RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Administered by:

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22nd May 2026

Dear Board Members

Upcoming meeting of the Board
Friday 29th May 2026

Please find overleaf the agenda for the meeting of the Board on Friday 29th May 2026.

Inspection at **10am** – meeting at New Fen Farm PE26 2SN

Followed by lunch at **1pm** at The Old Nene Golf Club, Ramsey PE26 2XQ

Followed by the meeting of the Board at **2pm**.

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

RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Friday 29th May 2026 – 2pm

The Old Nene Golf Club, Ramsey PE26 2XQ

Agenda:

Item No	*Topic*	*Format*	*Lead*
Inspection	**Meeting at New Fen Farm, PE26 2SN at 10am**		
1	Welcome & apologies	Verbal	Chair
2	Declarations of Interest	Verbal	Chair
3	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	Pages 3 - 13	Chair
4	Constitution & Membership	Pages 14 - 16	Clerk
5	Clerk's Report	Pages 17 - 21	Clerk
6	Environment Officer's Report	Pages 22 - 23	Clerk
7	Chairman's Items	Verbal	Chair
8	Consulting Engineer's Reports	Pages 24 - 32	Clerk or Engineer
9	Health & Safety	Pages 33 - 41	Chair
10	District Officer's Report	Verbal	DO
11	Governance • Accounts Return for 2024/2025 • Auditors report for 2024/2025 (link) • Annual Governance Statement	Pages 42 - 44 Pages 45 - 49 Page 50	Clerk
12	Finance Report: looking back • Budget Review • Payments 2025 • Annual Accounts and Finance papers 2025/2026	Pages 51 - 52 Page 53 Pages 54 Pages 55 - 59	Clerk
13	Finance Report: looking forward • Rating Estimates for 2024/2025 • Agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levy requirements or 2024/2025	Pages 60 - 61 Page 62 Page 63	Clerk
14	Date of Next Meetings: Friday 8th Jan 2027 & Friday 28th May 2027	Verbal	Chair
15	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.)

RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley Internal Drainage Board
Held at the Old Nene Golf Club, Ramsey on 9th January 2026.

PRESENT

R Blackhurst (acting chair)	J Clarke
T Bedford	J Edwards
A Butler	M McKenna
L Butler	C Wilkinson

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

Welcome and Apologies

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Board for their work.

Apologies for absence were received from S Bedford, S Corney, S Cornwell, A Roberts & A Wagstaffe.

B.1466 Declarations of Interest

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

Mr L Butler and Mr A Butler declared an interest in any matters relating to E. M. Butler Ltd.

Mr L Butler declared an interest in any matters relating to the District Officer.

B.1467 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Mr Wilkinson reminded the Board of the discussion with Mr Edwards at the last meeting regarding the lack for freeboard in the drains around Mr Edwards' land. Mr Wilkinson advised that he is also experiencing the same issue around his land but does not know what to do. Even in the winter months there is either none or hardly any freeboard which prevents water from draining from his land. He asked if there had been any conclusion to Mr Edwards' issue.

The Vice Chair asked if the Upwood Common pump had been running. The District Officer advised that the pumping station sits in a basin with no holding area for water. The Vice Chair added that in the past the Board have talked about dropping the levels held in the drain in the summer although Mr Wilkinson did not have an issue with summer levels. The District Officer agreed to go and have a look to see if he could see any issues.

Mr Clarke asked if the issue could be traced back to the width of the drains, observing that they are not very wide. Mr A Butler agreed and added that at Upwood Common there is an issue with weed, but it is not possible to empty the drain. The District Officer had pumped to the lowest level he could the previous day, and Mr Wilkinson advised he did not know what effect that had on his land. It was agreed that next time the District Officer was able to do this, he would contact Mr Wilkinson so they could review the impact. The Vice Chair added that this information would help with any decisions made.

The Vice Chair asked for further information relating to the pumping at Upwood Common, and it was established that the District Officer manages the levels according to the weather. The Board thanked him for his work in this respect.

The Vice Chair suggested that Mr Wilkinson and the District Officer trial the pumping levels as previously discussed, and the Board carry out an inspection in the summer to look at the potential to widen ditches to provide additional capacity. Mr A Butler suggested that the issue could be due to weed and the regime to slub every three years. The Vice Chair added that he had previously suggested slubbing every other year, and the benefits of slubbing annually were discussed.

Mr Clarke asked if it would be beneficial to ask MLC to survey and take the water levels, and Mr A Butler asked that, as the drain was three quarters full of weed, if the Board could start spraying. The Vice Chair added that previously the Board would spray regularly in conjunction with 3 yearly slubbing, but this was no longer an option available to the Board. Mr Clarke suggested that a further meeting of the Board be held between now and the June meeting, to discuss the various options. Mrs Martin suggested that the Board could seek advice from Morgan Lakey at MLC due to his wide-ranging experience in this regard.

RESOLVED

> That the Board meet during March to discuss further the issues around drain clearance and widening/maintaining drains and invite Morgan Lakey of MLC to attend.
>
> MLC to extend the drain survey area to include Mr Wilkinsons land as well as Mr Edwards.
>
> That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 9th January 2025 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1468 Constitution & Membership

Elections, Vacancies and Appointments

Mrs Martin advised that there are currently no vacancies on the Board, and that the next election of the Board will be later this year.

The importance of attendance was discussed, with the Vice Chair observing that some members struggle to attend regularly, and they should consider if they should stand down. He added that he would like to see more younger Board members joining.

Training

Mrs Martin reminded the Board that the updated version of the ADA Good Governance Guide is available, and that the original training videos are still available to view online. She advised the Board that training is now included in the IDB1 report and so Board member training is reported on.

