

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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21st May 2026

Dear Board Members

Upcoming meeting of the Board Thursday 28th May 2026

Please find overleaf the agenda for the meeting of the Board to be hosted at the Middle Level Offices, PE15 0AH at 9.15am on Thursday 28th May 2026.

As you'll be aware, we administer twenty - three 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

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Thursday 28th May 2026 – 9.15am
Middle Level Offices, PE15 0AH

Agenda:

<i>Item No</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Lead</i>
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	Pages 23 - 24	Clerk
7	Consulting Engineer's Reports, including:	Pages 25 - 37	Clerk or Engineer
8	Health & Safety	Pages 38 - 48	Chair
9	District Officer's Report	Verbal	DO
10	Governance - Accounts Return for 2024/2025 - Auditors report for 2024/2025 (link) - Annual Governance Statement	Pages 49 - 51 Pages 52 - 56 Pages 57	Clerk
11	Finance Report: looking back - Budgeting - Payments 2025 - Annual Accounts and Finance papers 2025/2026	Pages 58 - 59 Page 60 Page 61 Pages 62 - 66	Clerk
12	Finance Report: looking forward - Determination of land for rating purposes - Rating Estimates for 2026/2027 - Agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levy requirements or 2026/2027	Pages 67 - 68 Page 69 Page 70 Page 71	Clerk
13	Date of Next Meeting Thursday 27 th May 2027	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.)

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

**At a Meeting of the March East Internal Drainage Board
Held at the Middle Level Offices, March on 29th May 2025.**

PRESENT

C Martin (Chair)	C Dunham
C Albutt (Vice-Chair)	Ms J French (FDC)
C Boden (FDC)	R Gladwin
T Boor	W Gladwin
G Christy (FDC)	T Martin
J Clark (FDC)	Ms A Morris
A Dunham	S Murphy

Mrs Ruth Martin (Lead Clerk) representing the Clerk and Mr Morgan Lakey (Operations Engineer) representing the Consulting Engineers were in attendance.

Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from A Gee, P Hayes, P Hicks (FDC), D Morris, M Purser (FDC) & T Taylor (FDC).

B.1456 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.

The Chair declared an interest in District Officers matters.

Mr Boden, Mr Christy, Mrs French, Mr Clark and Mr Miscandlon declared an interest in matters involving Fenland District Council.

Ms Morris and Mr Miscandlon declared an interest in matters concerning the Middle Level Commissioners as a Middle Level Board members.

B.1457 Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the Last Meeting were agreed.

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.1458 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

B.1459 Constitution & Membership

Vacancies and Elections

Mrs Martin advised that there are two vacancies on the Board following the resignations of David Henson & John Heading. It was also noted that Appointed Member Mrs Maureen Davis had not attended a meeting since 2021.

The Chair suggested that a letter of invitation be sent to Mr Mick Mottram and to Mr James Mottram, inviting one of them to join the Board. This was agreed by the Board. Mr Boden suggested that Member Services at Fenland District Council are contacted to establish if Mrs Davis is still an Appointed Member, and to ask for an alternative member to be appointed if appropriate. The Board asked the Clerk to do this.

Election

Mrs Martin reported that the term of office of the Members of the Board will expire on 31st October 2025. Mrs Martin advised Board members that they will receive an election notice during July or August and reminded them to ensure that this is returned as soon as possible and before 31st October 2025.

Amalgamation

Mrs Martin updated the Board on the progress of the amalgamation with Euximoor 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.

The Chair suggested that, as not all Elected Members are present, the Clerk be asked to write to all Board members and invite them to be included as one of the 15 first elected members. He also suggested contacting Waldersey Farms inviting them to identify a representative to join the Board, as they are the largest landowner in the district. Both of these suggestions were agreed by the Board.

Mr Clark thought that the upcoming changes to Local Government may have a significant impact on the number of Appointed Members available to sit on the Board, and Mr Boden added that the number of Councillors will inevitably reduce making appointment even more difficult.

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.

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.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to Mr Mick Mottram and Mr James Mottram, inviting one of them to join the Board.

That the Clerk write to Fenland District Council Member Services to ascertain the position with the Appointment of Mrs Maureen Davis.

That the Clerk write to Waldersey Farms inviting them to nominate a representative to join the Board.

That the Clerk write to all Elected Members inviting them to be listed on the Instrument of Appointment for the new Board.

B.1460 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

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.

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.

Mr Boden asked for further clarification on what this meant for the Boards byelaws, and Mrs Martin explained how that once the DCO had been enacted, the Boards byelaws would not apply to any of the Boards infrastructure that formed part of the DCO project. With a clearer understanding of the impact of the DCO, the Board agreed to be included in the agreement.

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.1461 Environment Officers' Report

The Chair advised that he had met with Abigail Leach and they have started working on the Biodiversity Action Plan update.

Mr Lakey took the Board through the main points of the Environment Officers report. He advised the Board on the updated Environmental Services package, and that the increase in fee for this Board was reduced slightly as they contract Operational Services from MLC. He 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. He reminded the Board 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. He advised the Board that any bank slips should 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. Mr Lakey referred the Board to the 'Water Voles – Myth Busting' part of the report. Mr Lakey 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.

Mr Boden said that he found the 'myth buster' very interesting and asked how many water voles Mr Lakey thought there were within the Middle Level area. Mr Lakey said that they are present in most areas, so at least 90% of all drains. It is safer to assume they are present than not. He also added that Abigail Leach was also recording the presence of other protected species in the Districts, especially Birds of Prey but also other species, such as otters, kingfishers, etc. He added that barn owl boxes are not being checked at present but requested that the Ecology team are advised if anyone sees a box being used.

The Board are invited to attend a biodiversity training day, although all of this work is undertaken by Mr Lakey on behalf of the Board.

RESOLVED

That the Environment Report be approved.

B.1462 Consulting Engineers' Reports

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

Although the Board did not receive funding earlier in the year for the weedscreen cleaner, Mr Lakey advised that some further funding has now been made available. The offer has been accepted but the Engineer is still waiting for final confirmation. Mr Gladwin asked if the Board need to take any action and Mr Lakey advised that action has already been taken on the Board's behalf. Ms Morris asked if the works would include the replacement of the impeller at Latches Fen Pumping Station, but Mr Lakey further advised that the funding is only for the weedscreen cleaner.

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 Euximoor IDBs district. The Board acknowledged the approach as detailed in the Chief Engineers report.

Planning Application Updates

Latches Fen Sub-catchment

The Board were asked to consider working together with the District Council, LLFA and the various developers involved in development in the Latches Fen sub-catchment, to provide a suitable hydraulic study, as detailed in the Engineers Report. Mrs French advised that this is something that is brought up at Planning Committee every time they discuss an application. Ms Morris said that she would like to be involved along with Mr Murphy in any discussions or groups, as they plan to build a reservoir in this area, and cannot afford for the water quality to be impacted by development. Mr Lakey advised that many of the March Boards would benefit from a similar type of approach. Mr R Gladwin asked if the Latches Fen Pumping Station has the capacity to accommodate the addition flows from the development, and Mr Lakey advised that proposal to build SuDS on the development would restrict the flows to green field run off, so there would technically be no increase in flow. Mr Albutt said that he could not see any clear way for the development area to drain without his intervention, and that the developers need to install new drainage, but they do not consider this when developing their plans. The Chair observed that in the last few years the development area had been too wet to crop.

Mr Lakey added that many of the new housing developments have been built without consideration of how the water control structures will be maintained, as they are often inaccessible. The LLFA have agreed with this comment, but the developments have been approved without further consideration of this point. Everyone recalled the flooding event of summer 2014, and Mr Albutt said that a meeting was held following the event, this area was included but no action taken and now it is planned to put housing in the same spot. Mrs French advised that 2500 home are planned for the town of March.

Mr Christy asked if the study was carried out, if it would have any weight. It is clear a piecemeal approach does not work. It was thought that the Planning Authority may take notice, but developers were more concerned with income generation. Mr R Gladwin thought that it would be the Boards responsibility to deal with the water, but Mr Lakey observed that in the 2014 event, the district drains were able to cope with the flow, the issue was that the water did not get to them. Mr Albutt said that if the water goes through his drains and he does not maintain them, then it is his land that floods and not the development site. It was discussed that there have been situations where Boards want to 'adopt' drains but landowners have rejected this due to the impact of the Byelaw strip meaning the loss of developable land. It is unknown what would happen if there was subsequently a flooding issue in this situation as this has not yet been tested.

