EUXIMOOR INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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Administered by:

27th May 2026

Dear Board Members

Upcoming meeting of the Board
Thursday 4th June 2026

Please find overleaf the agenda for the meeting of the Board to be hosted at the Middle Level Offices, PE15 0AH at 5pm on Thursday 4th June 2026.

A meal will follow at the conclusion of the meeting at 7.30pm at the Rose & Crown, March PE15 9NA.

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

EUXIMOOR INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Thursday 4th June 2026 – 5pm

Middle Level Offices, March PE15 0AH

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 - 14	Chair
4	Constitution & Membership	Pages 15 - 17	Clerk
5	Clerk's Report	Pages 18 - 22	Clerk
6	Environment Officer's Report	To follow	Clerk
7	Consulting Engineer's Reports	Pages 23 - 33	Clerk or Engineer
8	Health & Safety	Pages 34 - 41	Chair
9	District Officer's Report	Verbal	DO
10	Governance • Accounts Return for 2024/2025 • Auditors report for 2024/2025 • Annual Governance Statement	Pages 42 - 44 Pages 45 - 49 Page 50	Clerk
11	Finance Report: looking back • Budgeting • Payments 2025 • Annual Accounts and Finance papers 2025/2026	Pages 51 - 52 Page 53 Page 54 Pages 55 - 59	Clerk
12	Finance Report: looking forward • Determination of land for rating purposes (Confidential papers) • Rating Estimates for 2025/2026 • Agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levy requirements or 2025/2026	Pages 60 - 61 Page 62 Page 63 Page 64	Clerk
13	Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 3rd June 2027 5pm	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.)

EUXIMOOR INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Euximoor Internal Drainage Board
Held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Thursday 5th June 2025.

PRESENT

N Russell (Chair)	R Gladwin
P Russell (Vice-Chair)	A Miscandlon (FDC)
C Albutt	M Mottram
H Albutt	W Sutton

Mrs Ruth Martin (Lead Clerk) representing the Clerk was in attendance.

Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

No Apologies received as all members attended.

B.1157 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.

Mr P Russell, Mr H Albutt and Mr W Gladwin declared an interest in District Officer and Pump Attendant Fees and Payments.

Mr Miscandlon declared an interest in matters concerning the Middle Level Commissioners as a Middle Level Board member.

B.1158 Minutes of last meeting

RESOLVED

> That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 30th May 2024 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1159 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

B.1160 Constitution & Membership

Vacancies and Elections

Mrs Martin advised that there are currently two vacancies on the Board following the resignation of Mr John Heading. Waldersey Farms (Mr A Kew) was contacted as agreed at the last meeting inviting them to join the Board, but no response has been received. The Board discussed how difficult it has been to find new Board

members, and with the upcoming amalgamation whether further recruitment would be suitable. Mr Sutton proposed that the Board suspend future recruitment of Board members, and this was agreed as the most suitable way forward.
Mrs Martin advised the Board that the next elections will be held in 2026.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair, Mr N Russell, advised the Board that he had intended to remain as Chair until the completion of the Amalgamation with March East IDB. However, this was taking longer than expected and he said that he would prefer to stand down now, although he wished to remain as a Board member until the amalgamation. The Board accepted this and agreed that Mr Roger Gladwin be appointed as Chairman of the Board. This was proposed by Mr Sutton and seconded by Mr C Albutt

The Board agreed that Mr P Russell continue as Vice Chairman of the Board. This was proposed by Mr C Albutt and seconded by Mr Sutton.

The Board agreed that Mr P Russell continue District Officer.

It was agreed that as Mr P Russell is not as readily available to carry out the Pump Attendant role at Reed Fen, that Mr W Gladwin take on this role. Mr H Albutt will continue as Pump Attendant at Ironbridge. Mr P Russell will provide support as appropriate in his role as District Officer.

Mr N Russell was thanked for his work as Chairman, and Mr R Gladwin took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

RESOLVED

That Mr R Gladwin be appointed as Chairman of the Board

That Mr P Russell be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Board.

That Mr P Russell be appointed as District Officer

That Mr W Gladwin and Mr H Albutt be appointed as Pump Attendants

Amalgamation

Mrs Martin updated the Board on the progress of the amalgamation with March East IDB. The scheme was advertised by the Environment Agency in December 2024 as required by Section 3(4) of the Land Drainage Act 1991, and as this was not challenged the scheme was sent to Defra for the draft Order to be prepared and advertised. The Board are now waiting for Defra to prepare the order and advertise it. Mrs Martin is in regular contact with the EA’s legal team and will provide a further update to the Board as soon as there is any further progress. However, the next stages will include identifying the 15 Members that will be listed on the Instrument of Appointment which will create the new March and Euximoor Water Management Board.

As all Board members were present, Mrs Martin asked if they wished to be included in the first 15 Elected members of the Board. Mr N Russell advised that he did not wish to continue, and Mr Sutton advised that he would stand down if necessary. The remaining members all indicated that they wished to remain on the new Board.

The Board members indicated that they would prefer to not have their home addresses listed in the new constitution document.

Training

Mrs Martin advised that the updated version of the ADA Good Governance Guide has now been printed and copies were handed to Board members. She advised that it is not yet clear what supporting training material will follow, but that the original training videos are still available to view. Mr Sutton felt that the navigating to the training materials on the website is not easy.

Board members were asked to complete the training matrix as circulated at the meeting, and to advise the office if any further training is undertaken.

B.1161 Clerk's Report

Mrs Martin advised that the Clerks Report would be taken largely as read, asking for further consideration to be made of the following points.

Planning and Consenting Charging Model

The new planning and consenting charging model has been implemented and been in use since 1st April. Mrs Martin reported that it is planned to review the fees every year, and that the Clerk invites feedback. It is intended that Recovery and Enforcement will form part of the new model.

Highland Water and IDB Precept

Although this Board does not submit a Highland Water Claim, Mrs Martin outlined the issues detailed in the Clerks Report and that after being advised that claims would not be paid in full, a formal appeal was narrowly avoided after the shortfall was met by the Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC). Following this the Clerk has written 'The Highland Water Conundrum' document which has been submitted to the Minister, Defra, the EA and our local authorities, and also circulated to all Board members.

However, this Board does pay the IDB Precept, and Mrs Martin advised that the IDB Precept had increased by 2% this year, and that the Clerk was considering whether an appeal should be lodged, and if this would have greater gravitas if this were on behalf of all the Boards that he administers. The Board agreed to delegate this decision to the Clerk acting with the Chair.

RESOLVED

> The Board agreed to delegate the decision on whether to appeal the IDB Precept (under s40 of the Water Resources Act) to the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman. Any appeal must be lodged within 6 weeks of formal notification.

Fens Reservoir

Although this Board are not directly impacted by the scheme, all IDBs that gravity outfall or pump into the Middle Level watercourses have an interest and Mrs Martin reminded the Board of this. She advised that the Middle Level Commissioners will be working with Anglian Water over the coming months in their development of the Development Consent Order, and MLC need to secure specific delegation authority from the Board in readiness for this. Therefore, the Board are asked to approve that they act as one with the Commissioners and other impacted IDBs, and to provide the relevant authorisations for staff and consultants. The Board are also advised that the Fens Reservoir DCO may need to overwrite/disallow existing statutory powers held by the Board, and that decision making on this is delegated to the Clerk and Chairman/Vice Chairman.