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

B.1469 Clerk's Report

Mrs Martin gave a verbal report on behalf of the Clerk.

IDB Fund

2025/26 has begun how 2024/25 ended with delivery being the primary focus. MLC were successful in securing approximately £4.5m of grant for a number of IDB Fund (Tranche 2b) submissions and the administration and delivery of these commitments has been a primary focus particular for staff in M&E, Operations, Environment & Ecology and Finance, meaning some 'business as usual' activity has been impacted:

- Mobile Pumps – Phase 2 - £1.2m
- St Germans Pumping Station Resilience Phase 2 - £1m
- Bevill's Pond Resilience - £0.3m (MLC and Sawtry IDB)
- Asset Resilience – Pumps and Channels - £2m (MLC and IDBs) – including Upwood Common and Green Dyke PS Control Panel replacements - £25k

This fund, coming with less constraints than FCRM grant-in-aid, is enabling us to think and invest differently. In the Clerks view we need 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. 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 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.

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.

Electricity Service

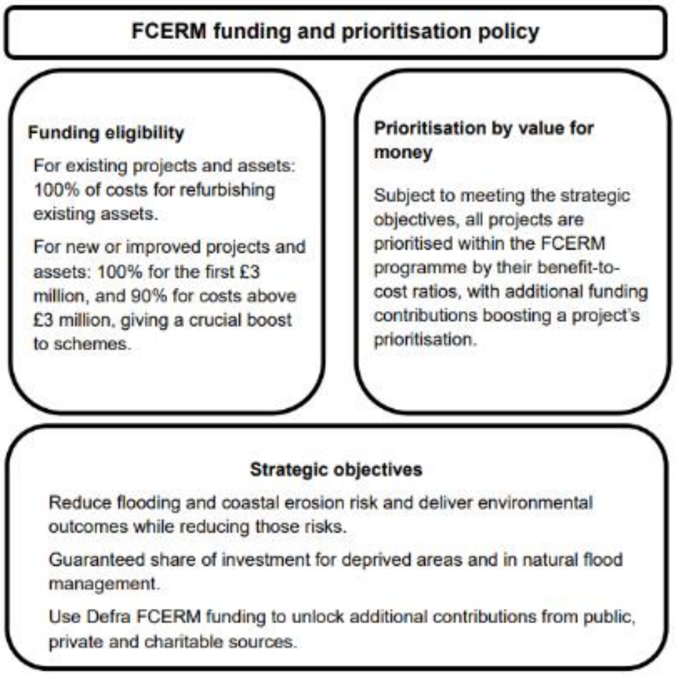
The 12-month group (MLC and IDBs) contract with EDF Energy ceased on 30th September 2025. This contract was facilitated by brokers GEAB.

A sub-Committee of MLC Board Members and IDB Chairman 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.

Defra Flood Funding Policy

Following consultation earlier in the year, Defra has finalised its new funding policy and responded to the consultation. We provided and published a comprehensive response.

This policy is for capital flood grant and goes live from 1st April 2026.



Key points for MLC and IDBs:

a) Refurbishment is a significant fix on an asset that can't be addressed by routine maintenance alone. Further guidance is expected on this aspect.
b) When applying for Defra FCERM funding for refurbishment of existing assets, asset owners will need to demonstrate that they have undertaken whole life asset management and routine maintenance.
c) As partnership contributions increase, the amount of Defra FCERM funding needed decreases, leading to higher project prioritisation. The more significant the partnership contribution, the larger the likelihood of boosting prioritisation.
d) The '2012' rule has been removed meaning new development can be included within benefit assessments. We will commission an economic and benefits refresh across the Middle Level to update our base information.
e) The need to demonstrate a reduction in flood risk band as a result of works has been removed.
f) Defra acknowledge concerns from other risk management authorities that they are at a disadvantage compared to the Environment Agency. The policy states that all risk management authorities should have equal access to FCERM funding.

<u>IDB Funding & Costs Research</u>

A joint Defra and MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 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. 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.

One of the key issues the research will be assessing is the impact that special levies to IDBs is having on Local Authorities. This issue is being promoted by a Local Government Association 'IDB Levey Special Interest Group'.

Around 40 councils across England are working together to lobby the Government for reform to the funding system that supports the vital work of Internal Drainage Boards. IDBs are primarily funded through drainage rates charged directly on the occupiers of agricultural land within each drainage district and a special levy on district and unitary councils on behalf of the non-agricultural land within each district. Each council primarily funds the cost of the special levy through a combination of central government grants, their share of business rates and revenue from council tax levied on local properties. Due to rising costs in such things as electricity that power the pumping stations at times of flooding and sustained heavy rain, the special levy amount has been increasingly significantly in recent years.

On the evening of Tuesday 2nd September 2025 there was a parliamentary meeting of the LGA's IDB Levy Special Interest Group. The meeting was attended by the leaders and portfolio holders from a number of special levy paying local authorities at the House of Commons alongside several members of parliament. ADA and IDBs were also represented by Robert Caudwell, Michael Sly, Daniel Withnall (Black Sluice IDB), and Paul Burrows (Middle Level Commissioners).
Reflecting on the meeting within the ADA Gazette, Paul Burrows said:
"It's pleasing that Local Authorities and MPs appreciate the criticality of the work the Internal Drainage Board sector play in enabling prosperous local communities. After all, every other Council service relies on keeping homes, business, land and infrastructure dry. We need to be mindful of potential unintended consequences within any call for funding reform, particularly the special levies that Councils raise on our behalf. It is important that the IDB Costs & Funding Research commissioned by Defra gets under the skin of the issues and makes considered and well-evaluated recommendations."