Mr Boden advised the Board that under the local government reorganisation, the LLFA will be coterminous with the Planning Authority, and it is not known what effect this may have.

The Board concluded that they would welcome a joint approach to a study and ask the Planning Engineer to pursue this further, but they are concerned who will fund such a study.

Lily Avenue – Matthew Homes

The Board were updated on the current position with the development. Mr Lakey advised that the developers management company have managed the drain well, but there are concerns over how well this will be managed in future.

The Board agreed that as suggested by the Engineers Report, that compliance checking is carried out and enforcement progressed if required.

RESOLVED

That the Planning Engineer pursue the Latches Fen Sub-Catchment Hydraulic Modelling proposal.
That the issues at Lily Avenue are subject to a compliance check and enforcement be pursued if appropriate.

Operational Services Report

Mr Lakey reported that works were been undertaken as previously approved and talked the Board through his report. He advised that notices have been sent for this year's works, and that the slip at Latches Fen pump drain has been resolved. The weed issue at the bottom of reach 46 is a regular occurrence.

Fly tipping continues to be an issue, and a provisional sum for clearance has been included in the budget. Mr Ashman is available for flail mowing as previous years, and the maintenance plan for 2025 is shown in the report.

Mr R Gladwin observed that mowing had been delayed in the previous year and asked if the same issues were going to be faced this year. Mr Lakey was able to advise that due to ecological constraints mowing cannot commence until August, but plans are pushing forward in readiness.

The Board acknowledged the report.

Mechanical and Electrical Report

Mr Lakey advised the Board that that pump and gearbox overhaul at Latches Fen Pumping Station have been funded by Storm Recovery Grant Funding (Tranche T2a) but that this has highlighted that the pump impellor requires replacement, which will not be funded by the grant. It would now appear that funding has been given for the weedscreen cleaner and control panel overhaul, although the guarantee of this funding is still awaited.

The works identified by the M&E Engineer at Bedlam and Binnimoor Pumping Stations were reviewed, but the Board did not agree to progress with any of these works.

RESOLVED

That the reports be approved.

That the replacement impellor at Latches Fen Pumping Station goes ahead.

B.1463 Health & Safety

The Chair referred to the report received from Cope Safety Management following their visit in February, which he attended. There were no major issues, and anything identified has been handed to Mr Lakey to resolve. Mr Lakey advised that there are just a few signs left to installed and this is in hand.

B.1464 District Officers Report

The Chair as District Officer gave a verbal report. He reported that they had had a straightforward year. He had facilitated a recent tour of the pumping stations, on which the Board were joined by some members of the Euximoor IDB Board.

B.1465 Governance

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

RESOLVED

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

- 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 Whittings as Internal Auditor

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.

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.

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:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.

- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.

Insured Values

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

DEFRA IDB1 Return

RESOLVED

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

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.1466 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 £58,433.57 for excess winter pumping costs, and £83,691 was received to fund the Latches Fen Pump Overhaul.

The Budget Comparison was noted.

Payments for 2024

The Payments were reviewed and accepted.

Highland Water Contributions

The Board noted the Highland Water contributions.

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.1467 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 £805 to £858 (plus VAT).

RESOLVED

That the requested increased ADA subscription for 2025 be paid.

b) District Officers and Pumping Station Duties Fees

The Chair left the room for the discussion, and the Vice Chair presided.

The Vice Chair observed that previously the Board had used the Middle Level pay award as an indicator, which had been set at 4.15%, and subsequently proposed this figure. Mr R Gladwin seconded this proposal, and it was agreed unanimously.

The Chair returned to the room.

The Board agreed that the Pumping Station Attendants Fees also increase by the same amount.

RESOLVED

That the Board agree that the District Officers Fee increase to a maximum of £1,198 for 2025/2026.

That the Board agree that the Pumping Station Attendants Fee increase to a maximum of £1,313 for 2025/2026.

c) Latches Fen Bungalow

The Chair asked that the Clerk ensure that the bungalow remains compliant, and the Board agreed that the rental should increase by 5%.

RESOLVED

That the rent charged increases by 5%.

That the Clerk reviews the bungalows compliance.

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 £6498.16.

RESOLVED

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

e) Determination of Annual Values for Rating purposes.

The Board considered the recommendation for the determination of annual value for rating purposes.

RESOLVED

- i) That the determination recommended be adopted by the Board
- ii) That the Clerk be empowered to serve notices and to take such other action as may be necessary to comply with statutory requirements.
- iii) That the Chairman and the Clerk be empowered to authorise appropriate action on behalf of the Board in connection with any appeal against the determination.

f) Rate Arrears

The Board considered the writing-off rate arrears of £81.00

RESOLVED

That the rate arrears amounting to £81.00 be written off.

g) Contributions from Developers

Mrs Martin confirmed receipt of the contributions from developers as shown on the confidential papers.

RESOLVED

That the Contributions from Developers have been received by the Board

Estimates & Rate Requirements for 2025/26.

The Board reviewed the proposed budget for 2025/2026.

RESOLVED

That the budget is agreed.

Rate Requirement for 2025/26

The Chair added that in order to raise sufficient income to cover the budget estimate a rate of 20p in the £ would be required, which he was happy to propose. Ms Morris seconded the proposal, supported by Mr Albutt. The rate was agreed unanimously by the Board.

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 51.18% and 48.82%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £173,203 be raised by drainage rates and special levy and by way of a contribution from Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 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 and contribution from Cambridgeshire County Council are £88,455, £84,371 and £378.
- iv) That a rate of 20.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special Levy of £84,371 be made and issued to Fenland District Council, and a contribution of £378 be made by Cambridgeshire County 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.

B.1468 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 advised that he has already responded to the questions included in the report on the Boards behalf.

The Board 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.1469 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That next Meeting of the Board be held on 28th May 2026 at 9.15am at The Middle Level Offices, March

B.1470 Any Other Business

With no other items being raised by the Board, the meeting was closed at 10.45am

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	4
Meeting:	MARCH EAST IDB	Subject:	CONSTITUTION & MEMBERSHIP
Date:	Thursday 28 th May 2026	Officer Responsible:	Gemma Ashby

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

- A. Note the position regarding elections and consider the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments within its appointment of officials.
- B. Note the current status of its membership and the role they each play as members serving the interests of the Board.
- C. Review attendance records and identify any resolutions as necessary.
- D. Outline the training undertaken in the last year as well as future needs or plan for training.

1. Current status

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

	Elected Members	Appointed Members	Total Members	Quorum
Composition	15	N/A		9
Actual	14	11 FDC	25	
Vacancies	1		1	

- 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	Vice-Chair
2	Tim Boor	Ratepayer	
3	Andrew Dunham	Nominee of Ratepayer (A & E G Heading Ltd)	
4	Graham Dunham	Nominee of Ratepayer (A & E G Heading Ltd)	
5	Adrian Gee	Ratepayer	
6	Roger Gladwin	Ratepayer	
7	Will Gladwin	Nominee of Ratepayer (Barry Scott)	
8	Paul Hayes	Nominee of Ratepayer (A & E G Heading Ltd)	
9	Clive Martin	Ratepayer	Chair & District Officer
10	Tobias Martin	Nominee of Ratepayer (M F Martin Ltd)	
11	Alison Morris	Ratepayer	
12	Donald Morris	Ratepayer	
13	Mick Mottram	Ratepayer	
14	Sam Murphy	Nominee of Ratepayer (E H Morris Ltd)	
15			

- 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	Dee Laws	FDC	Councillor
2	Gary Christy	FDC	Councillor
3	John Clark	FDC	Councillor
4	Maureen Davis	FDC	Councillor
5	Jan French	FDC	Councillor
6	Stuart Harris	FDC	Councillor
7	Paul Hicks	FDC	Councillor
8	Charlie Marks	FDC	Councillor
9	Alex Miscandlon	FDC	Councillor
10	Mark Purser	FDC	Councillor
11	Lucie Foice-Beard	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	9/6/2022
1	Charles Albutt	Present	Present	Present	Present
2	Andrew Dunham	Present	Present	Present	Present
3	Graham Dunham	Present	Present	Present	Present
4	Adrian Gee	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Present
5	Roger Gladwin	Present	Present	Present	Present
6	Paul Hayes	Apologies		Apologies	
7	Clive Martin	Present	Present	Present	Present
8	Tobias Martin	Present	Present	N/A	N/A
9	Alison Morris	Present	Present	Present	Present
10	Donald Morris	Apologies	Present	Apologies	Present
11	Sam Murphy	Present	Present	N/A	N/A
12	Tim Boor	Present	N/A	N/A	N/A
13	Will Gladwin	Present	N/A	N/A	N/A
14	Mick Mottram	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
15					

