

|                                            |                                                   |                      |                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 4 <sup>th</sup> 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. The Board to 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. Please approve this if it is required. Approximate cost will be £60 per station per quarter.

### 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 provided 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)

#### Asset Refurbishment Projects

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.

#### New or Improved Asset Projects

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.

#### Applying for funding

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.

### Timescales

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.**

## **6. Capital Programme**

- 6.1 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.**

- 6.2 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

|                                                  |                                                            |                       |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                     |                          |  |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Euximoor Internal Drainage Board</b>          |                                                            |                       |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                     |                          |  |
| <b>Capital Improvement Programme (2025/2026)</b> |                                                            | <b>PREVIOUS YEARS</b> | <b>2023/24</b> | <b>2024/25</b> | <b>2025/26</b> | <b>2026/27</b> | <b>2027/28</b> | <b>2028/29</b> | <b>2029/30</b> | <b>2030/31</b> | <b>2031/32</b> | <b>2032/33</b> | <b>FUTURE YEARS</b> | <b>ALL YEARS</b>         |  |
|                                                  |                                                            | <b>Pre Yr 0</b>       | <b>Year 1</b>  | <b>Year 2</b>  | <b>Year 3</b>  | <b>Year 4</b>  | <b>Year 5</b>  | <b>Year 6</b>  | <b>Year 7</b>  | <b>Year 8</b>  | <b>Year 9</b>  | <b>Year 10</b> | <b>Post Year 10</b> | <b>Total Expenditure</b> |  |
| 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                                |                                                            |                       |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                     |                          |  |
|                                                  |                                                            | <b>9.4</b>            | <b>4</b>       | <b>95</b>      | <b>78</b>      | <b>0</b>       | <b>150</b>     | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>2,244</b>   | <b>2,500</b>        | <b>5,080</b>             |  |

## **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.

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

## 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  
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RATEABLE AREA 1055 ha.

REED FEN  
PUMPING STATION

44 GRAVITY  
OUTFALL

45 GRAVITY  
OUTFALL

33 GRAVITY  
OUTFALL

IRON BRIDGE  
PUMPING STATION

19 GRAVITY  
OUTFALL

### 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

|                                            |                                                      |                      |                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners |                                                      | Item No:             | 7                                                       |
| Meeting:                                   | EUXIMOOR IDB<br>(Hereafter referred to as the Board) | Subject:             | CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT:<br>MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL |
| Date:                                      | Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 impellers 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 1<sup>st</sup> of each month as they can) and then forward them onto the M&E Engineer David Bantoft on [david.bantoft@middlelevel.gov.uk](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

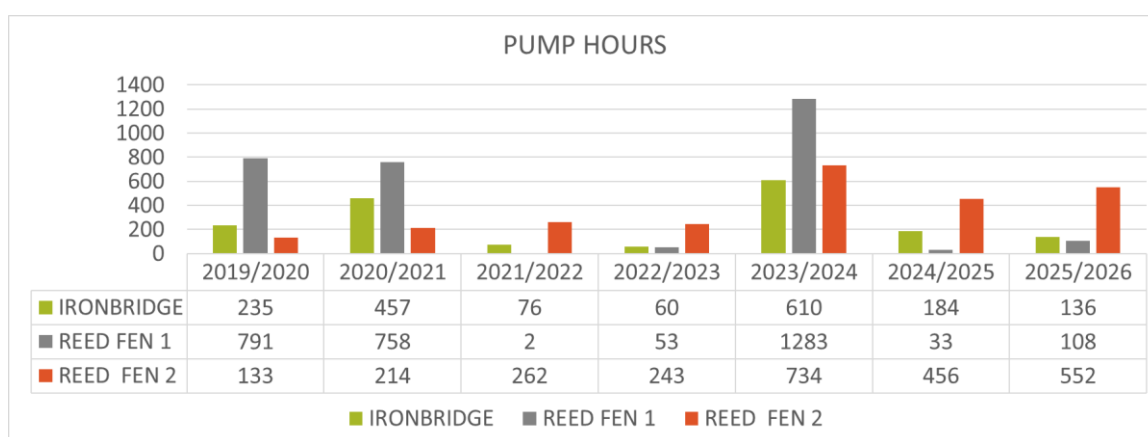
The control panel is now approaching 40 years old and would benefit from a complete component overhaul or panel replacement which is likely to cost c£20 to £30k.

The last routine inspection took place at Reed Fen Pump Station 13<sup>th</sup> 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 for 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**