<u>IDB1</u>

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 have on us in terms of governance and responsibilities.

Whilst we can derive the majority of the financial and non-financial information on behalf of our administered IDBs, there are questions where we require information from the Boards directly.
To assist Sam Ablett in preparing the form for return, each Chairman has been asked to respond with information covering a list of questions which has been provided, but include details around watercourse maintenance, Health and Safety, Board members training, and public and press engagement.

Mr Wilkinson asked if a detailed written report could be provided prior to the next meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Clerks Report be approved.

B.1470 Environment Officers' Report

Mrs Martin gave a verbal report on behalf of the Environment Officer.

Environmental Risk Management

Environmental Compliance and Standard Operations
This year we have developed and published a new suite of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for all routine channel maintenance operations, for both MLC and IDBs. The procedures set out, in practical terms, how operatives should undertake each activity in order to remain compliant with a wide range of environmental law including around protected species. The SOPs are also provided to all contractors working for or on behalf of MLC and IDBs to ensure that there is harmony in the way all IDB channels are managed across the district. The SOPs cover flail mowing, desilting and weed-cutting basket work, managing aquatic plants with weed boats, biosecurity procedures and managing dissolved oxygen levels. This helps to evidence our competence in environmental management, which helps to increase opportunities to access funding for further environmental enhancements that would benefit our water level management activities. It also helps to reduce the risk of prosecution and the associated costs for non-compliance.

Environmental Screening of non-routine works

A huge number of non-routine works have been assessed by the department this year to identify and mitigate for environmental impacts. Assessments have included large DEFRA-funded projects such as St Germans solar project and Bevill's Leam pump overhaul, IDB tranche 2 works including bank repairs and culvert replacements and for residual MLSRMS activities, such as bank reinstatement and cutter-suction dredging preparation. These assessments have been undertaken alongside a full book of "normal" IDB and MLC non-routine projects such as culvert repairs, tree and scrub encroachment management, invasive non-native species control and aquatic vegetation control. This has helped MLC and IDBs to ensure their compliance with a full spectrum of environmental and wildlife laws.
Website

The "Ecology and Environment" web pages on the MLC website have been updated to showcase all the great work we do and the approaches we take to support our local wildlife to thrive, alongside our flood risk and water level management. News of our latest activities and surveys are published along with a library of resources and links to help others to better support nature in and around IDB channels. A dedicated page for IDBs has been developed which includes a library of advice, guidance, templates and much more to help them achieve and excel in environmental compliance and delivery.

Biosecurity & Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

Our biosecurity procedure has been updated and published this year, along with new biosecurity kits for all operatives and refreshed biosecurity training. This is well timed as a number of extremely problematic invasive non-native species (INNS), such as floating pennywort, are getting ever closer to us in bordering systems. We have renewed our efforts to ensure that everyone that uses or works in our channels are better informed of common INNS and what to do if they are spotted. Alerts have been refreshed and reissued to all stakeholders, partners, contractors and IDBs; flyers are being handed out to all boaters, and the planning department are to begin to include an alert with all consent application responses. This should help to strengthen our borders, for now at least.

IDB Service Packages

IDB service package delivery has progressed well in its first season since launching. We have met with nearly all IDBs to discuss their environmental compliance and delivery, and new Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) are being drafted for each. The new SOPs and other resources, templates and procedures have been disseminated and are available through the IDB portal on the MLC website. A number of annual surveys have been completed and published which helps to benchmark the effect that current operations have on biodiversity. We can then be more confident in promoting the positive effects our management has on biodiversity, or in adapting regimes to improve environmental outcomes.
Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Development
We are grateful to have led the development of the “Fen Main Drain” and “Drainage Ditches” sections of the new (draft) Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Cambridgeshire. The LNRS will be key to focussing efforts to conserve and enhance biodiversity in our local area and it recognises that the habitats we manage are of significant importance in our area for biodiversity. Our driving role has ensured that only activities and enhancements that are compatible with our flood risk and water level management operations are promoted for consideration via development or funding. For IDBs, the Strategy could generate significant funding opportunities where the IDB can demonstrate that biodiversity will be enhanced by improving flood risk and water level management. Such measures may include the funding of additional or improved water level control structures, such as solar-powered tilting weirs, which could provide more localised and flexible water level management within IDB catchments in a more efficient and dynamic way. The Strategy is likely to encourage more funding for riparian margins to be taken out of cultivation to benefit biodiversity but will also allow more flexible and efficient management access for IDB operations.

Similarly to the Clerks Report, Mr Wilkinson asked if a detailed written report could be provided prior to the next meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Environment Report be approved.

B.1471 Chairmans Items

The Vice Chair gave a verbal report.

He advised that the Chair had discussed the issue of amalgamation with other Board Chairs at the Chairs Meeting in December. The Chair felt that other Boards were not keen on the idea of amalgamation. The Chair spoke at the Chairs meeting and reported on this Boards feelings about amalgamation.

It was agreed at the last meeting that the vegetation at New Fen Pumping Station would be removed. Mr L Butler advised that he thought the Environmental Screening Report and subsequent survey had been completed.
Mr A Butler thought that the bushes were on the Chair’s land and that he could go ahead with the works as he saw fit. The Vice Chair asked that as this item had not been resolved that it should be picked up at the next meeting of the Board. The project needs to continue so as to address the subsidence at the pumping station.

The Vice Chair raised the issue of the Upwood Common Pumping Station roadway, and that he would like to come to an agreement regarding the roadway. Mr A Butler did not think that the Board needed to contribute to the costs of repairing the roadway, and that the Board discuss the roadway and the issues with trees and road surface at every meeting. The Board have an interest to get to the bottom of the issues with the roadway. Mr A Butler and Mr L Butler declared an interest in this item and the Vice Chair asked them both to leave the room whilst the Board discussed the issues further.