Attendance at Chairs Meetings

No	Name	5/12/2025	6/12/2024	6/10/2023	13/12/2022
1	Clive Martin	Present	Apologies	Present	Present

Appointed Members (current and previous)

No	Name (Council)	29/5/2025	30/5/2024	1/6/2023	9/6/2022
1	Dee Laws (FDC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Gary Christy (FDC)	Present	Present		
3	John Clark (FDC)	Present	Present	Present	Present
4	Maureen Davis (FDC)		Apologies	Apologies	Apologies

5	Jan French (FDC)	Present	Present	Present	Present
6	Stuart Harris (FDC)		Apologies		
7	Paul Hicks (FDC)	Apologies	Apologies	Present	
8	Charlie Marks (FDC)		Apologies		
9	Alex Miscandlon (FDC)		Present	Present	
10	Mark Purser (FDC)	Apologies	Present		Present
11	Lucie Foice-Beard (FDC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

3. Elections, vacancies & appointments

- 3.1 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 19 years, and the tenure of the current Vice Chairman is 12 years.

4. Composition and amalgamations

- 4.1 The Board is encouraged to continually monitor and review its membership, financial and climate resilience, along with assessing its influence locally, regionally and nationally. These are all factors that may lead the Board to consider changing its composition and/or amalgamation with (an)other Board(s). See 'The IDB governance future within the Middle Level of the Fen' within the Clerk's Report.
- 4.2 Amalgamations and composition changes are not swift processes and can take a number of years. They require planning and additional/specialist resourcing by the MLC as your clerk, Environment Agency and Defra. Therefore, the Board is encouraged to think ahead five to ten years in its decision making, thinking about the next generation.

5. Training

- 5.1 [IDBs](#) are expected by Defra to support relevant externally accredited training and/or professional development of its Board Members, officers and employees (if appropriate). It is therefore recommended that the Board identifies and budgets for any such requirements.
- 5.2 In addition, IDBs are expected by Defra to provide in-house training and/or professional development opportunities for its Board Members, officers and employees (if appropriate).
- 5.3 Topics that Defra suggest are i) Governance ii) Ethics iii) Finance iv) Environment v) Health, safety & welfare and vi) Communications & engagement.
- 5.4 The Board are asked to outline the training undertaken in the last year as well as future needs or plan for training. Members are asked to identify any topics areas they would value further training on as well as any site inspections that would help them undertake their role on the Board more effectively.
- 5.5 Member training is reported to Defra as part of the annual IDB1 return.

Author Name: Gemma Ashby
Role: Senior Business Support Officer

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	5
Meeting:	MARCH EAST IDB	Subject:	CLERK'S REPORT
Date:	Thursday 28 th May 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. We also hosted a case study visit in January 2026. Given we collectively represent c25% of the IDB sector nationally, we will, in one way shape or form, inform their results and associated recommendations for change. Whilst this research is an opportunity to highlight and influence much needed policy change for collective benefit, there is equally the likelihood that it will draw out some uncomfortable truths.

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

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

9. IDB 1 (Annual Reporting to Defra)

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

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

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

10. IDB Precept

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

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

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

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

Author Name: Paul Burrows

Role: Clerk

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	6
Meeting:	MARCH EAST IDB	Subject:	ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT
Date:	Thursday 28 th May 2026	Officer Responsible:	Sofi Lloyd

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

- A. **Review and approve the new Biodiversity Action Plan** – available from the IDB's webpage on the Middle Level Website: www.middlelevel.gov.uk/march-east/
- B. Note that Key Environmental Compliance Indicators (KCI's), as below, have been launched this year to assess and report the environmental compliance of the IDB in a consistent way. This will help to ensure that any areas of environmental risk are flagged promptly, and the environmental achievements of the Board are recognised and published.
- C. Propose to set the biodiversity budget at £250 for a swift box and request offers for places to put it up on a high agricultural building near water.
- D. Note that a review of the IDBs Environmental and waste permits is required and will be planned with the Chair and VC in the coming months.

Review of Key Environmental Compliance Indicators (KCI's)

Key:	Not Achieved / Information Not Available	Partly complete / A date has been set for completion (provide date and resource)	Complete
Name of Board Environmental Representative:		Clive Martin	
KCI:	Description of KCI:	Status:	Comments:
1.	A current channel categorisation map & reasoning is available		ML completed. Cut both banks leaving a margin.
2.	Standard Operating Procedures audit has been undertaken and works considered compliant		ML completed
3.	The previous year's maintenance record is available for review and to inform the following year's works planning.		ML investigating alternate bank cuts for 26-27
4.	A channel maintenance plan (flail mowing and desilting) has been prepared for Board review and approval.		2-4-year desilting rotation. Banks cut to waters' edge on working side.
5.	All non-routine works undertaken in the previous year were screened for environmental impacts and opportunities using the ESR process		Binnimoor in progress
6.	The Biodiversity Action Plan has been reviewed and objectives for the previous year have been met and following objectives set		See BAP Draft link above
7.	Biodiversity budget is proposed and defined		As above
8.	At least one Board Representative has attended at least one biodiversity training / information event in the year and reported relevant details to the board		In progress. MLC BioDay planned in Dec – will attend
9.	There has been no net loss of open watercourse (via culverting or other) in the district in the previous year		
10.	A current map of badger setts in the district is available and licensable works around them was undertaken compliantly and in line with licence conditions		In progress with ML.



March East IDB

Annual Environmental Review - Notes from Meeting

Attended by: Sofi Lloyd, Clive Martin, Morgan Lakey

Date: 12th May 2026

Point No.	Notes	Action by and due date
1	The KCI's for the Board report were completed	
2	Noted that current flail mowing rotation is to cut both sides leaving a margin of vegetation at the bottom. Will consider alternate bank mows in the 26 season to improve provisions for biodiversity and make some cost efficiencies.	
3	Noted the desilting rotation is 2-4 years and bank veg is cut to water's edge on the working side.	
4	Noted that the Boards' Policy Document states there are no water level control structures however there is a spillway & division dam at point 10 & 4 to separate Latches from Binnimoor sub-catchments. Also, a weir to keep levels behind up at point 72-73. Spillway into 16ft at point 43 also to keep levels behind higher. Will request change to Policy doc.	SL - 26
5	Noted that the floodplain/grazing marsh shown on the priority habs map is a grazing paddock.	
6	Noted that there is grassland around the Stonea lake NE of the railway that is not shown on the map	
7	Noted that there is woodland around point 6, and a number of other small woodlands that are not shown on the map	
8	Noted that the Orchards shown on the map are still present	
9	Noted that ponds have been created just north of Stonea Grange and have been used for Great Crested Newt licensable work. Discussed that there is value to creating more ponds within 500m as GCN require numerous ponds across the landscape.	
10	Noted that Japanese knotweed was known to be present at Whitegates Farm so should be managed to prevent spread.	
11	SL stressed the importance of recording and reporting more species that are found within the area to better inform efforts for conservation and enhancement. Please use the iRecord app: www.irecord.org.uk/app and join the Middle Level Commissioners Activity or online www://irecord.org.uk/join/middle-level-commissioners-nature	
12	Discussed that the IDB ditches and banks are particularly important for wildlife as there are few other habitats of significant value within the district otherwise.	
13	Discussed that swifts aren't doing very well and maybe the Board could set their biodiversity budget this year to purchase a swift box and ask for suggested private locations at the Board meeting. Boxes are approx. £250. Best locations are under the eaves of higher agricultural buildings, near water.	
14	The remaining points were captured in the BAP review.	
15	SL will load draft BAP onto the March East webpage on the MLC website and make a link available to Board members in the Board papers ahead of the meeting for them to review. The aim is to have the BAP approved by then end of June.	