RESOLVED

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.

Acknowledge 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.1162 Environment Officers' Report

Mrs Martin referred to the Environment Officers Report and advised the Board on the updated Environmental Services package. The Board accepted the increase in fee as detailed in the report. She drew the Boards attention to the changes in the Hedgerow Regulations and advised the Board that the Ecology Team can now check if any works affecting trees may impact on bats. The Board were reminded that any non-routine maintenance works will require a survey before works commence, and the Ecology Team have an environmental screening form that needs to be completed. Mrs Martin drew the Boards attention to the 'Water Voles – Myth Busting' section of the report and asked that any bank slips be reported as early as possible, as the slip will most likely displace any water voles that may have been present and so will not prevent any repair works being carried out. Alternatively leaving the slip and dealing with it later may give water voles chance to re-establish themselves and therefore prevent works being carried out. Mrs Martin also reminded the Board of their culverting policy, and that culverts should be seen as the last resort. Loss of habitat needs to be considered when installing any culverts.

The Board agreed that the Chair would agree and adopt the refreshed BAP once the review is completed.

The Board are invited to attend a biodiversity training day, and it was agreed that either the Chair or District Officer would attend. The Board thanked the Ecology and Environmental Services Officer for her work and noted their appreciation of what she does to support them.

RESOLVED

That the Environment Report be approved.

B.1163 Consulting Engineers' Reports

The Board considered the reports of the Consulting Engineer, and it was taken as read.

Capital Programme

The Board reviewed the Capital Programme and the Chief Engineers confirmation that, although there is some uncertainty over GiA funding going forward, there is currently an allocation available for 2025/26 to progress a system study in combination with March East IDBs district. The Board acknowledged the approach as detailed in the Chief Engineers report.

The Board acknowledged the report.

Mechanical and Electrical Report (M&E)

Mrs Martin advised the Board that as detailed in the M&E Report, the weed screen overhaul and new control panel at Iron Bridge Pumping Station had been fully funded from the Storm Recovery Grant, and that the ultrasonic level controller replaced. However, the M&E Engineer had advised that consideration should be given to the replacement of the pump control panel but that the new level controller could be integrated into a new electrical control panel which would reduce costs.

Mr P Russell said that the Board's approach had been that they wouldn't do any works to the control panel until it became problematic. Mr W Gladwin asked if parts could be sourced for the panel, but it was agreed that there was a risk presented should parts not be available. Mr Mottram suggested that other Boards have taken the decision to continue running their pumping stations as they are, knowing they have the funds in place should an emergency replacement be required. They can then rate in the following years to recover the funding. Mr Sutton agreed that this would deal with the financial risk, but questioned what the physical risk would be should the panel fail. Mr W Gladwin thought that there would be room at the station for a stand in emergency pump, which would be at a cost to the Board but straightforward to install. Mr P Russell thought that this would be a low risk approach, and the Board could leave the works for now but plan for the future. Mr W Gladwin agreed, and Mr Mottram would be interested to know what would happen should the panel fail. The Board agreed not to go ahead with these works this year.

The report also advised that the Reed Fen pump would benefit from an overhaul, but Mr C Albutt said that this conversation has been going on for many years, and there is a risk here because the Board do not know what is underground. The Board agreed that this work would not be carried out at this stage.

The Board considered the overhaul of the syphon breakers and pipework modification, along with the floor plate replacement. Mr C Albutt thought that this work needs to be done as soon as possible, as the syphon breakers have been cutting out. If the breakers are not working water flows back into the pump and drives it backwards. The Chair thought that £3k sounds reasonable for this work, and it was agreed that this work should go ahead.

RESOLVED

That the reports be approved.

That the syphon breaker and floor plate works go ahead.

B.1164 Health & Safety

The Chair referred to the report received from Cope Safety Management following their visit in February, which the District Officer attended. Mr Sutton observed that signage at the stations had been mentioned, and it had been agreed the previous year that this would be dealt with by the Middle Level on the Boards behalf. He asked if this could be chased up. He also noted that the report drew attention to the step at Reed Fen and asked if the Board should consider a ramp instead, but all felt that a small concrete step would be an adequate solution. The Chair asked if the Board agreed that this work was required, but Mr C Albutt advised that the same issue has been identified in the report for the last 3 years and so they should do the works. It was agreed that Mr C Albutt and Mr H Albutt would arrange for a local contractor to install a small concrete step to resolve the issue.

RESOLVED

Mr C Albutt and Mr H Albutt to make arrangements for a step to be installed at Iron Bridge Pumping Station as advised by the Site Safety Inspection.

B.1165 District Officers Report

Mr P Russell gave a verbal report. He advised that the gravel around Euximoor as previously discussed had worked well and that Reed Fen was clear. As identified at the last meeting, the steps to the Sixteen Foot have been dug out. The badger setts near Reed Fen have been causing a problem, and he has been dealing directly with Sofi Lloyd as this has created an issue with flail mowing.

He advised that electricity meter readings are being taken and reported.

Water levels have been lowered to summer levels, and Carl Nunn from Upwell IDB has assisted with this. The District Officer asked if there was any particular guidance from the Board as to when summer levels are needed, advising that Ms Lloyd has suggested keeping levels higher to support water voles. Mr Mottram suggested that having a smaller difference between summer and winter levels would help with bank maintenance, and Mr P Russell agreed, hoping that there would be less chance of a slip.

Mr Sutton asked how the flail cutting was working with the services being provided by the Upwell IDB. Mr P Russell thought that the service was quite good but had noted that their machine is much heavier and Mr C Albutt added that the cutting was later last year. Mr P Russell added that the Board are limited with the number of contractors offering the service, and everyone wants the same service at the same time. Mr C Albutt agreed, with the situation not being helped with by not being able to start cutting until September. Mr Mottram asked if anyone was aware of any contractors not complying with environmental constraints, but no one had seen any contraventions, and noted that most have adjusted their approach. Mr P Russell reported that they have been leaving 1m uncut at the bottom and have not been too intensive with the mowing, which helps with bank stability as well as the environmental benefits. They have been cutting each side every other year.

The Board were asked to contact the District Officer directly with any questions through the year.

B.1166 Governance

Mrs Martin went through the Governance report and the various Resolutions that the Board had been asked to make.

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

RESOLVED

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

The Board noted the continued appointment of Whitings as Internal Auditor

b) Review of Internal Controls

Mrs Martin 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 Boards web-page.

RESOLVED

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

c) Approval of authorised officers for operational/regulatory roles

RESOLVED

The Board confirm that all employees and contractors of the Middle Level Commissioners are considered as duly authorised offices and therefore able to use the Board's powers and IDB Byelaws for their operational and regulatory roles on behalf of the Board.

The Board confirm that their Chairman, Vice Chairman, District Officer(s), pump attendants and employees (if applicable) are considered as duly authorised officers and therefore able to use the Board's powers and IDB Byelaws for their operational and regulatory roles on behalf of the Board.

d) Responsible Finance Officer

Following the retirement of Robert Hill, the MLC Treasurer and the appointment of Andrew Wool as the new MLC Head of Finance, the Board approved the relevant resolutions to manage the transition.