The Vice Chair explained that as a Board they needed access along the full extent of the roadway in order to access and maintain the Upwood Common pumping station. Following a recent incident when electricity had to be supplied via a generator, the access road was unsuitable for the vehicles required to deliver the generator and alternative access had to be found.

Mrs Martin explained the situation relating to the ownership of the Droves to the Board, advising that a report had been given to the Board in 2017 on this issue. Mr Clarke advised that a previous Clerk to the Board had also provided a Statement of Truth explaining the same.

The Vice Chair suggested that this item should not be discussed further at this meeting but asked that the earlier report and Statement be provided to the Chair and Vice Chair, and the issue discussed further when the Board next meet. The Board agreed this as a suitable way forward.

Mr L Butler and Mr A Butler re-joined the meeting.

RESOLVED

> That the vegetation clearance at New Fen Pumping Station be reported upon at the next meeting.
>
> That the report and Statement of Truth relating to the Droves be provided to the Chair and Vice Chair.
>
> That the issues relating to the roadway to Upwood Common Pumping Station be discussed further at the next meeting.

B.1472 Consulting Engineers' Reports

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

Enforcement & Compliance Overview

Mrs Martin reported that the Enforcement & Compliance Officers have been successful in recovering the outstanding drainage charges relating to the discharge from the Ramsey Tesco site. The Board expressed their satisfaction in the resolution of this matter.

Planning

The Board were asked to consider a discharge consent application received in relation to a new biounit at Egg Mere Court Road. The Board did not think enough information had been provided in the agenda to allow them to make an informed decision and were concerned that a wayleave consent over third party land would also be required in order to reach an outfall point. They resolved further information should be provided to the Chair, and that the final decision as to whether to give consent should rest with the Chair.

Mechanical and Electrical

The Board considered the report of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineer. His key message is that the Board's 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. The Board agreed that an investment plan be developed by the Consulting Engineer.

The Vice Chair advised that he had discussed the need to overhaul Green Dyke pump with the Chair. The pump was last overhauled in 1986 and the pump is almost 50 years old. Mr A Butler raised his concern that the refurbishment be appropriate to the Board's requirements and asked for more detail regarding what would be looked at. The Vice Chair hoped that modifications could be made to allow the pump to be run using a Power Take-off (PTO). Mr L Butler asked if a non-return valve (NRV) could be installed under the floor, to give further protection to the existing configuration.

The Board agreed that the overhaul go ahead with the budget costs of £40-60k as reported. The Board also asked that the issues with the discharge flap door as reported also be addressed within the budget if possible.

Mr A Butler reported that the Green Dyke pumping station doors had been replaced with a roller shutter door, which meant that the door could not be left ajar whilst still secured when the pump was running as previously, so that there was no way to cool the motor. The Vice Chair suggested that the advice of Mr Bantoft be sought in relation to this.

Electricity Meter Readings

Mrs Martin reminded the Board of the importance of providing electricity meter readings and how these affect the accuracy of the electricity billing process. The Board acknowledged this and the District Officer agreed to endeavour to provide monthly readings.

RESOLVED

That the Planning Engineer liaise with the Chair regarding the discharge consent at Ugg Mere Court Road, and that the Chair should make the final consenting decision.

The refurbishment of 1 pump go-ahead during summer of 2026, and this should be at Green Dyke Pumping Station.

That the Consulting Engineer liaise with Mr L Butler regarding the pump refurbishment at Green Dyke Pumping Station.

That Mr L Butler liaises with Mr Bantoft regarding the roller shutter door at Green Dyke Pumping Station.

That the reports are noted.

B.1473 Health & Safety

The Vice Chair gave a verbal report on behalf of the Chair. He felt that the Board were working well with the Health & Safety Consultants, and other than waiting for the delivery of some signage from MLC, there was nothing to report.

B.1458 District Officers Report

The District Officer gave a verbal report. He advised the Board that drain works completed during 2025 were completed satisfactorily.

He reported that there had been an issue with the electricity supply to the Upwood Common pumping station resulting in the loss of a supply phase at the end of November. Because of the leaning electricity supply poles, it was not possible for UKPN to gain access with their lorry, they could not repair the leaning pole, and they could not bridge the supply as the cable was brittle. A 200kVA generator had to be supplied to the pumping station on the back of a lorry but access issues were encountered. The circumstances resulted in the pumping station being without a power supply for 12 hours.

The Board discussed their frustration with the ongoing issues regarding the main power supplies in the area, and the leaning supply poles which were seen to be a significant Health & Safety risk. It was believed that both the issues with the leaning power supply poles and the issues with the overhanging trees have been raised before with the appropriate people but still neither issue has been satisfactorily resolved.

The Vice Chair asked the District Officer if the pumping station could have been run using a PTO if the power failure had continued. The District Officer confirmed that the pumps could have run, but it would not have been possible to grease the bearings as this is usually managed by a three-phase motor, and there are no grease points.

The District Officer was thanked for his report.

B.1474 Finance Report

Finance officer's review and key messages

The Board considered and noted the key finance messages of the Finance Officer, and the receipt of £25,000 Grant Aid from the T2B Storm Recovery Grant.

Budget Monitoring

The Board reviewed the forecast against the budget and noted that pumping costs are estimated.

Highland Water Contributions

The Board noted the Highland Water contributions.

Contributions from Developers – Confidential Papers

The Board noted the contributions.

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 2026, to £5,771.02.