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	7
Meeting:	MARCH EAST IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)	Subject:	CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: CHIEF ENGINEER'S SUMMARY & CAPITAL PROGRAMME
Date:	Thursday 28 th May 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 and to confirm acceptance of recommendations to the Consulting Engineer.
- C. Acknowledge the approach to using the current GiA funding allocation.
- D. Confirm if it wants the Engineer to produce a Pump and controls Refurbishment/Replacement Plan for all pumps for the subcommittee.

1. Enforcement & Compliance Overview

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

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

Cases already concluded:

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

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

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

2. Summary of Key Planning Issues

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

Refer to Appendix 2 for more details.

3. IDB Recovery Fund T2B

Works delivered for this district included weedscreen overhauls.

4. 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)

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 Euximoor 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

March East Internal Drainage Board														
Capital Improvement Programme (2026/2027)		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
Bedlam 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	4,250.0	4250.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	5	0	0.0	10.0	30.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	74.9
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	43.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.8
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	42.5	0.0	0.0	47.5
	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
Binnimoor 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	2,820.0	2820.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	4.9	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0.0	0	10.0	28.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	38.4
	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	28.2	28.2
	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
Latches Fen p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15,300.0	0.0	0.0	15300.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	4.9	0	0.0	35.0	18.0	0.0	310.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	382.9
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	15.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0
	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
Drainage Channels														
		14.7	0.0	35	122	73	30	310	0	0	15,343	0	7,113	23,041

Appendix 2

There have been 32 planning applications responded to since the last meeting.

There have been 3 applications for Byelaw Consent (to undertake works in and around watercourses) have been granted since the last meeting.

There have been no applications for Byelaw Consent (to discharge to a watercourse) have been granted since the last meeting.

There have been 3 infiltration device applications have been acknowledged since the last meeting.

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	7
Meeting:	MARCH EAST IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)	Subject:	CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: OPERATIONAL SERVICES
Date:	Thursday 28th May 2026	Officer Responsible:	Morgan Lakey

1. Weed Control & Drain Maintenance

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the phased maintenance programme approved by the Board in 2008.

Due to road closures, the programmed machine cleansing of the Silt Road drains, reaches 76-77 was postponed and will be included in this year's programme

A successful bid for funding from the DEFRA tranche 2B grants, allowed for improvements works to be carried out at each of the Board's pumping station. Access improvements and hard standings were installed to allow for the deployment of mobile pumps in the event of a breakdown at one of the stations.



Improvements works @ Latches Fen Pumping Station

Provisional notices for the 2026 phased programmed machine cleansing works were issued last year. The extent of this year's works is shown on the site plan at the end of Appendix 3.

A recent inspection of the Board's district drains has revealed that many of the drains are in a satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. The inspection indicates that many of the Board's drains that fall within this year's phased machine cleansing programme, will only require light machine cleansing to retain their good status.



Emergent Aquatic Weed growth @ Barkers Lane

Barkers Lane drains have historically suffered with emergent aquatic vegetation, and this season is no exception. The drains will be treated with an application of herbicide and inspected later in the summer to assess if they should be included in this year's machine cleansing programme.

As with many other local Internal Drainage Boards, the March East district continues to suffer its fair share of fly tipping incidents throughout the year. A provisional sum has been allocated to allow fly tipped debris to be cleared, on the basis that the Board's area has been targeted in past years and unfortunately is likely to be targeted again.

The approved revetment works to the south bank of reach 3-5 was postponed last season and they will be undertaken this year following the displacement of the resident water voles under a Natural England Licence, led by the Middle Level Ecology Department.

The Board's previous flail mowing contractor, Mr Ashman will no longer be available due to retiring at the end of last year. For the previous 3 seasons, Mr Ashman has been assisted by M&C Agri and they are available to undertake the flail mowing requirements this year if the Board wish to proceed with them. A sum for the completion of flail mowing of Board's drains for the ensuing year has been included in the estimated costs.

2. Estimated Costs of Anticipated Drain Maintenance and Weed Control Programme

A provisional sum has also been included within the Board's estimates for any bank slip repair, emergency cleansing, Cott removal or culvert clearance that may be required later in the year.

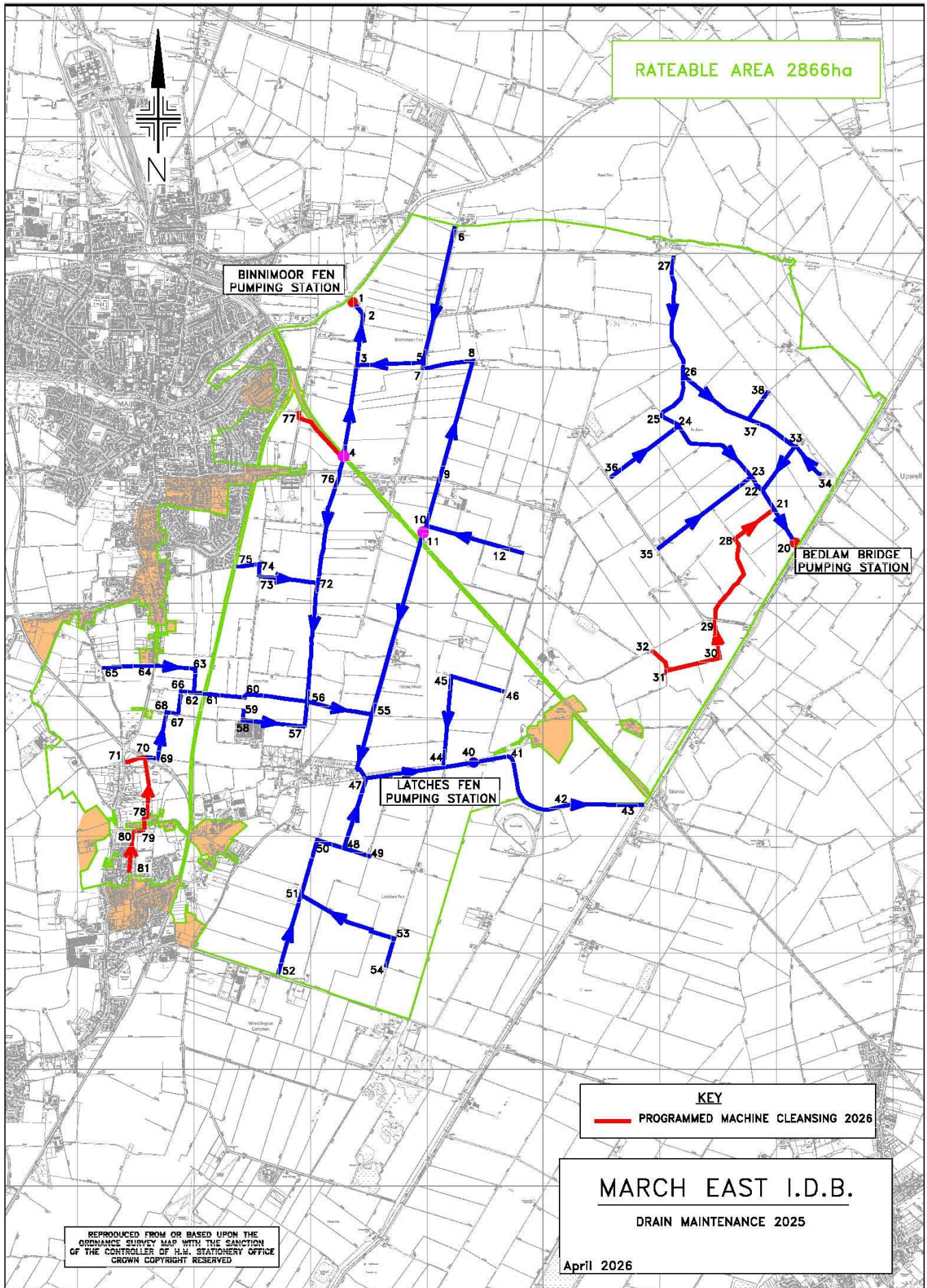
The estimated costs of this year's weed control and drain maintenance works are as follows:

1. Machine cleanse the following drains:				£	£
<u>Bedlam Bridge Pumping Area</u>					
(i) Reach 21-28-29-30-31-32	2300	m	@	1.30	2990.00
<u>Latches Fen Pumping Area</u>					
(i) Reach 71-70-78-79-80-81	1100	m	@	3.00	3300.00
<u>Binnimoor Fen Pumping Station</u>					
(i) Reach 76-77	600	m	@	1.30	780.00
2. Roundup application to control reed water cress and other emergent weed growth in district drains	Item	Sum			2000.00
3. <u>Provisional Item</u> Allow sum for bank revetment works Reach 3-5	Item	Sum			6000.00
4. <u>Provisional Item</u> Allow sum to remove fly tipped materials from Board's drains as required	Item	Sum			1000.00
5. Allow sum for flail mowing.	Item	Sum			9000.00
6. <u>Provisional Item</u> Allow sum for bank revetment, emergency cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works	Item	Sum			2000.00
7. Fees for inspection, preparation, and submission of report to the Board, arrangement, and supervision of chemical applications and maintenance works.	Item	Sum			2500.00
TOTAL					£29,570.00

Orders for the application of herbicides by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that the application is weather dependant, and they will not be held responsible for the failure or efficacy.