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 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.

iv) 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.

v) 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.

e) Insured Values

The Board reviewed the Insured Values and were pleased that they continue to be index linked.

f) Policy Reviews

Mrs Martin referred to the Boards Finance Regulations and Finance Code Policy which has been reviewed and updated by the clerk and responsible financial officer. The Board also reviewed the Complaints Procedure, Privacy Policy and Anti-Bribery policy, reviewed and approved the Boards Policy Statement, and approved the Data Protection Officer.

RESOLVED

That the update and re-publication of the Complaints Procedure and Privacy Policy is approved.

That the Board reviewed and approved the publication of an Anti-Bribery policy, and the Financial Regulations policy.

That the Board reviewed and approved the publication of the Boards Policy Statement.

That the MLC Lead Clerk, currently Ruth Martin, acts as the Board's Data Protection Officer and acknowledges that this role will be associated within the incumbent employee role of MLC Lead Clerk.

g) Risk Management Strategy and Internal Controls

The Board did not highlight any specific risks or issues not covered within the Board's Risk Management Strategy (published in 2024 and on the website), noted the system of financial Internal Controls (as published on website) and no additional controls were highlighted as required.

h) Exercise of Public Rights

The Clerk 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.

i) Consideration of potential litigation, liabilities, commitments.

Mrs Martin 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. She 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.

j) DEFRA IDB1 Return

RESOLVED

Mrs Martin referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2023/2024 which the Board noted and approved.

k) Annual Governance Statement

RESOLVED

The Board approved that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement on behalf of the Board for the financial year ended 31st March 2025.

B.1167 Finance Report – Looking Back

Finance officer's review and key messages

The Board considered and noted the key finance messages of the Finance Officer, and the payments detailed for 2024. The Board noted the Storm Recovery Grant Fund bids and that the Board received £11,572 for excess winter pumping costs, and £32,627 was received to fund the Iron Bridge Weedscreen Cleaner Overhaul. The Chair noted that these were good results.

Payments for 2024

The Payments were reviewed and accepted.

Annual Accounts and Finance Papers 2024/2025

The Board considered and approved the Annual accounts and Finance Papers for the year ended 31st March 2025, as required in the Audit regulations.

RESOLVED

> That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return, on behalf of the Board for the financial year ended 31st March 2025.

B.1168 Finance Report – Looking Forward

Finance officer's review and key messages

The Board considered and noted the key finance messages of the Responsible Finance Officer.

Fees, Remuneration & Subscriptions:

a) ADA subscription

The Clerk reported that ADA have increased subscriptions by 6.5% for 2025, from £636 to £678 (plus VAT).

RESOLVED

> That the requested increased ADA subscription for 2025 be paid.

b) District Officers and Pumping Station Duties Fees

Mr P Russell, Mr W Gladwin and Mr H Albutt all declared an interest in this item.

The Chair asked the District Officer to outline the duties that he undertakes, excluding the pump attendant role at Iron Bridge Pumping Station and the District Officer advised the Board of the work he undertakes. The Chair asked that with these duties in mind and considering the earlier agreement that Mr W Gladwin take on the responsibility of Iron Bridge Pumping Station, that the District Officer agree his fees be adjusted accordingly.

Mr C Albutt suggested that a fee of up to £1000 a year be given, but Mr Sutton proposed that £1500 a year be more suitable and this was seconded by Mr W Gladwin. This was agreed by the Board and accepted by Mr P Russell.

Further discussion over pump attendant fees followed, with Mr C Albutt proposing that both attendants are paid the same to a maximum of £1100 a year. This was seconded by Mr Sutton and agreed by the Board. Mr W Gladwin and Mr H Albutt accepted the proposal. Both attendants were asked to report back to the Board at the next meeting on the time they spend.

RESOLVED

> That the Board agree that the District Officers Fee be a maximum of £1500 for 2025/2026.
>
> That the Board agree that the Pumping Station Attendants Fees increase to a maximum of £1100 each for 2025/2026.

c) Flail Mowing Operations

The Board agreed to continue to use Upwell IDB for the Board's maintenance programme and understood that the costs will remain the same as the previous year.

Mr W Gladwin asked if he could be kept informed when land is cleared.

d) Precept

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.

The Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) determined that the Precept will increase by 2% for 2025.

The precept for 2024 was £13,037.90.

RESOLVED

> That the Precept is paid in full unless a decision to appeal against the Precept is made.

e) Estimates & Rate Requirements for 2025/26.

The Board reviewed the proposed budget for 2025/2026.

RESOLVED

> That the budget is agreed.

f) Rate Requirement for 2025/26

Mrs Martin advised that in order to raise sufficient income to cover the budget estimate a rate of 27p in the £ would be required.

Mr Sutton thought that given the sums shown in the Capital Programme, that the Board could not afford to reduce the rate. By keeping the rate at the current 30.25p the Board could build their future works funds. The Chair said that he would like to see more slubbing carried out so that when they amalgamation is completed, they hand the district over in the best condition. By keeping the rate the same they could increase the maintenance budget. Mr Sutton reminded the Board that the budget proposal did not include for an increase in slubbing. Mr P Russell agreed that additional slubbing is needed and suggested that an additional 1p on the rate could be added to fund it. The Board then discussed where slubbing was required.

Mr Sutton proposed that the rate remain at 30.25p in the £ and Mr C Albutt seconded this proposal. This was agreed unanimously.

Mr P Russell suggested that the Board use a different contractor for slubbing. They had used the Fen Group last time but asked they could look at Russell Fowler instead. The Board resolved that the Chair and Vice Chair would appoint a contractor to carry out any works.

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2025/2026. and were informed by the Clerk that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 92.56% and 7.44%.

RESOLVED

i) That the estimates be approved.

ii) That a total sum of £52,915 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.

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 £48,980 and £3,935.

iv) That a rate of 30.25p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.

v) That a Special Levy of £3,935 be made and issued to Fenland 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 referred to in resolution v).

vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

viii) That the Chair and Vice Chair appoint a contractor to carry out slubbing works.

B.1169 Middle Level IDB Change

Mrs Martin referred to the Clerks Report relating to the Middle Level IDB Change and updated the Board on the progress to date. The Chair and Vice Chair both supported the study and thought that changes needed to be considered and that the Board should be a part of this. The Board agreed with this view and agreed to make a contribution towards the next stage of the report.

RESOLVED

That a £300 contribution be made by the Board towards the cost of developing the detailed design.

B.1170 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday 4th June 2026 at 5.30pm at The Middle Level Offices, March.

B.1171 Any Other Business

With no other items being raised by the Board, the meeting was closed at 7.55pm.