B.1475 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

> That a meeting be held during March (date to be advised) as discussed.
>
> That the next Meeting of the Board be held on 29th May 2026 at 2pm at the Old Nene Golf Club, Ramsey. An inspection will be held prior to the meeting.

B.1476 Any Other Business

The Vice Chair asked if the District Officer was aware of any works being undertaken on the Catchwater this year. Mr L Butler advised that a meeting had been held the previous day, and that it was proposed that maintenance be carried out from Bury Lane Farm to Berry Green Farm on the field side. No dates have been agreed but the works have been subject to an environmental review and works can commence straight away.

Mr Clarke advised that a planning application had been submitted by David Wilson Homes for a development on Biggin Lane and asked that MLC ensure they respond on behalf of the Board. He was particularly concerned that as MLC have advised their system is at capacity, the development would discharge into the Catchwater. Mrs Martin agreed to raise the issue with the Planning Engineer.

The Vice Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting, adding that he felt that the Board were responsible for making room for the growth of Ramsey, and for continuing to manage the resilience of the Board.

Mr A Butler advised that there has been a small slip on the Catchwater Channel which has been reviewed by Sofi Lloyd and asked that this item be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

With no other items being raised by the Board, the meeting was closed at 4.15pm.

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	4
Meeting:	**RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**CONSTITUTION & MEMBERSHIP**
Date:	**Friday 29th 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. Approve the proposed Register of Electors
C. Note the current status of its membership and the role they each play as members serving the interests of the Board.
D. Review attendance records and identify any resolutions as necessary.
E. Outline the training undertaken in the last year as well as future needs or plan for training.

1. Current status

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

	Elected Members	Appointed Members	Total Members	Quorum
Composition	12	N/A		6
Actual	12	0	12	
Vacancies	0	2		

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

No	Name	Status (one of four categories)	Commentary
1	Stuart Bedford	Ratepayer	
2	Thomas Bedford	Ratepayer	
3	Richard Blackhurst	Ratepayer	Vice-Chair
4	Ashley Butler	Nominee of Ratepayer (J&H Edwards)	
5	Stuart Cornwell	Ratepayer	
6	Jason Edwards	Ratepayer	
7	Michael Lambert	Ratepayer	
8	Mike Mckenna	Nominee of Ratepayer (AG Reserves)	
9	Andrew Roberts	Nominee of Ratepayer (D C Roberts)	Chairman
10	Andrew Wagstaffe	Ratepayer	
11	Christopher Wilkinson	Ratepayer	
12	Leo Butler	Nominee of Ratepayer (J&H Edwards)	District Officer
	Jeffrey Clarke	Guest	

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)
	Awaiting appointment	HDC	

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	09/01/2026	30/05/2025	10/02/2025	08/05/2024
1	Stuart Bedford	Apologies	Present	Apologies	Present
2	Thomas Bedford	Present	Present	Present	Apologies
3	Richard Blackhurst	Present	Present	Present	Apologies
4	Ashley Butler	Present	Present	Present	Apologies
5	Stuart Cornwell	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Present
6	Jason Edwards	Present	Present	Present	Present
7	Michael Lambert		Present	Present	Apologies
8	Mike Mckenna	Present		Apologies	Present
9	Andrew Roberts	Apologies	Present	Apologies	Present
10	Andrew Wagstaffe	Apologies	Present	Present	Apologies
11	Christopher Wilkinson	Present		Apologies	Apologies
12	Leo Butler	Present	Present	Present	Present

Attendance at Chairs Meetings

NO	**NAME**	**5/12/2025**	**6/12/2024**	**6/10/2023**	**13/12/2022**
1	Andrew Roberts	Present	Present	apologies	Present

Appointed Members (current and previous)

No	Name (Council)	09/01/2026	30/5/2025	9/1/2025	08/05/2024
1	J Clarke (HDC)	Present	Present	Present	Present
2	S Corney (HDC)	Apologies		Present	Apologies

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 11 years, and the tenure of the current Vice Chairman is 11 years.

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

3.3 The proposed Register of Electors which is applicable to this election will be available to the Board for approval.

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:	**RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**CLERK'S REPORT**
Date:	**Friday 29th 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:

4. Funding and Financial Review: To analyse IDB funding mechanisms, operational costs and financial pressures over the past decade and explore future funding options.
5. Benefit Evaluation: To assess the economic and social value of IDBs' work, both locally and nationally.

6. Data Modernisation: To explore how the annual IDB1 Form can be improved and modernised for better data collection and reporting.

The project will include:

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

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

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

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

9. IDB 1 (Annual Reporting to Defra)

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

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

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

10. IDB Precept

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

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

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

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

Author Name: Paul Burrows
Role: Clerk

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	6
Meeting:	**RAMSEY, UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**
Date:	**Friday 29th 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/ramsey-upwood-great raveley/

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

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

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

Review of Key Environmental Compliance Indicators (KCIs)

Key:	Not Achieved / Information Not Available	Partly complete / A date has been set for completion (provide date and resource)	Complete