Author Name: Morgan Lakey

Role: Operations Manager



Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	7
Meeting:	MARCH EAST IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)	Subject:	CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL
Date:	Thursday 28 th May 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. For example, The Bosker Weedscreen Cleaner Trolley & Grab Overhauls and NEW Control Panels at Bedlam Bridge and Binnimoor; and the Weedscreen Cleaner Upgrade Works at Latches Fen. 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				Weedscre en		
Station	Built	Pump	Pump Overhaul	Controls	Bars	WSC	Controls
Bedlam	1971	1971	2010/11	1971	2003	2025	2025
Binnimoor	1976	2018	2018	2018	2000	2025	2025
Latches Fen	1956	1995 (D) 1998 (E)	2025 (D) 2010 (E)	1998 diesel 1986 elec	1995	2026	2026

The Key Health Indicators table above shows the areas for concern and improvement is the pump and control panels. The Board is advised to develop and start a pump and control panel refurbishment/replacement plan for the pumps that are due 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. The control panel at Bedlam is in excess of 50 years old and should be replaced. Which is likely to cost c£30k.

Submersible pumps are often not cost effective to repair and lead time on new pumps can be up to 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 and controls Refurbishment/Replacement Plan for all pumps for the subcommittee.

1.2 Latches Fen

The Pump impellor has had to be reverse engineered to manufacture a new one which is currently being machined and due for refitting this summer.

The engine and weedscreen control panels were combined, the refurbishment of the weedscreen has its own control panel. The electric pump and diesel engine control panels should be updated which is likely to cost c£18k for the electric pump panel and 10k for the diesel control panel.

The last routine inspection took place at Latches Fen Pump Station on 13th April 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

- 1) The siphon heater has failed on the electric pump.
- 2) Diesel Tank showing 2960 litres.
- 3) Diesel Pump currently removed for overhaul.
- 4) Surge Protector Failed – Linked Out.
- 5) Internal Crane has corroded areas.
- 6) Floodlight failed at electric pump.

Bedlam

The widescreen cleaner has been overhauled.

The vibration on Pump 2 has decreased and may have been caused by foreign object in impellor or silt build up, this will continue to be monitored on routine inspections.

The level control failed at the station last season; a temporary repair was made. The control panels at this station are now in excess of 50 years old and plans should be made for their replacement to ensure reliability. The level controller would be replaced as part of this works. Replacement control panels are likely to cost c£30k.

The last routine inspection took place at Bedlam Pump Station on 4th April 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

- 1) Temporary repair has been carried out previously on ultrasonic head. Requires new stainless bracket.
- 2) Wobble on Pump 2, requires further investigation.
- 3) Pump 1 Panel – buzzing contactor. Pumps and motors greased.

Binnimoor

The weedscreen cleaner has been overhauled.

The outlet door has been overhauled.

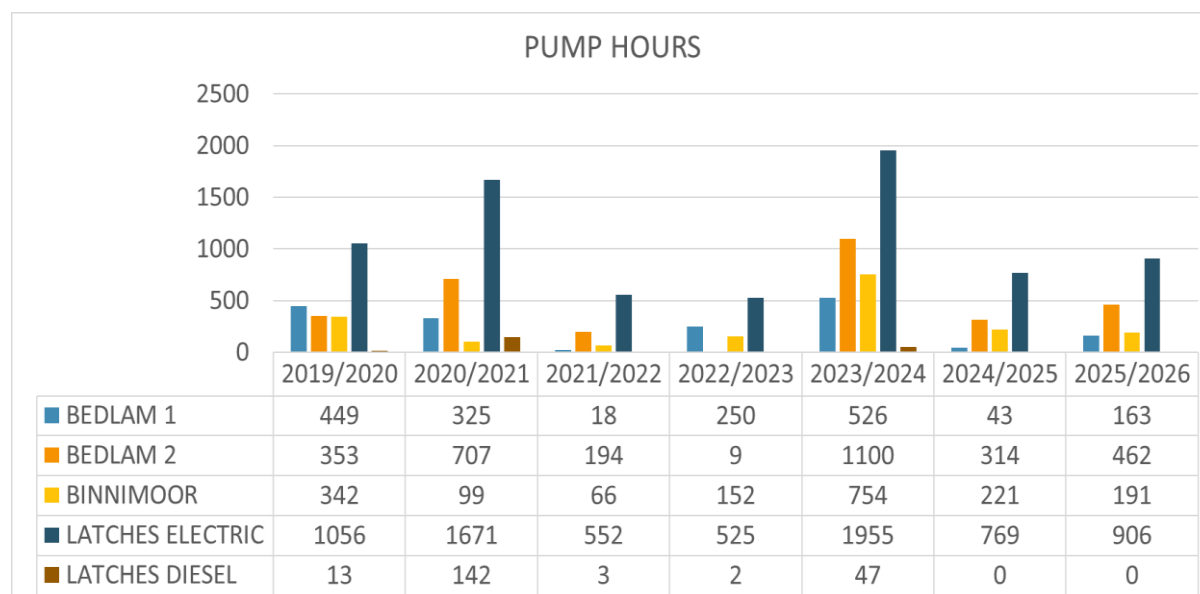
The last routine inspection took place at Binnimoor Pump Station on 2nd April 2026. There were no recommendations or remarks apart from station details and WSC inspected – all ok.

1.3 Electricity Readings

The pump attendants have all been providing regular readings of pump hours and electricity usage which is greatly appreciated.

2. Pumping summary

2.1 Pumping Hours



3. Inspections

3.1 HSB Engineering annual inspections for insurance were carried out during September 2025.

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

Station	EICR Date	EICR Due
Bedlam	29-Mar-2024	29-Mar-2029
Binnimoor	06-Nov-2025	06-Nov-2030
Latches Fen	27-Sep-2023	27-Sep-2028

4. 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:	MARCH EAST IDB	Subject:	HEALTH & SAFETY
Date:	Thursday 28 th May 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) Managing 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

March East IDB

carried out on

Tuesday, 17 February 2026

by

AW Safety Management

Key Information	
Client:	March East IDB
Site:	Binimoor, Latches Fen & Bedlam Pumping Stations
Site Contact:	Clive Martin
Site Contact E-mail:	Enquiries@middlelevel.gov.uk
Inspection date:	17/02/2026
Inspected by:	Vicki Clutterbuck
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
Thank you to Clive Martin for accompanying me to the pumping stations. Binimoor, Latches Fen & Bedlam Pumping Stations were visited. All actions found are listed in the report below, no other areas of concern were raised at the time of inspection. All actions were discussed with Clive on site during the inspection. If you have any questions in relation to actions raised on this report, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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
Binimoor 01	Upon arrival, it was noted that the fenced area was left unlocked (The gates was closed with the lock in place, just not fastened). When leaving site there was difficulty locking the gate. It appears the fence has shifted, making the shackle too short to secure the gate properly. To prevent unauthorized access, ensure site is always locked unless access is required, especially when site is unattended. It is recommended to replace the lock with a more suitable one / adjust the fence		Clive Martin	High	
Binimoor 02	No fire extinguisher was present on site. Fire extinguishers should be located at identified fire points and should be appropriate to the nature of the potential fire (CO2). It is advised to have an extinguisher installed and serviced annually by a qualified technician."	No supporting photograph	Clive Martin	High	