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	4
Meeting:	**EUXIMOOR IDB**	**Subject:**	**CONSTITUTION & MEMBERSHIP**
Date:	**Thursday 4th 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. Approve the proposed Register of Electors
C. Note the current status of its membership and the role they each play as members serving the interests of the Board.
D. Review attendance records and identify any resolutions as necessary.
E. 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	10			
Actual	8	1 FDC	10	5
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	Charles Albutt	Ratepayer	
2	Nigel Russell	Ratepayer	
3	Paul Russell	Nominee of Ratepayer (Russell & Son Ltd)	Vice-Chair & District Officer
4	Will Sutton	Nominee of Ratepayer (Russell & Son Ltd)	
5	Roger Gladwin	Rate Payer	Chairman
6	Will Gladwin	Nominee of Ratepayer	
7	Mick Mottram	Ratepayer	
8	Henry Albutt	Nominee of Ratepayer	
9			
10			

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	Alex Miscandlon	FDC	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	29/5/2025	30/5/2024	1/6/2023	1/6/2022
1	Charles Albutt	Present	Present	Present	Present
2	Nigel Russell	Present	Present	Present	Present
3	Paul Russell	Present	Apologies	Present	Present
4	Will Sutton	Present	Present	Present	Present
5	Roger Gladwin	Present	Present	N/A	N/A
6	Will Gladwin	Present	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	Mick Mottram	Present	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	Henry Albutt	Present	N/A	N/A	N/A
9					
10					

Attendance at Chairs Meetings

NO	NAME	5/12/2025	6/12/2024	6/10/2023	13/12/2022
1	ROGER GLADWIN	APOLOGIES – VC PRESENT	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appointed Members (current and previous)

No	Name (Council)	29/5/2025	30/5/2024	1/6/2023	1/6/2022
1	Alex Miscandlon (FDC)	Present	Present	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 11 months, and the tenure of the current Vice Chairman is 2 years.

3.3 The Election of members of the Board will take place this year. Members will receive an election notice during July/August and are requested to return their complete slip as soon as possible. This term for current members ends on 31st October 2026.

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:	**EUXIMOOR IDB**	**Subject:**	**CLERK'S REPORT**
Date:	**Thursday 4th 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:		7
Meeting:	**EUXIMOOR IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: CHIEF ENGINEER'S SUMMARY & CAPITAL PROGRAMME**	
Date:	**Thursday 4th 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. **The Board consider the recommendations for the development of an investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement and grant funding instruct the Consulting Engineer.**
C. **Acknowledge the approach to using the current GiA funding allocation.**
D. **Provide meter readings or if you would prefer, the MLC can take quarterly readings; these will be at a cost to the Board for the time and mileage involved.**

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 22 boards plus Middle Level Commissioners.

We have a total of 102 investigations of which 47 are currently active including:

- 29 surface water or surface water and foul discharges,
- 12 byelaw cases.

The Officers will also be taking over some aspects of Navigation Enforcement.

Since joining they have successfully recovered £445,000 of outstanding discharge contributions across IDBs 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.

The Board is strongly advised to consider the development of an investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement and to instruct the Consulting Engineer accordingly considering the following:

- **consider submitting new projects for inclusion in the FCERM Investment Programme (from July 2026)**
- **liaise with the Consulting Engineer to determine project suitability and timescales**
- **agree to making a contribution towards future project costs to aid funding prioritisation.**

4. Capital Programme

4.1 In terms of FCRM Grant-in-Aid (FCRM GiA) there is currently an allocation available for 2026/27 to progress a system study in combination with March East district. It is recommended that with the change in funding guidance and prioritisation approach that the funding is used to undertake surveys to inform future potential rationalisation works in relation to the Boards' amalgamation and a bid will be prepared for approval by the EA.

The Board is asked to acknowledge this approach.

4.2 The Board's Capital Programme is shown as Appendix 1.

Author Name: Nicola Oldfield
Role: Chief Engineer

Appendix 1: Capital Programme
Appendix 2: List of applications since last meeting
Appendix 3: Operational Services Report
Appendix 4: M&E Report

Appendix 1

Euximoor Internal Drainage Board

Capital Improvement Programme (2025/2026)

		PREVIOUS YEARS	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	FUTURE YEARS	ALL YEARS
		Pre Yr 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Post Year 10	Total Expenditure
Iron Bridge p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,500.0	2500.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	4.7	0	20.0	10.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.0	0.0	78.7
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	4	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reed Fen p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,220.0	0.0	2220.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	4.7	0	10.0	3.0	0.0	130.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	147.7
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
System Study		0	0	30.0	65.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	95.0
Drainage Channels														
		9.4	**4**	**95**	**78**	**0**	**150**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2,244**	**2,500**	**5,080**

Appendix 2

There have been 1 planning application responded to since the last meeting.

There have been 1 infiltration device application processed since the last meeting.

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

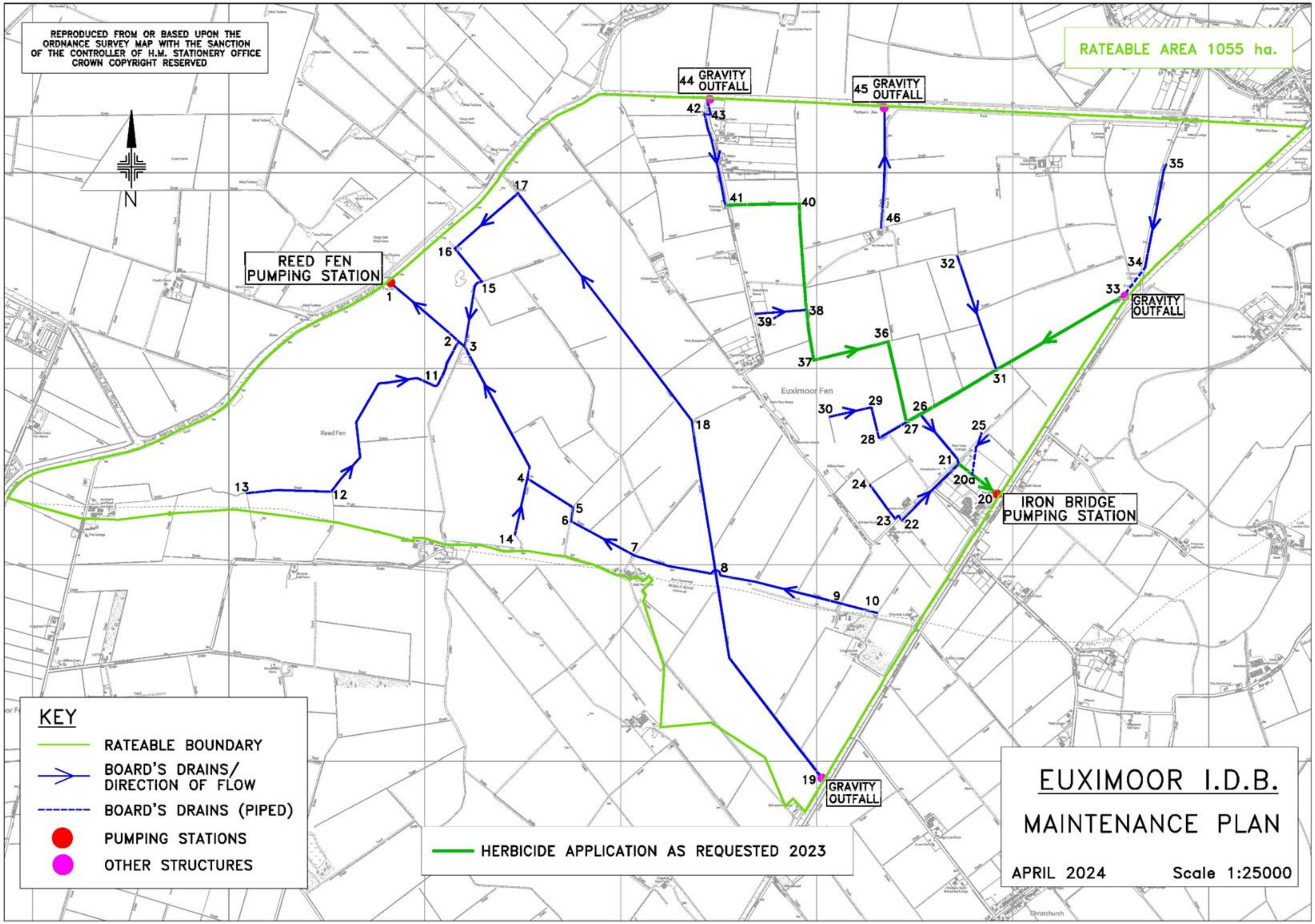
Appendix 3

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	7
Meeting:	**EUXIMOOR IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: OPERATIONAL SERVICES**
Date:	**Thursday 4th June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Morgan Lakey**