Name of Board Environmental Representative:	**Andrew Roberts**

KCI:	Description of KCI:	Status:	Comments:
1.	A current channel categorisation map & reasoning is available	Partly complete	3-year flail rotation & desilting but needs mapping. LB will progress
2.	Standard Operating Procedures audit has been undertaken and works considered compliant	Partly complete	LB will progress
3.	The previous year's maintenance record is available for review and to inform the following year's works planning.	Partly complete	LB will progress
4.	A channel maintenance plan (flail mowing and desilting) has been prepared for Board review and approval.	Partly complete	LB will progress
5.	All non-routine works undertaken in the previous year were screened for environmental impacts and opportunities using the ESR process	Complete	Yes. All Catchwater drains have been surveyed.
6.	The Biodiversity Action Plan has been reviewed and objectives for the previous year have been met and following objectives set	Complete	As Above
7.	Biodiversity budget is proposed and defined	Complete	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	Partly complete	In progress – will attend BioDay in Dec
9.	There has been no net loss of open watercourse (via culverting or other) in the district in the previous year	Complete	
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	Partly complete	In Progress

middle level commissioners

Ramsey, Upwood & Great Raveley IDB

Annual Environmental Review - Notes from Meeting

Attended by: Sofi Lloyd, Andrew Roberts

Date: 13/05/2026

Point No.	Notes	Action by and due date
1	The KCI's for the Board report was completed	
2	Noted that the flail mowing and desilting rotation is every 3 years. Concern that cutting only one side each year would mean the vegetation flops over the channel.	
3	Agreed that SL will work with LB to define the channel management maps required	
4	Discussed the importance of having LB at future environmental reviews as much of the information is geared towards those undertaking the physical work	LB 26
5	SL agreed that a the Catchwater drain is an important biodiversity feature and asset for the Board and we should develop a separate management plan to maximise its biodiversity support and to keep it flowing well.	SL 26
6	Confirmed that any works other than regular flail mowing round a badger sett are likely to require supervision from a licenced badger ecologist. This includes desilting from the bottom of the drain. Confirmed that MLC just need 2 weeks' notice to make sure a licence holder is available on the days works are planned, and the correct notifications are given to Natural England in advance.	
7	Discussed the water vole pilot project underway in Norfolk and agreed to enter more information into the newsletter	SL 26
8	Highlighted the need to ensure that the correct permits were obtained when working on or near protected trees near channels close to points 5-6, 40 and 28.	
9	SL agreed to obtain the details of the management recommendations for the section of the catchwater that runs adjacent to the Ramsey Heights Nature Reserve from the Wildlife Trust	SL 26
10	Noted that the section of No Mixed Habitat Priority Habitat mapped is no longer there. Also, the 2 small patches of deciduous woodland mapped in the SE highlands were in fact Christmas trees planted to screen water treatment works.	
11	Explained that many habitat maps are out of date so the IDB could help to update mapping.	
12	Discussed that there is a need to slow water down just outside of Ramsey at point 35. SL will highlight to the Chief Engineer so that any funding available can be made known for a possible new water level control structure to be put in place.	SL 26
13	SL stressed the importance of recording and reporting more species that are found within the area to better inform efforts for conservation and enhancement. Please use the **iRecord** app: **www.irecord.org.uk/app** and join the **Middle Level Commissioners Activity** or online *www://irecord.org.uk/join/middle-level-commissioners-nature*	All 26
14	Discussed that the IDB ditches and banks are particularly important for wildlife as there are few other refuges from cultivation or development for nature within the district otherwise.	
15	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.	AR 26
16	The remaining points were captured in the BAP review	
17	SL will load draft BAP onto the RUGR 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.	SL 26

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**	**8**
Meeting:	**RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: CHIEF ENGINEER'S SUMMARY & CAPITAL PROGRAMME**
Date:	**Friday 29th May 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Nicola Oldfield**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. 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.
B. Authorise the refurbishment in 2026 for Green Dyke Pumping Station.

1. 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.

2. Technical Services Overview

A new Senior Planning & Consenting Officer, Emma Ryder, joined the team at the beginning of March. She had been working for us on a consultancy basis since November last year and she has extensive experience in flood risk, economics and sustainable drainage. Emma is the first appointment in an ongoing recruitment campaign to better manage the increased planning and consenting workload resulting from new development across the Middle Level.

3. New FCERM grant funding guidance

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

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

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

Project types that are eligible for grant funding include:

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

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 asked to:

- Consider the development of an investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement taking account of the recommendations made in the M&E Report in Appendix 3,
- Liaise with the Consulting Engineer to determine project suitability and timescales,
- Consider and agree to making a contribution towards the project costs to aid funding prioritisation, and
- Confirm acceptance of recommendations so we can prioritise developing funding bids ASAP.

Author Name: Nicola Oldfield
Role: Chief Engineer

Appendix 1: Capital Improvement Programme
Appendix 2: Planning applications since last meeting
Appendix 3: M&E Report

Appendix 1

Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley 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
Green Dyke p/s	Pumping station replacement (includes surveys, detailed design, construction)	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	300.0	2,500.0	2,500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5300.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0	0	0.0	15.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
New Fen p/s	Pumping station replacement (includes surveys, detailed design, construction)	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	700.0	5,000.0	5,000.0	0.0	0.0	10700.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Upwood Common p/s	Pumping station replacement (includes surveys, detailed design, construction)	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6,000.0	6000.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0.4	0	0.0	14.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.4
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drainage Channels	Upwood Common/Green Dyke catchment	0	0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
	Refurbishment of inlets/outfalls	0	0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
		0	**0**	**0**	**49**	**65**	**0**	**310**	**3,200**	**7,500**	**5,000**	**0**	**6,000**	**22,124**

Appendix 2

There have been 2 planning applications since the last meeting.

There has been 1 Byelaw Consent (to discharge to a watercourse) application granted since the last meeting.

There have been 1 infiltration device applications granted since the last meeting.

There have been no Byelaw Consent (to undertake works in and around watercourses) granted since the last meeting.

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**	**8**
Meeting:	**RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL**
Date:	**Friday 29th 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 <u>M&E Equipment Key Health Indicators</u>

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

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

Table 1: Key Health Indicators

Please review the pumping station key dates below, if there are any discrepancies or you can add any details, please let me know. The key dates are an important reference and will feed into the upcoming Key Health Indicators, District Studies and development of an investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement.