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
Binimoor 03	A buildup of moss/algae was observed on the stairway To reduce the hazard off slips, trips and falls it is recommended to clean the stairway of growth and debris before use and maintain.		Clive Martin	Medium	
Binimoor 04	The light casing was found to be broken. A cracked or missing casing often leaves internal wiring, bulb sockets, or live terminals exposed. This creates a high risk of electric shock or a short circuit that could lead to a fire. It is advised to replace the casing.		Clive Martin	High	

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
Latches Fen 01	Both Fire extinguishers past its next service due date (Nov 2023) Fire extinguishers can deteriorate over time, and regular servicing helps ensure they are working properly and can be used in an emergency. Servicing is to be arranged and any paperwork relating to this is acquired and held within Health and safety records.		Clive Martin	High	
Latches Fen 02	No certificate of Employers Liability Insurance on display. In accordance with regulation 5. (2) of The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 in date certification must be on display in view of all employees. Post current insurance certificate.	No supporting photograph	Clive Martin	High	

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
Latches Fen 03	Fire Extinguisher was obstructed with caution tape. Fire extinguishers should be kept clear and readily available for quick access should the need arise to use the equipment. It is good practice to mark 90cm / 36inch area around the extinguishers to give people a visual of the area that should be kept clear. Tape was re-located at the time of inspection		Clive Martin	Medium	Complete 17/02/2026
Latches Fen 04	Unsecured gas cylinder found near unidentified jerry can. It is assumed these came from the grab out of the water way. Although the cylinder appeared empty, they are never truly empty and must be treated with the same safety precautions as full cylinders. It is advised to remove and dispose of safely if these are not in use.		Clive Martin	Medium	

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
Bedlam 01	No fire extinguisher was present on site. Fire extinguishers should be located at identified fire points and should be appropriate to the nature of the potential fire (CO2). It is advised to have an extinguisher installed and serviced annually by a qualified technician."	No supporting photograph	Clive Martin	High	
Bedlam 02	No certificate of Employers Liability Insurance on display. In accordance with regulation 5. (2) of The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 in date certification must be on display in view of all employees. Post current insurance certificate.	No supporting photograph	Clive Martin	High	

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 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:	MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	Subject:	GOVERNANCE
Date:	Thursday 28 th May 2026	Officer Responsible:	Paul Burrows

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

- A. Note the Annual Return submitted 2024/2025
- B. Note the continued appointment of Whittings 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 Whittings 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:

MARCH EAST IDB

INSURED VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS

PUMPING STATIONS & BUNGALOW

		As At 1st April 2026
BINNIMOOR PUMPING STATION		858,634.00
BEDLAM PUMPING STATION		1,073,292.00
LATCHES FEN PUMPING STATION		1,931,926.00
		3,863,852.00
LATCHES FEN BUNGALOW	Per Chairman	282,812.00
		<u>4,146,664.00</u> 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 assertion 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

March East 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 March East 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 March East Internal Drainage Board

The Clerk
March East 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 Commissioners

Date of Announcement: 29th September 2025

Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

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

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

20/05/2025 27/05/2025 03/06/2025

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

WILLIAMS LLP

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

P. P. EECUT - WILLIAMS LLP

Date

03/06/2025

*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:

MARCH EAST 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 means that this authority:
	Yes	No*	
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:

29/05/2025

and recorded as minute reference:

B.1465

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

Chair

Clerk

C.E. Ash
R. Martin

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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

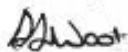
MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	
1. Balances brought forward	288,078	242,241	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	120,730	170,369	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	25,644	151,802 152,848	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	192,211	207,948	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	242,241	356,146 357,646	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	339,748	383,089	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	2,446,370	2,446,370	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



Date

20/05/2025

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

29/05/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

B. 1466

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

March East Internal Drainage Board – DB0048

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 – <http://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:

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. The AGAR has been amended.

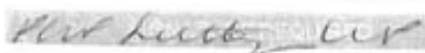
3 External auditor certificate 2024/25

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



Date

23/09/2025

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

MARCH EAST 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' means that this authority:
	Yes	No*	
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:	12
Meeting:	MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	Subject:	FINANCE REPORT: LOOKING BACK
Date:	Thursday 28 th May 2026	Officer Responsible:	Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

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

Finance Officer's review and key messages

For 2025/2026 the Board had estimated expenditure for the year of £173,203 and set a rate of 20.00p to raise this through agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levies. Included in the estimated expenditure was £63,500 for Improvement works (£38,500 for Impeller at Latches Fen PS and £25,000 for Weedscreen Overhaul at Binnimoor PS) These works were to be partly funded through reserves.

Net Expenditure in 2025/26 was lower than the estimated budget because of several reasons. Repairs and Renewals was over budget, this included £2,532 for repairing the flap door at Binnimoor PS and new gates at Latches Fen PS (£1,180). Fuel costs were £29,711 lower than budget, following a dry summer and below average year for pumping volumes.

Following the setting of the rates for 2025/2026 additional funding became available in respect of the Storm Recovery Grant, MLC were successful in acquiring additional funding. As part of the Asset Resilience package the Weedscreens at all the pumping stations were overhauled at a cost of £136,726. In addition, as part of the Mobile Pumps package Access Improvement works were carried out at a cost of £21,733. All works were 100% funded through the various Storm Recovery Grants.

The Impeller at Latches Fen PS at the time of writing is still to be completed and the work will be carried over and included in the 2026/2027 Budget. The Weedscreen Overhaul at Binnimoor PS was completed and funded as mentioned above

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.

This will leave the General fund balance as of 31st March 2026 at £305,591. The Asset Replacement Fund as of 31st March is £64,113. The Developers fund balance as of 31st March 2026 is £48,081. This position is 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 forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2026 is included as Appendix 1.

2. Payments for 2025/2026

- 2.1 Payments are detailed within Appendix 2

3. Highland Water Contributions

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

When completing the budget proposal claims were estimated against the likely out-turn for 2024/2025 and the budgeted expenditure for 2025/2026. The highland water claim included within the rating estimates was £226.46.

Following the submission of claims for contributions the net sum of £(1,565.31) (£2,225.23 less £3,790.54 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) was netted off against the 2025/2026 claim based on the Commissioners' actual expenditure on maintenance work for that financial year and the sum of £4,215.26 in respect of 80% of the Commissioners' estimated expenditure for the financial year 2025/2026.

4. Storm Recovery Grant – T2B

- 4.1 During the year MLC were successful in securing Grant Aid on behalf of some of the IDB's that they administer. As a result of the decisions made when setting the rates for 2025/2026 works that had already been started or was to be started meet the criteria to be Grant eligible. The following work was done and was 100% Grant funded as a result:

<u>Work Done</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Penny rate equivalent</u>
Bedlam PS – Weedscreen Overhaul	£43,829	5.02p
Latches Fen PS – Weedscreen Overhaul	£64,470	7.39p
Binnimoor PS – Weedscreen Overhaul	£28,427	3.26p
Access Improvements – Mobile Pump Deployment	£21,733	2.49p
	<u>£158,459</u>	<u>18.16p</u>

5. Annual Accounts and Finance papers 2025/2026:

- 5.1 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

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET MONITORING - 2025/2026

	<u>Approved budget</u> <u>2024/2025</u> £	<u>Actual to</u> <u>31/03/2025</u> £	<u>Proposed Budget</u> <u>2025/2026</u> £	<u>Remarks</u>
1 District labour	12,700	8,340	12,700	A - Includes estimate for increased premiums
2 Telephone and insurances	3,850	3,945	3,945 ^A	B - Provision based on 2 year average plus increase in rates of 5% from October 2025
3 Fuel (electricity, oil etc)	49,500	5,432	49,500 ^B	C - Includes Engineers Estimates
4 Repairs and renewals	7,250	2,335	7,250	D - Future works provision 20,000
5 Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	43,000	11,800	43,000 ^C	E - Includes: Latches Fen PS - Pump Impeller 38,500 Binnimoor PS - Weedscreen Overhaul 25,000
6 Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	15,400	7,144	15,400	F - Includes: Latches Fen PS - Pump Impeller 38,500 Binnimoor PS - Weedscreen Overhaul 50,000 Latches Fen PS - Weedscreen Overhaul 50,000 Bedlam PS - Weedscreen Overhaul 50,000
7 Environment Agency Precept	13,299	13,299	13,299	
8 Future improvement works	20,000	0	20,000 ^D	G - Includes: Full Highland Water Claim 2,650 Rental Income 5,200
9 Improvement Works	63,500 ^E	0	188,500 ^F	
10 Reinstatement of balances: yr 1 of 3	0	0	0	H - Includes: Full Highland Water Claim 2,650 Rental Income 7,800 Use of Funds 44,014
	228,499	52,294	353,593	
LESS Deposit Accounts interest, Development charges etc	55,296	10,029 ^G	206,464 ^H	
	173,203 20.00p	42,264	147,129	