1. Weed Control & Drain Maintenance

1.1 At the Chairman's request, notice of entry was sent to relevant landowners and machine cleansing works were programmed for the agreed Board drains, prioritising main pump channels to improve water conveyance. Due to the presence of badgers along some of the affected reaches, parts of the works required supervision by a licenced operative. Natural England require excavator works on or around badger setts to be completed in accordance with their CL27 guidelines and licencing. A minimum of 5 days' notice is required before works commence and if practicably possible, they should be completed on the opposite bank, adjacent to the badger sett (assuming the setts only occupy one side of the drain). If setts are present on both banks, works can continue over the sett, but none of the open sett entrances can be tracked over. This may lead to works having to change sides and going forward, machine cleansing may only be possible from one side of the drain. Flail mowing is a permissible activity and does not require notification, however sett entrances still need to be avoided to remain compliant. An allowance has been made for any machine cleansing works, reed spraying and flail mowing deemed necessary within the district this year.

Author Name: Morgan Lakey
Role: Operations Manager



REPRODUCED FROM OR BASED UPON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP WITH THE SANCTION OF THE CONTROLLER OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED
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44 GRAVITY OUTFALL
45 GRAVITY OUTFALL
REED FEN PUMPING STATION
33 GRAVITY OUTFALL
IRON BRIDGE PUMPING STATION
19 GRAVITY OUTFALL
Euximoor Fen
Reed Fen
KEY
RATEABLE BOUNDARY
BOARD'S DRAINS/ DIRECTION OF FLOW
BOARD'S DRAINS (PIPED)
PUMPING STATIONS
OTHER STRUCTURES
HERBICIDE APPLICATION AS REQUESTED 2023
EUXIMOOR I.D.B.
MAINTENANCE PLAN
APRIL 2024
Scale 1:25000

Appendix 4

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**		**7**
Meeting:	**EUXIMOOR IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL**	
Date:	**Thursday 4th June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**		**Dave Bantoft**

1. M&E key messages and advice

Other than the matters previously reported or described below, only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant at each of the stations is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition. The stations and pumps are at an age where reliability is a concern, and a plan should be put in place to overhaul or replace items as necessary to ensure ongoing reliability.

The Board is strongly advised to consider the development of an investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement. The Board is asked to instruct the Consulting Engineer accordingly.

1.1 M&E Equipment Key Health Indicators

Over the past 2 years we have been compiling and verifying Pumping Station Key Date to allow easier identification of equipment age and the need for refurbishment to assist in developing an investment plan for asset refurbishment or replacement. The details below include any works already scheduled and funded to be completed this year. To ensure reliability, resilience and longevity of the pumping equipment it needs to be refurbished or replaced at suitable intervals. We have experienced examples lately of pumps being left too long and failing, or when they are removed for overhaul, the condition is very poor and the pump overall lifetime has been reduced significantly, which is not cost-effective use of the asset. The same is true for control panels, component failures often damage other components incurring costly repairs and machine downtime. Overall, it is more cost effective to run well maintained equipment.

The pictures below are of pump bolts that have been in situ for 20 years and have corroded to the point of failure as shown by the gap between the flanges. Although now rebuilt with stainless steel bolts they were not in the past. The pump tubes are also heavily corroded which reduces pump life considerably. Ideally pumps should be refurbished every 10 years because by the time they reach 15 to 20 years it is likely the corrosion will heavily impact their overall residual life.



Table 1: Key Health Indicators

	Station				Weedscreen			
Station	**Built**	**Pump**	**Pump Overhaul**	**Controls**	**Bars**	**WSC**	**WSC O/H**	**Controls**
Iron Bridge	1972	1972	2013	1972	2004	2004	2024	2024
Reed Fen	1957	1957	1985	1987	2011	2011	2011	2011

The Key Health Indicators table above shows the critical area for concern and improvement is the pumps. The pumps range from 54 to 69 years old with last refurbishments ranging from 13 to 41 years ago. The Board is advised to develop and start a pump refurbishment/replacement plan for the pumps that are overdue refurbishment. Having a plan in place and underway helps to secure further grant funding when it comes available, such as the recent IDB Recovery Fund.

Submersible pumps are often not cost effective to repair and lead time on new pumps can be upto a year. Standard pumps are normally cost effective to repair and lead times can be as short as 4 weeks or can be over a year if impellors are damaged and have to be reverse engineered. Costs can be in the range £30k to £100k depending on pump condition.

The Board is requested to confirm if it wants the Engineer to produce a Pump Refurbishment/Replacement Plan and obtain quotes for Reed Fen Pump overhauls.

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. Approximate cost will be £60 per station per quarter.

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

1.3 **Ironbridge**

The pump control panel is now in excess of 50 years old and should be replaced to ensure its reliability. A replacement control panel is likely to be c£15k to c£20k.

The outfall has not been inspected as the area is overgrown, please include this area when grass cutting at the station.

The last routine inspection took place at Iron Bridge Pump Station 13th April 2026.

Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Recommend new panel due to age and corrosion.
2) New grease nipples required on Pump.
3) Cable to flap door is broken.
4) Weed pile needs clearing.

1.4 Reed Fen

The last recorded overhaul of the pumps is 1985 and although they continue to operate well their internal condition is unknown and they would both benefit from being overhauled. It is very hard to estimate pump overhaul costs as condition is not known until removed but it is likely to be c£30k to c£50k per pump.