	Station				
Station	**Built**	**Pump**	**Pump Overhaul**		**Controls**
Green Dyke	1954	1954/1977	1986		2026
New Fen	1949	1964 (1) 2005 (2)	2021 (1)	2005 (2)	2005
Upwood Common	1966	1966	2014		2026

The Key Health Indicators table above shows the critical area for concern and improvement is the pumps. The pumps range from 20 to 60 years old with last refurbishments ranging from 5 to 40 years ago. The Board is advised to develop and start a pump refurbishment/replacement plan for the pumps that are overdue refurbishment. Having a plan in place and underway helps to secure further grant funding when it comes available, such as the recent IDB Recovery Fund.

1.2 Electricity Readings

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

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

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

2. Maintenance and minor works

2.1 Upwood Common Pumping Station

The Pump Control Panel complete with Pulsar Ultimate has been installed as part of the IDB Fund Tranche 2B – IDB Asset Resilience GIA package.

The last routine inspection carried out at Upwood Common was 19th November 2025. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Weedscreen corroded at the top, monitor for further deterioration.

An inspection was due in March 2026 but not carried out – due to decommissioning of old control panel and installation of new panel that month.

2.2 New Fen Pumping Station

The ground stability is a major concern at this site as there is movement of the surge chamber and the slab for the control room. The last routine inspection carried out at New Fen was on 9th March 2026. The only comment was the subsidence gauge spacing is still 10.8mm.

2.3 Green Dyke

The Pump Control Panel complete with Pulsar Ultimate has been installed as part of the IDB Fund Tranche 2B – IDB Asset Resilience GIA package.

The last routine inspection carried out at Green Dyke on 19th November 2025. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Grease pump needs a new flexible coupling
2) Weedscreen heavily corroded at the top and around the waterline
3) Flap door knocking on pump shutdown
4) Concrete breaking up around outlet piles

An inspection was due in March 2026 but not carried out – due to decommissioning of old control panel and installation of new panel that month.

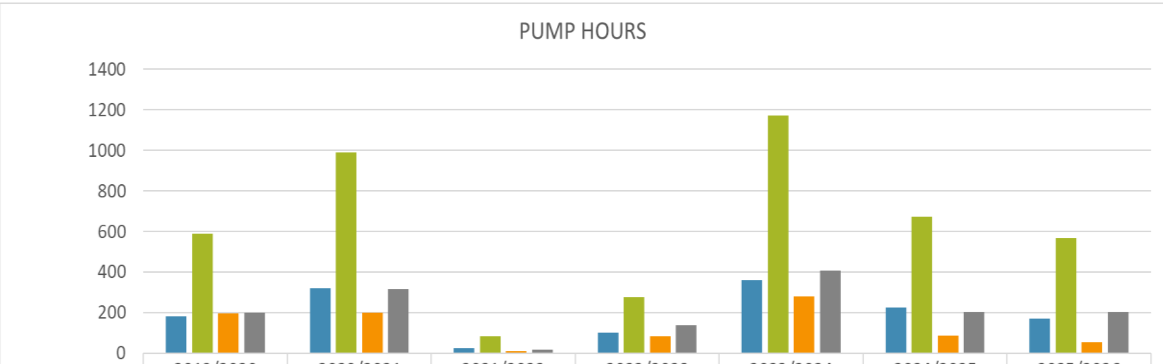
The last recorded overhaul of the pump is 1986. It had issues with noises and vibration which are thought to have been caused by something trapped within the pump. **The pump is currently running ok, due to age is due for complete overhaul. which is likely to cost in the region of £40k to £60k.** This depends on the amount of wear and how complexity of the removal and reinstallation.

The discharge flap door is noisy which was inspected while the water level was down for works at Bevills Leam, this highlighted there is wear in the in the pivots which allows the door to vibrate when closing. Due to the design of the station to undertake work on the flap door the valve in the station has to be closed. As there is no record of overhaul of this valve it would make sense to have this overhauled at the same time as the pump to then allow it to be used when the flap door is removed for repair. Removal of the flap door will require the discharge are to be dammed off to allow access.

Specialist contractors have quoted that removal, overhaul and refitting of the pump, motor and valve will be in the region of £50k, depending on pump condition.

Please confirm if the Board would like to authorise this for refurbishment.

3. Pumping summary (Up to April 2026)



	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
GREEN DYKE	181	319	26	102	361	223	171
NEW FEN 1	589	988	81	274	1173	671	566
NEW FEN 2	195	200	11	83	280	88	52
UPWOOD	200	315	17	138	406	203	201

4. Inspections

4.1 The mandatory site Electrical Installation Condition Reports (due every 5 years) are in date as shown below.

Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley	Green Dyke	12-Jul-2022	12-Jul-2027
Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley	New Fen	12-Jul-2022	12-Jul-2027
Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley	Upwood Common	12-Jul-2022	12-Jul-2027

5. Water level Management

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

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

Author Name: Dave Bantoft
Role: M&E Engineer

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	9
Meeting:	**RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**HEALTH & SAFETY**
Date:	**Friday 29th 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) Manging Safely Course is a 3-day classroom style course costing circa £600 (exc VAT). There are also online learning options available.*