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner - Binnimoor pumping station (Accounts from N L Hydraulics and RS Components)	608.22
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply remedial Health and safety signage (Account from 3B Design & Print)	208.80
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to main isolator and supply parts - Bedlam Bridge pumping station (Account from RS Components)	262.61
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner -Latches Fen pumping station (Accounts from Aim Electrical)	4,419.23
Middle Level Commissioners - Assist with road crossing for machine cleansing works	180.18
Middle Level Commissionssioners - Fees (Weed control and drain maintenance 2024/25, planning and development applications)	2,931.90
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery, travelling, health & safety contract, public works loan application and storm recovery - tranche 1 claim	8,458.94
Middle Level Commissioners - Board ID Cards	14.74
Environment Agency - Precept	6,649.33
Middle Level Commissioners - Pump removal at Latches Fen pumping station	4,802.21
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	568.71
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	246.58
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2025	1,029.60
B J Plant - Piling works at Point 12	1,332.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Grant in aid storm recovery T2a scheme works - Latches Fen pumping station	95,627.16
Middle Level Commissioners - Grant in aid received for storm recovery T2a scheme - Latches Fen pumping station	-83,691.14
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	853.69
IMServ - Meter operator agreement from 1st July 2025 to 22nd October 2025	7.75
Middle Level Commissionssioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	787.80
M & C Agri Services Ltd - Flail mowing	5,420.40
IMServ - Meter operator agreement to 22nd October 2026	89.42
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, storm recovery tranche 2A claim, IDB change contribution, internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners, 2024-2025 accounts)	8,866.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Weedscreen cleaner HSB insurance check) - Bedlam and Latches Fen pumping stations	212.76
IMServ - Annual half hourly electricity data collection to 22nd October 2026	276.67
PKF Littlejohns LLP - Audit Fee (2024-2025 accounts)	1,008.00
M & C Agri Services Ltd - Flail mowing	5,826.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Set summer levels - Binnimoor pumping station	66.42
Middle Level Commissioners - Land registry search at Lily Avenue (Account from Land Registry)	7.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	4,180.20
Environment Agency - Precept	6,649.33
Middle Level Commissionssioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	793.20
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	258.58
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	294.58
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	300.53
M & C Agri Services Ltd - Flail mowing	695.40
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2026	854.40
B J Plant - Drain maintenance	21,210.00
M & C Agri Services Ltd - Flail mowing	159.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	853.69
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply signage	40.25
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner, replace gates and health & safety remedial works - Latches Fen pumping station (Accounts from L R Boon & Sons)	1,794.66
Middle Level Commissioners - Change winter settings and health & safety remedial works - Bedlam pumping station	368.84
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply E.I.C.R - Binnimoor pumping station (Account from CMS Electrical)	144.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Chemical Weed Control of District drains	2,080.32
Information Commissioner - Data Protection Registration renewal	52.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery, health and safety contract, storm recovery tranche 2b claim, ecological and environmental services	11,537.83
P Sramek - Pumping station duties (Bedlam Pumping Station)	1,313.00
Tobias Martin - Pumping station duties (Binnimoor Pumping Station)	1,313.00
C E Martin - District Officer's Fee 2025-2026	1,198.00
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties (paid monthly)	8,340.00
Corona Energy - Electricity supply (Binnimoor pumping station)	2,445.29
EDF Energy - Electricity supply (Binnimoor pumping station)	5,206.61
EDF Energy - Electricity supply (Latches Fen pumping station)	11,563.42
EDF Energy - Electricity supply (Bedlam pumping station)	7,228.42
British Gas - Electricity supply (Binnimoor pumping station)	1,422.49
British Gas - Electricity supply (Latches Fen pumping station)	9,626.11
British Gas - Electricity supply (Bedlam pumping station)	5,501.23
	<u>174,495.76</u>

(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026
GENERAL FUND

2026	Expenditure during the year:-		2025	Balance brought forward	250,400.40	
Mar-31			Apr-01	Prior Year Adjustment	(1,046.21)	249,354.19
	Precept	13,298.66				
	Rates, insurances, telephone	3,944.58				
	Repairs & Renewals	9,294.91	2026	Rate income & Special levy	172,743.80	
	Fuel	19,789.21	Mar-31	Stitches Fen Contribution	378.00	173,121.80
	Drainworks	38,385.10				
	District Labour	12,164.00		Interest on Deposit Accounts		3,253.38
	Administration charge, audit fee,			Highland Water contributions		2,649.95
	printing, stationery, advertising etc	16,492.03		Development Charges		2,530.00
				Consents		250.00
				Rent		7,800.00
				Storm Recovery Claim T2b		158,459.29
	<u>Improvement Works</u>					
	Rates raised 2025-2026	20,000.00				
	Improvement Works					
	Bedlam PS - Weedscreen Overhaul	43,828.86				
	Latches Fen PS - Weedscreen Overhaul	64,470.15				
	Binnimoor PS - Weedscreen Overhaul	28,426.95				
	Access Improvements	21,733.33				
	Balance carried forward	305,590.83				
		<u>597,418.61</u>				<u>597,418.61</u>

BALANCE SHEET

Capital Section

Liabilities

Capital Provisions	2,446,370.00
	<u>2,446,370.00</u>

Assets

Bungalow - Latches Fen	130,120.00	
Land at Death Fen	1,000.00	
Pumping Stations	2,315,000.00	
Plant Assets	250.00	
		2,446,370.00

Revenue Section

General Fund	305,590.83	Ratepayers' Account - Arrears	3,879.03
Development Charges Account	48,080.88	Value added Tax - Refunds due	43,231.79
Contributions Holdings Account	13,940.59	Sundry Debtors	35,826.24
Future Works Account	64,113.41	Stock	748.00
Sundry Creditors	86,872.48	Balance in hand -	
		Barclays Bank - Treasurer's Account	24,638.17
		Barclays Bank - Business Premium Account	405,163.33
		National Savings	5,111.63
			434,913.13
	<u>2,964,968.19</u>		<u>2,964,968.19</u>

March East Internal Drainage Board

Barclays - Treasurers Account 2025/2026

1st April 2025			31st March 2026	
Balance brought forward	378,028.15		Payments made during the year	174,495.76
31st March 2026				
Receipts during the year				
Clerk's collection account	221,850.75			
Interest on deposit accounts	<u>4,418.36</u>	226,269.11	Balance carried forward	429,801.50
		<u>604,297.26</u>		<u>604,297.26</u>

National Savings - Treasurers Account 2024/2025

1st April 2025			31st March 2026	
Balance brought forward	5,061.02		Payments made during the year	0.00
31st March 2026				
Interest on deposit accounts	50.61		Balance carried forward	5,111.63
		<u>5,111.63</u>		<u>5,111.63</u>

Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2026

Barclays Bank PLC

Current Account

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2026	40,000.00
Less unrepresented cheques	
30/03/2026 2025/42	11,537.83
30/03/2026 2025/43	1,313.00
30/03/2026 2025/44	1,313.00
30/03/2026 2025/45	<u>1,198.00</u>
	15,361.83
Add outstanding lodgements	0.00
Balance per Trial Balance	<u>24,638.17</u>

Cash balances as at 31st March 2026

Barclays Bank PLC

Current Account	24,638.17
Business Premium Account	405,163.33

National Savings

Investment Account per passbook	5,111.63
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<u>Total reconciled cash balances per accounts</u>	63	<u>434,913.13</u>
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March East IDB**Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return****Financial year ended 31st March 2026****Per Annual
Return**