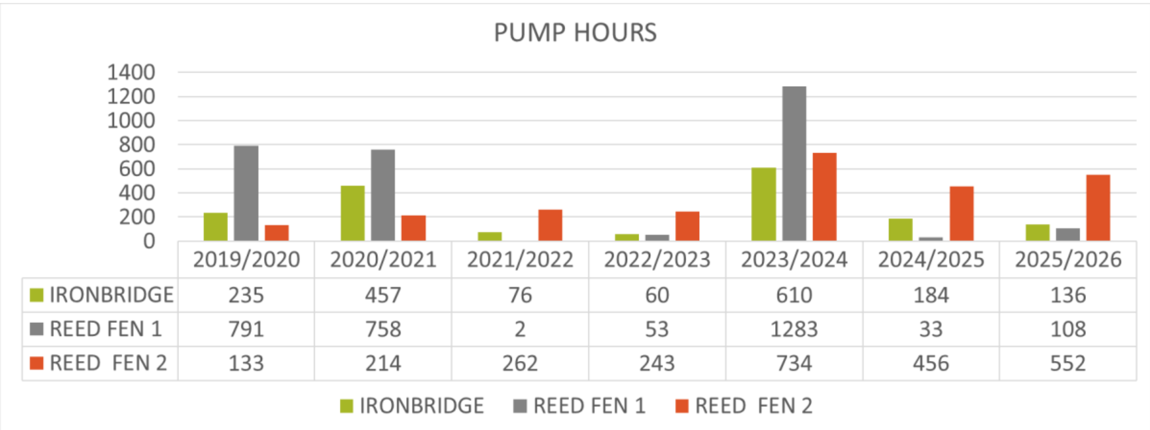
The control panel is now approaching 40 years old and would benefit from a complete component overhaul or panel replacement which is likely to cost c£20 to £30k.

The last routine inspection took place at Reed Fen Pump Station 13th April 2026.

Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Level reading is not working on telemetry.
2) Siphon breaker tubes and floor plates corroded.
3) Weed screen cleaner noisy when traversing to dump position – unable to access WSC area as gate post has moved.
4) Pump 2 motor heater had shorted to earth on arrival. L1 main fuse fir Pump 2 had blown so replaced and removed heater fuse. After running Pump 2 insulation rose significantly.

2. Pumping Hours



2.1 HSB Engineering annual inspection for insurance at Reed Fen and Iron Bridge were carried out during September 2025.

2.2 The mandatory site Electrical Installation Condition Report (due every 5 years) are in date.

EICR Date	EICR Due
29-Mar-2024	29-Mar-2029
29-Mar-2024	29-Mar-2029

3. 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:	**EUXIMOOR IDB**	**Subject:**	**HEALTH & SAFETY**
Date:	**Thursday 4th 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

Euximoor IDB

carried out on

Thursday, 12 February 2026

by

AW Safety Management

Key Information	
Client:	Euximoor IDB
Site:	Ironbridge Pumping station. Binnimoor Road, March, PE15 0DL
Site Contact:	Roger Gladwin
Site Contact E-mail:	enquiries@middlelevel.gov.uk
Inspection date:	12/02/2026
Inspected by:	Elena Spataru
Introduction:	This health and safety Inspection Report is part of the annual support programme from AW Safety Management and is designed to review the practical implementation of health and safety arrangements within the Company. The purpose of the inspection was to assess systems, management controls, working practices and identification of hazards and the controls in place. The aim was to conduct an examination to ensure that best practice is used and there has been compliance within set standards and any relevant legislation. We plan our work to ensure that we have a reasonable expectation of detecting any significant control weaknesses, however, our processes alone are not a guarantee that all operational conditions / activities will be witnessed, this is particularly relevant for any off-site activities. The responsibility for maintaining suitable controls for the safety of employees and anyone else who may be affected and safe operation of the business rests with the management of the Company. Subject areas that require action are detailed in the 'Action Plan' section of the report. Each subject is given a brief outline and the suggested remedial action required, a target completion date (based on the priority rating) and the person responsible for ensuring that the action is addressed. The person responsible listed against the action is based on our visit to site and understanding of the Company structure. Each subject area is given a priority rating, which is based on the auditor/s knowledge, understanding & judgement and is selected to highlight areas of non-compliance and provide general guidance on safe working. Where applicable, a number of key photographs are included in the report, these are referenced to the relevant subject area reference number. These can be used as a reminder of conditions at the time of inspection and provide additional guidance on the action required.

Priority Rating		
Priority Rating	**Effectiveness of Controls**	**Target Completion**
High	Serious 'material breach' of legislation and / or serious and imminent danger to persons	**Immediate Action Required**
Medium	Significant control weakness exposing persons to moderate degree of risk	**Planned Action Required**
Low	General guidance or areas where there are opportunities to implement better practice and reduce exposure to risk	**Actionable Comment**

Purpose of Inspection / Executive Summary

The meeting was held with Roger Gladwin.

Two pumping stations have been visited, the name of each station will be specified in the recommendations below, as required.

If you have any queries, please contact us at support@awsafety.co.uk.

Action Plan

High Priority	Immediate Action Required
Medium Priority	Planned Action Required
Low Priority	Actionable Comment

Reference Number	Additional Controls / Actions / Comments	Supporting Photographs / Pictures	Person(s) Responsible	Risk Rating	Action Complete When / Who
01	**Reed Fen & Ironbridge** It was observed that vegetation is present on the stairs and around the doorway, partially obstructing the surrounding area. This may create slips, trip and fall risks. It is recommended that the vegetation is removed and that the area is regularly maintained to keep area clear.	 		Low	
02	**Reed Fen** Signage has been observed to be damaged or faded. This may create confusion in case of an emergency. It is recommended that the signage is replaced or removed if not required.			Low	

Action Plan					
High Priority			Immediate Action Required		
Medium Priority			Planned Action Required		
Low Priority			Actionable Comment		
Reference Number	**Additional Controls / Actions / Comments**	**Supporting Photographs / Pictures**	**Person(s) Responsible**	**Risk Rating**	**Action Complete When / Who**
03	**Ironbridge** It was observed that the wooden handrails leading to the pumping station and flap gate are rotten. This may fail if used, creating a risk of falls. It is recommended that the handrail is repaired or replaced to ensure safe access.	 		**Medium**	

Contacts & Addendum	
Contact Information:	**AW Safety** **Nottingham Office:** Edwinstowe House, High Street, Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9PR **Lincolnshire Office:** Boston Enterprise Centre, Venture House, Enterprise Way, Lincolnshire, PE21 7TW **Cumbria Office:** Low Cross Buildings, 4 Low Cross Street, Brampton, Cumbria, CA8 1NP **Tel:** 0330 223 7470 **E-mail:** Support@awsafety.co.uk
Website:	www.awsafety.co.uk / www.irmconnect.co.uk
Note:	It is important to note that this Inspection highlights conditions at the time of the visit at the premises detailed on the front cover of the report. It remains the responsibility of the management and staff within the business to make known to the inspector any potentially unsafe conditions or practices which were not apparent during the Inspection, or that may take place at any off-site location. It is the ongoing responsibility of management to ensure that the business and its employees operate safely at all times and that any day-to-day health and safety issues are addressed immediately. Any queries or inaccuracies with this report should be raised immediately with the auditor.
AW Group	**AW Safety is a core division of the AW Group, designed to deliver end-to-end health, safety, and compliance solutions as part of our fully integrated service model.** **The AW Group also includes AW Human Resources, AW Training, and AW Facilities Management. Each division specialising in a critical area of organisational support. Together, we provide a holistic 360° service offering that helps you manage risk, improve performance, and maintain operational resilience across all aspects of your business.**

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	11
Meeting:	**EUXIMOOR IDB**	**Subject:**	**GOVERNANCE**
Date:	**Thursday 4th 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:

EUXIMOOR IDB
INSURED VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS

PUMPING STATIONS

	As At 1st April 2026	
REED FEN PUMPING STATION	1,073,292.00	
IRON BRIDGE PUMPING STATION	858,634.00	
	1,931,926.00	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

