilient position and the Board are recommended to approve the estimates and the financial plan that these set out.

1. Precept to the Environment Agency

1.1 Internal Drainage Boards are required to pay a Precept (IDB Precept) to the Environment Agency for their expenses managing water passing into main rivers. Predominantly, the Precept funds additional maintenance downstream of and/or benefitting IDB districts.

1.2 The Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) determined that the Precept will increase by 2% for 2026.

The precept for 2025 was £2,318.17.

2. Estimates for 2026/27

21 The estimated budget for 2026/27 is shown in Appendix 1.

2.2 The Board are reminded that it is standard practice to budget for an average year in terms of rainfall and associated pumping requirements.

3. Rate Requirements for 2026/27

3.1 Appendix 2 details the rate requirement that needs to be set and approved by the Board in order to raise sufficient rate and special levy income to cover the budget estimate.

3.2 Board Members are welcome to propose alternative rate requirements and invite these for consideration by the Board along with their supporting rationale and proposed mechanism for catering within the budget estimate and/or the Board's investment strategy.

Author Name: Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett
Role: Responsible Officer/Assistant Treasurer

Appendix 1 Estimates for 2026/27
Appendix 2 Rate Requirements for 2026/27

Appendix 1

CONINGTON AND HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET PROPOSAL 2026/2027
GRAVITY AREA (AREA 1)

		Budget 2025/2026 £	Actual to 31/03/2026 £	Proposed Budget 2026/2027 £
1	Drainworks (including Environmental measures	11,821	3,340 [A]	12,809 [B]
2	Repairs and renewals	50	-	112
3	Insurances	218	234	257
4	Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	5,556	5,870	6,243
5	Environment Agency - Precept	1,739	1,739	1,773
6	Reinstatement of balances	2,457	-	-
		21,841	11,182	21,194
	LESS Deposit Accounts interest, etc	957	1,045	310
		20,884	10,137	20,884

A - Includes:

Flail Mowing	369
Fees	2,971

B - Drain maintenance programme to be agreed at meeting

CONINGTON AND HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET PROPOSAL 2026/2027
PUMPED AREA (AREA 2)

		Budget 2025/2026 £	Actual to 31/03/2026 £	Proposed Budget 2026/2027 £	Remarks
1	Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	11,979	594	10,763 [B]	A - Includes: Fees 594
2	Electricity	8,200	6,011	7,750 [C]	B - Drain maintenance programme to be agreed at meeting
3	Repairs and renewals	1,559	-	1,400	C - Provision based on 3 year average plus increase in rates of 20% from October 2026
4	Insurances	563	532	585 [D]	
5	Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, etc	5,320	5,870	6,007	D - Includes estimate for increased premiums (10%)
					E - From A1(M) account /Replacement weed-screen
6	Environment Agency - Precept	580	580	591	F - Reinstatement of balances
7	Improvement works	-	-	-	
8	Loan repayments *(Year 8 of 10)*	1,055	1,055	1,055 [E]	
8	Loan repayments *(Year 3 of 3)*	595	595	-	
8	Loan repayments *(Year 3 of 3)*	383	383	-	
9	Reinstatement of balances	5,933 [F]	5,933	-	
		36,165	21,551	28,151	
	LESS Deposit Accounts interest, etc	1,473	1,655	892	
		34,693	19,896	27,259	
	Rate Raised/Requirement	0.70 p		0.55 p	

Conington & Holme Internal Drainage Board

AREA 1

Rate and levy requirements

Under Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the appropriate proportions in which the net expenditure of the Board must be borne for 2026/2027 is: -

a) Proportion to be borne by the Agricultural Sector – 54.10%

b) Proportion to be borne by Special levy issued to Huntingdonshire District Council – 45.90%

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £665.

In 2026/2027 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levy would raise £1,228.

Revenue cash balance in hand on 31st March 2026 - £24,304

The estimated net expenditure for the Boards Revenue and Capital Programmes in 2026/2027 is £20,884 and equivalent to: -

a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 17.00p and

b) a Special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £9,586.

In 2025/2026 the Board set a rate of 17.00p in the £ together with a Special levy of £9,586 on Huntingdonshire District Council. **Members should give consideration to the current and required level of balances when setting the rate for 2026/2027**

P BURROWS

Clerk to the Board

June 2026

Conington & Holme Internal Drainage Board

AREA 2

Rate and levy requirements

Under Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the appropriate proportions in which the net expenditure of the Board must be borne for 2026/2027 is: -

a) Proportion to be borne by the Agricultural Sector – 97.56%

b) Proportion to be borne by Special levy issued to Huntingdonshire District Council – 2.44%

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £484.

In 2026/2027 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levy would raise £496.

Revenue cash balance in hand on 31st March 2025 - £30,869.

The estimated net expenditure for the Boards Revenue and Capital Programmes in 2026/2027 is £27,259, and is equivalent to: -

a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 55.00p and

b) a Special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £666.

In 2025/2026 a rate of 70.00p in the £ was raised together with a Special levy of £848 on Huntingdonshire District Council. **Members should give consideration to the current and required level of balances when setting the rate for 2025/2026.**

P BURROWS

Clerk to the Board

June 2026