<u>Line 1</u>	<u>Balances brought forward</u> General Fund Development charges account Contributions Holding account Asset Replacement Fund	249,354.19 49,623.43 13,940.59 43,545.27 356,463.48	356,464
<u>Line 2</u>	<u>Rates and Special Levies</u> Agricultural rates Special Levies Penalty Costs Write-off	88,453.80 84,371.00 0.00 0.00 -81.00 172,743.80	172,744
<u>Line 3</u>	<u>Total other receipts</u> Interest General fund Development charges account Asset Replacement Fund Consent applications Stitches Fen Cont. Highland Water Discharge contributions Rent Storm Recovery Grant T2b Grant in Aid Write back of Provision	 3,253.38 647.45 568.14 250.00 378.00 2,649.95 340.00 7,800.00 158,459.29 0.00 0.00 174,346.21	174,346
<u>Line 4</u>	<u>Staff costs</u> Wages/salaries National insurance contributions Pension costs Travelling expenses	 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00	0
<u>Line 5</u>	<u>Loan repayments</u> PWLB - Principal PWLB - Interest	 0.00 0.00 0.00	0

Line 6**All other payments**

Precept	13,298.66
Rates, insurances, telephones	3,944.58
Repairs and renewals	9,294.91
Fuel	19,789.21
Drainworks	38,385.10
Administration	16,492.03
Development charges fees	0.00
Contractors charges	12,164.00
Improvements	158,459.29
Write back of provisions	0.00

271,827.78**271,828****Line 7****Balances carried forward**

General Fund	305,590.83
Development charges account	48,080.88
Contributions Holding account	13,940.59
Asset Replacement Fund	64,113.41

431,725.71**431,726**

Reconciliation

Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6

431,725.71

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	
1. Balances brought forward	242,241	356,464	<i>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.</i> <i>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.</i>
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	170,369	172,744	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>
3. (+) Total other receipts	151,802	174,346	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>
4. (-) Staff costs	0	0	<i>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.</i>
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>
6. (-) All other payments	207,948	271,828	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>
7. (=) Balances carried forward	356,464	431,726	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	383,089	434,913	<i>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.</i>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	2,446,370	2,446,370	<i>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.</i>
10. Total borrowings	0	0	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>

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

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

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

18 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:	MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	Subject:	FINANCE REPORT: LOOKING FORWARD
Date:	Thursday 28 th May 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. Review & approve Determination of land for rating purposes, Rate arrears D. Note the Precept to the Environment Agency E. Review & Approve Rating Estimates for 2026/2027 F. Consider & approve the Agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levy requirements for 2026/2027 G. Note that we will be introducing a consistent naming convention for MLC and IDB Reserves during 2026/27, this will include some rationalisation of funds.			

Finance Officer's summary and key messages

The rating estimates for 2026/2027 are made up of standard budget provisions and the engineers estimate for drain maintenance works for the coming year.

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:

Latches Fen pumping station

The Pump Impeller is due for refitting in the summer and £38,400 has been included in the budget for this.

Following the refurbishment of the weedscreen it now has it's on control panel. It is advised that the electric and diesel engine control panels should be updated. A provision of £18,000 and £10,000 for the Electric and diesel control panels respectively has been included in the budget.

Bedlam Pumping Station

The control panels are more than 50 years old. Replacement controls panels are likely to cost £30,000. £30,000 has been included in the budget for the replacement.

£20,000 has been included in the budget for future capital investment works.

Members should note that the budget proposal includes for the full recovery of highland water claims of £747 which is an adjustment to the 2025/26 claim and the 2026/27 estimated claim. Also, included in the budget is £61,490 from balances for the Impeller works and control panel replacements as identified above.

1. Fees, Remunerations and Subscriptions

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

The Sum of £7,800 was allowed for services of the District Officer for 2025/26 together with expenses of up to £540

1.2 Consider the rent payable for Latches Fen Bungalow

The sum of £7,800 was allowed for the rental of Latches Fen Bungalow for 2025/26

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 £13,298.66.

3. Determination of land for rating purposes, 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 in order 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 Land Values for Rating & Rate Arrears

Appendix 2 Estimates for 2026/27

Appendix 3 Rate Requirements for 2026/27

MARCH EAST IDB

Determination of Annual Values for Rating purposes

June 2026

2026-2027

		Transfer value to Special Levy - £1657.126 per hectare	Area (Hectares)	Agricultural Land	Special Levies		Rate W/Offs	
					Fenland	TOTAL		
Opening Values (£)		2630.095		442,269	421,853	864,122		
Opening %				51.18%	48.82%	100.00%		
<u>Location</u>	<u>Reason for change.</u>							
Wimblington Road March	Change of use to housing development	1.518	-225	2,516	2,291	0	45.00	Apr-25
Hook Road	Part of poultreys houses	2.848	-400	4,719	4,319	0	5.20	Apr-24
Hook Road	Part of Poly tunnels	0.092	-13	152	139	0	160.00	Apr-24
					0	0		
					0	0		
					0	0		
					0	0		
Total determinations		2630.095	-638	7,387	6,749			
Closing Values (£)				441,631	429,240	870,871		
Closing %				50.71%	49.29%	100.00%		
							£210.20	

Appendix 2

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD BUDGET PROPOSAL - 2026/2027

	<u>Approved budget</u> <u>2025/2026</u> £	<u>Actual to</u> <u>31/03/2026</u> £	<u>Proposed Budget</u> <u>2026/2027</u> £	<u>Remarks</u>
				A - Assume Increase of 10% in premiums.
				B - Based on 3 year average usage assuming a 20% Increase in rates from October 2026
1 District Labour	12,700	12,164	12,803	
2 Telephone and Insurances	3,850	3,945	4,500 ^A	C - Includes Flail Mowing 10,084 Slubbing 19,395
3 Fuel (Electricity, Oil etc)	49,500	19,789	39,625 ^B	Fees - Planning and Development/Ecological 7,173 Weed Control 1,734
4 Repairs and renewals	7,250	9,295	7,250	38,385
5 Drainworks (including Environmental Measures)	43,000	38,385 ^C	37,000 ^D	D - Includes Engineers Estimates
6 Administration Charge, Health and Safety Contract, Audit fee, Printing, Stationery, Advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions etc	15,400	16,492	16,950	E - Future works provision 20,000
7 Environment Agency Precept	13,299	13,299	13,565	F - Includes: Latches Fen PS - Pump Impeller 38,500 Binnimoor PS - Weedscreen Overhaul 25,000
8 Future Improvement Works	20,000 ^E	20,000 ^E	20,000 ^E	G - Includes: Bedlam PS - Weedscreen Overhaul * 43,829 Latches Fen PS - Weedscreen Overhaul * 64,470 Binnimoor PS - Weedscreen Overhaul * 28,427 Access Improvements - Mobile Pump Deployment * 21,733
9 Improvement Works	63,500 ^F	158,459 ^G	96,400 ^H	158,459
	228,499	291,828	248,092	H - Latches Fen PS - Pump Impeller 38,400 Latches Fen - Electric Pump Control Panel 18,000 Latches Fen - Diesel Pump Control Panel 10,000 Bedlam - Control Panel Replacement 30,000
LESS Interest, Rent, Highland Water Development charges etc	55,296	174,943 ^I	73,540 ^J	I - Includes: Full Highland Water Claim 2,650 Rental Income 7,800 Storm Recovery T2B Grant * 158,459
	173,203	116,885	174,552	
	20.00p		20.00p	J - Includes: Full Highland Water Claim 688 Rental Income 7,800 Use of Funds 61,490
General Fund				
Opening balance	250,400	250,400	305,591	
PYA	81	(1,046)		
Rates set	173,122	173,122	174,552	
Net expenditure	173,203	116,885	174,552	
Use of Balances			(61,490)	
Closing balance	250,400	305,591	244,101	

March East 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 – 50.71%
- b) Proportion to be borne by Special levy issued to Fenland District Council – 49.29%.

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £4,416.

In 2026/2027 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levy would raise £8,728.

Revenue cash balance in hand on 31st March 2026 - £305,591.

The estimated net expenditure for the Boards Revenue and Capital Programmes in 2026/2027 is £174,552 and equivalent to: -

- a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 20.00p and
- b) a Special levy on Fenland District Council of £84,848.
- c) a Stitches Fen contribution from Cambridgeshire County Council of £378

In 2025/2026 a rate of 20.00p in the £ was raised together with a Special levy of £84,371 on Fenland District Council and a contribution of £378 from Cambridgeshire County Council.

P BURROWS

Clerk to the Board

May 2026