Appendix 1

Euximoor 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 Euximoor 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 Euximoor Internal Drainage Board

The Clerk
Euximoor 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: 22nd September 2025

EUXIMOOR INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

WWW.MIDDLELEVEL.GOV.UK

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).*	✓		

	Yes	No	Not applicable
O. **(For local councils only)** 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 03/06/2025 25/06/2025

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 25/06/2025

***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:

EUXIMOOR 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:

05/06/2025

and recorded as minute reference:

B.1166

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

Chair [signature]

Clerk RMartin

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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

EUXIMOOR 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	88,038	81,305	*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	40,258	53,041	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	6,617	45,628	*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	53,608	73,099	*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	81,305	106,874	*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	99,505	116,387	*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	1,067,000	1,067,000	*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

HWood

Date 29/05/2025

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

05/06/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

B. 1167

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 **EUXIMOOR INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD – DB0030**

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 16/09/2025

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

EUXIMOOR 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	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 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

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Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	11
Meeting:	**EUXIMOOR INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**	**Subject:**	**FINANCE REPORT: LOOKING BACK**
Date:	**Thursday 4th June 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

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

Finance Officer's review and key messages

For 2025/2026 the Board had estimated expenditure for the year of £52,915 and set a rate of 30.25p to raise this through agricultural drainage rates and Special Levies.

Actual expenditure during the year was lower than the budget set. Savings were made within Repairs and Renewals. The biggest saving was Fuel costs which were £13,400 lower than budget following a dry summer and below average year for pumping volumes. Also, a refund of £5,570 was received in respect of prior year over estimation of electricity costs. Generally other areas of expenditure have been generally in-line with budget provisions.

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.

It was agreed at last year's Board meeting that any excess funds over the budget would be transferred to the Asset Replacement Fund. £15,615 has been transferred to this Fund.

The balance of the Boards General Fund as of 31st March 2026 is £48,931 The balance of the Asset Replacement Fund is £73,328 as of 31st March 2026. The balance of the Developers Fund is £973 as of 31st March 2026.

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. Annual Accounts and Finance papers 2025/2026:

3.1 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

EUXIMOOR INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET MONITORING - 2025/2026

		Approved budget 2025/2026	Actual to 30/11/2025	Forecast to 31/03/2026
		£	£	£
1	Insurances	1,430	1,792	1,792 [A]
2	Repairs and renewals	5,700	3,426	5,700
3	Fuel	12,800	(3,312)	12,800 [B]
4	Drainworks (including District Officer's fee, labour payments and Environmental measures)	19,685	2,382 [C]	19,685
5	Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	9,400	4,873	9,400
6	Environment Agency - Precept	4,251	4,251	4,251
7	Improvement works	-	-	-
8	Capital Reserve Fund	-	-	-
9	Reinstatement of balances	-	-	-
		53,265	13,412	53,628
	LESS Deposit Accounts interest etc	350	309 [D]	350
		52,915	13,102	53,278

Remarks

A -	Includes estimate for increased premiums	
B -	Provision based on 2 year average plus increase in rates of 5% from October 2025	
C -	Includes:	
	Slubbing	-
	Flail mowing	1,965
		1,965
D -	Interest	309

EUXIMOOR INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

Henry W G Albutt - Pumping station duties 2024-2025	1,100.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply remedial Health & Safety signage (Account from 3B Design & Print)	139.20
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner and pump panel - Iron Bridge Fen pumping station (Account from R S Components)	2,376.08
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)	56.70
Middle Level Commissioners - Court costs	0.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Board ID cards	14.74
Enviroment Agency - Precept	2,125.42
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	533.90
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	2,951.42
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2025	813.60
The Rose & Crown - Expenses in connection with Board meeting	229.60
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	559.10
Russell Fowler - Drain maintenance	1,974.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Grant in aid storm recovery T2a scheme works	34,128.77
Middle Level Commissioners - Grant in aid received for storm recovery T2a scheme	-32,333.36
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Weedscreen cleaner HSB insurance check)	213.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, storm recovery tranche 2A claim, IDB change contribution, internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners, 2024-2025 accounts)	5,655.98
PKF Littlejohn LLP - Audit Fee (2024-2025 accounts)	378.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, checking old drawings and relay pipe details, planning and development applications)	303.30
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	1,898.55
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to syphon breaker and fit new controllers at Reed Fen pumping station (Account from RS Components)	2,245.67
Russell Fowler - Drain maintenance	384.00
Environment Agency - Precept	2,125.42
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	260.06
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report)	196.80
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	299.04
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2026	854.40
B J Plant Hire - Drain maintenance	6,018.00
Wilkin Chapman rollits - Land registry fees	40.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	559.10
Upwell IDB - Flail mowing	6,624.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Health & safety remedial works	156.22
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of signage	26.83
Information Commissioner - Renewal of Data Protection registration	52.00
G R & L R Albutt & Son - Brass padlock, zinc plated chain and 3 tread fibreglass step up (Account from Wrights Tools)	117.17
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of gates (Account from L R Boon)	475.44
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of fuses (Account from R S Components)	133.32
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery, health & safety, ecological and environmental services	7,896.97
P Russell - District Officer Fee for 2025-2026	1,500.00
EDF Energy - Electricity supply (Iron Bridge pumping station)	2,607.98
EDF Energy - Electricity supply (Reed Fen pumping station)	3,653.74
British Gas - Electricity supply (Iron Bridge pumping station)	300.26
British Gas - Electricity supply (Reed Fen pumping station)	415.80
	60,061.22

(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)

Appendix 3

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

GENERAL FUND

2026				2025		
Mar-31	Expenditure during the year:-			Apr-01	Balance brought forward	48,930.81
	Precept		4,250.84	2026		
	Insurances	1,792.18		Mar-31	Rate income & Special levy	52,915.50
	Repairs & Renewals	3,466.48			Interest on Deposit Accounts	627.48
	Fuel	(600.47)				
	Drainworks	15,559.75				
	Contractors Charges	3,700.00				
	Administration charge, audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising et	9,758.96	33,676.90			
	Asset Replacement Fund					
	Surplus 2025/2026		15,615.24			
	Balance Carried Forward		48,930.81			
			102,473.79			102,473.79

BALANCE SHEET

		Capital Section			
Liabilities			Assets		
Capital Provisions	1,067,000.00		Reed Fen Pumping Station	555,000.00	
Public Works Loan	0.00		Iron Bridge Pumping Station	512,000.00	
		1,067,000.00			1,067,000.00
		Revenue Section			
General Fund		48,930.81	Value added Tax - Refunds due		1,459.44
Sundry Creditors		12,881.30	Ratepayers Account		1,878.85
Grant Aid Received in advance		2,149.15	Sundry debtors		7,632.57
Asset Replacement Fund		73,328.47	Balance in hand -		
Development Charges Account		972.85	Treasurer's Account	20,000.00	
			Business Premium Account	106,714.99	
			National Savings	576.73	127,291.72
		1,205,262.58			1,205,262.58

Euximoor Internal Drainage Board

Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2026

Treasurers Account 2025/2026

1st April 2025			31st March 2026		
Balance brought forward		115,816.16	Payments made during the year	60,061.22	
			Returned direct debits	0.00	
31st March 2026					60,061.22
Receipts during the year					
Clerk's collection account	69,595.22				
Interest on deposit accounts	1,364.83				
		70,960.05			
Cheques Written Back		0.00	Balance carried forward		126,714.99
		186,776.21			**186,776.21**

National Savings - Treasurers Account 2024/2025

1st April 2025		31st March 2026	
Balance brought forward	571.02	Payments made during the year	0.00
31st March 2026			
Interest on deposit accounts	5.71	Balance carried forward	576.73
	576.73		**576.73**

Barclays Bank PLc

Current Account

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2026	20,000.00
Less unpresented cheques	0.00
Add outstanding lodgements	0.00
Balance per Trial Balance	**20,000.00**

Cash balances as at 31st March 2026

Barclays Bank PLc

Current Account	**20,000.00**
Business Premium Account	**106,714.99**

National Savings

Investment Account per passbook	**576.73**
Total reconciled cash balances per accounts	**127,291.72**

Euximoor 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		48,930.81		
	Asset replacement fund		56,982.49		
	Development Contribution Fund		960.53		
				106,873.83	**106,874**
Line 2	**Rates and Special Levies**				
	Agricultural rates		48,980.50		
	Special Levies		3,935.00		
	Penalty		0.00		
	Costs		0.00		
	Write-off		0.00		
				52,915.50	**52,916**
Line 3	**Total other receipts**				
	Interest	General fund	627.48		
		Development fund	12.32		
		Asset replacement fund	730.74		
	Consents		0.00		
	Legal Fees		0.00		
	Write back of Provision		0.00		
	Storm Recovery Grant		0.00		
	Storm Recovery Tranche 2a Claim		0.00		
				1,370.54	**1,370**
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	4,250.84	
	Rates, insurances, telephones	1,792.18	
	Repairs and renewals	3,466.48	
	Fuel	-600.47	
	Drainworks	15,559.75	
	Contractors Charges	3,700.00	
	Administration	9,758.96	
		37,927.74	**37,928**
Line 7	**Balances carried forward**		
	General Fund	48,804.60	
	Asset replacement fund	73,454.68	
	Development Charges Account	972.85	
		123,232.13	**123,232**

Reconciliation

Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6 123,232.13

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

EUXIMOOR 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	81,305	106,874	*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	53,041	52,916	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	45,628	1,370	*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	73,099	37,928	*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	106,874	123,232	*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	116,387	127,292	*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	1,067,000	1,067,000	*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 AWool

Date 25/05/2026

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:	**EUXIMOOR INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**	**Subject:**	**FINANCE REPORT: LOOKING FORWARD**
Date:	**Thursday 4th 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 Determination of land for rating purposes & Rate arrears
E. Review & Approve Rating Estimates for 2026/2027
F. Consider & approve the Agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levy requirements for 2026/2027

Finance Officer's summary and key messages

For the rating estimates for 2026/2027 standard provisions have been made for general expenditure with specific items included where known.

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.

The engineer has identified several works likely to be required during the year:

<u>Ironbridge Pumping Station:</u>

The pump control panel is now more than 50 years old and should be replaced to ensure its reliability. A replacement control panel is likely to be c£15k to c£20k.

<u>Reed Fen Pumping Station:</u>

The last recorded overhaul of the pumps is 1985 and although they continue to operate well their internal condition is unknown and they would both benefit from being overhauled. It is very hard to estimate pump overhaul costs as condition is not known until removed but it is likely to be c£30k to c£50k per pump.

The control panel is now approaching 40 years old and would benefit from a complete component overhaul or panel replacement which is likely to cost c£20 to £30k.

When considering the rate for 2026/2027 members should also consider likely future capital investment requirements at the pumping stations.

1. Fees, Remunerations and Subscriptions

1.1 Consider the District Officer's & pumping station duties fees.

The Sum of £1,500 was allowed for services of the District Officer for 2025/26.
The sum of £2,200 was allowed for the services of Pump Attendant in 2025/2026

2. Precept to the Environment Agency

2.1 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.

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

The precept for 2025 was £4,250.84.

3. Determination of Annual Values & Rate Arrears

3.1 Shown in Appendix 1

4. Estimates for 2026/27

4.1 The estimated budget for 2026/27 is shown in Appendix 2.

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

5. Rate Requirements for 2026/27

5.1 Appendix 3 details the rate requirement that needs to be set and approved by the Board to raise sufficient rate and special levy income to cover the budget estimate.

5.2 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 Determination of Annual Values & Rate Arrears
Appendix 2 Estimates for 2026/27
Appendix 3 Rate Requirements for 2026/27

Appendix 1

EUXIMOOR IDB

Determination of Annual Values for Rating purposes

June 2026

2026-2027

	Transfer value to Special Levy - £366.595 per hectare	Area (Hectares)	Agricultural Land	Special Levies Fenland	TOTAL	Rate W/Offs
	Opening Values (£)	1037.819	**161,919**	**13,007**	**174,926**	
	Opening %		92.56%	7.44%	100.00%	
Location	Reason for change.					
					0	
					0	
					0	
					0	
					0	
					0	
					0	
					0	
					0	
					0	
					0	
					0	
					0	
	Total determinations	1037.819	0	0	0	
	Closing Values (£)		**161,919**	**13,007**	**174,926**	
	Closing %		92.56%	7.44%	100.00%	
Uncharged rates 11/10/2020 to 31/3/2024	Unknown occupier. As per Rate Act only rate 2 years - Euximoor Fen					607.41
						£607.41

Appendix 2

EUXIMOOR INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET PROPOSAL - 2026/2027

		Approved budget 2025/2026	Actual to 31/03/2026	Proposed Budget 2026/2027
		£	£	£
1	Insurances	1,430	1,792	1,971 [A]
2	Repairs and renewals	5,700	3,466	5,800
3	Fuel	12,800	(600) [B]	9,500 [C]
4	Drainworks (including District Officer's fee, labour payments and Environmental measures)	19,685	19,260 [D]	21,500
5	Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	9,400	9,759	10,744
6	Environment Agency - Precept	4,251	4,251	4,336
7	Asset Replacement Funding	-	15,615	-
		53,265	53,543	53,852
	LESS Deposit Accounts interest etc	350	627 [D]	500
		52,915	52,916	53,352
		30.25p		30.50 p

Remarks

A - Assume Increase of 10% in premiums.

B -	Refund of Overcharge in Prior years	(5,570)
	Actual Cost in Year	4,970
		(600)

C - Based on 3 year average usage assuming a 20% Increase in rates from October 2026

D -	Includes:	
	Slubbing	6,980
	Flail mowing	5,520

Appendix 3

Euximoor Internal Drainage Board

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 – 92.56%

b) Proportion to be borne by Special levy issued to Fenland District Council – 7.44%.

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £1,619.

In 2026/2027 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levy would raise £1,749.

Revenue cash balance in hand on 31st March 2026 - £48,931

The estimated net expenditure for the Boards Revenue and Capital Programmes in 2026/2027 is £53,352 and equivalent to:-

a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 30.50p and

b) a Special Levy on Fenland District Council of £3,935.

In 2025/2026 a rate of 30.25p in the £ was raised together with a Special levy of £3,935 on Fenland District Council.

P BURROWS

Clerk to the Board

June 2026