Author Name: Paul Burrows
Role: Clerk

Site Safety Inspection

Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley

carried out on

Thursday, 19 February 2026

by

AW Safety Management

Key Information	
Client:	Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley IDB
Site:	New Fen Farm, Marys Road, Ramsey PE26 2SN
Site Contact:	Andrew Roberts
Site Contact E-mail:	enquiries@middlelevel.gov.uk
Inspection date:	19/02/2026
Inspected by:	Elena Spataru
Introduction:	This health and safety Inspection Report is part of the annual support programme from AW Safety Management and is designed to review the practical implementation of health and safety arrangements within the Company. The purpose of the inspection was to assess systems, management controls, working practices and identification of hazards and the controls in place. The aim was to conduct an examination to ensure that best practice is used and there has been compliance within set standards and any relevant legislation. We plan our work to ensure that we have a reasonable expectation of detecting any significant control weaknesses, however, our processes alone are not a guarantee that all operational conditions / activities will be witnessed, this is particularly relevant for any off-site activities. The responsibility for maintaining suitable controls for the safety of employees and anyone else who may be affected and safe operation of the business rests with the management of the Company. Subject areas that require action are detailed in the 'Action Plan' section of the report. Each subject is given a brief outline and the suggested remedial action required, a target completion date (based on the priority rating) and the person responsible for ensuring that the action is addressed. The person responsible listed against the action is based on our visit to site and understanding of the Company structure. Each subject area is given a priority rating, which is based on the auditor/s knowledge, understanding & judgement and is selected to highlight areas of non-compliance and provide general guidance on safe working. Where applicable, a number of key photographs are included in the report, these are referenced to the relevant subject area reference number. These can be used as a reminder of conditions at the time of inspection and provide additional guidance on the action required.

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

Purpose of Inspection / Executive Summary

The opening meeting was held with Andrew Roberts, and 3 pumping stations were visited.

The name of each station will be specified in the recommendations below, as required.

It was understood that the pump at Green Dyke is scheduled for refurbishment and that the lifting equipment will be required for the task. Please ensure that any lifting equipment and accessories used have undergone a current LOLER inspection and that all associated recommendations and control measures are implemented as required.

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

Action Plan

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

Reference Number	Additional Controls / Actions / Comments	Supporting Photographs / Pictures	Person(s) Responsible	Risk Rating	Action Complete When / Who
01	**New Fen** It was observed that a high volume of straws is present on the premises. This may create slips, trips, and fire risks. It is recommended that the area is cleared and that good housekeeping standards are maintained to prevent the accumulation of waste materials.			High	
02	**New Fen, Green Dike & Upwood Common** No safety signage has been observed to be fitted on the site entrance. Consideration should be given to fitting the general signage to cover the major hazards.	  		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**
03	**Green Dike** A first aid kit was observed on site. It is recommended that the contents and functionality of the first aid equipment are checked regularly, ideally every six months, to ensure it remains fully stocked with in-date supplies. The kit should be located in a designated area with appropriate signage. Alternatively remove the kit from site and ensure all workers visiting the site will have first aid kits available with them.			Low	
04	**Green Dike** Access to the ladder is not currently restricted, which may present a risk of falling. It is recommended that appropriate protective measures are implemented to prevent unauthorized use and reduce the risk of falls e.g. fitted chain.			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**
05	**Green Dike** Under the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992, doors and work equipment must be maintained in an efficient state and good repair. It is recommended that routine inspections conducted by a competent person are implemented at least once a year, recorded, and defects addressed promptly to ensure continued safe operation.			Low	

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

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	11
Meeting:	**RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**GOVERNANCE**
Date:	**Friday 29th May 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Paul Burrows**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Internal Controls

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

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

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

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

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

3. Risk Assessment and Insured Values

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

RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY IDB
INSURED VALUES OF PUMPING STATIONS

PUMPING STATIONS

	As At 1st April 2026	
New Fen Pumping Station	2,146,584.00	
Upwood Common Pumping Station	1,073,292.00	
Green Dyke Pumping Station	1,073,292.00	
	4,293,168.00	Index linked

4. IDB1 (Annual Report to Defra)

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

5. Exercise of Public Rights

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

5.2 In order to warrant a positive response to this 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

Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley 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 Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley 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 Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley Internal Drainage Board

The Clerk
Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley Internal Drainage Board
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambridgeshire
PE15 0AH

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

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

Announcement made by: P Burrows - Clerk to the Board

Date of Announcement: 17th September 2025

Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25

RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

WWW.MIDDLELEVEL.GOV.UK

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

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

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

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

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

Date(s) internal audit undertaken: 28/05/2025 30/05/2025 04/06/2025

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: WHITINGS LLP

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: B. BEECH ~ WHITINGS LLP

Date: 04/06/2025

***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:

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

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

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

30/05/2025

and recorded as minute reference:

B.1461

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

Chair

Clerk RMarrin

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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	*Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.*
1. Balances brought forward	275,558	278,650	*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	78,498	85,613	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	11,721	44,923	*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	87,127	64,173	*Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).*
7. (=) Balances carried forward	278,650	345,013	*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	311,800	350,974	*The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March –* ***To agree with bank reconciliation.***
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	1,770,000	1,770,000	*The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.*
10. Total borrowings	0	0	*The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).*

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

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

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

AHWood

Date 23-05-2025

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

30/05/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

B.14 b2

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 **Ramsey, Upwood and Great Raveley Internal Drainage Board - DB0080**

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

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

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

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

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

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2024/25

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

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

None.

3 External auditor certificate 2024/25

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

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date 12/09/2025

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

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

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

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

DD/MM/YYYY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

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

Chair SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk SIGNATURE REQUIRED

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Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	12
Meeting:	**RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**	**Subject:**	**FINANCE REPORT: LOOKING BACK**
Date:	**Friday 9th January 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 Contribution
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

Actual Expenditure against Budget

For 2025/2026 the Board had estimated expenditure for the year of £101,619 and set a rate of 31.00p to raise this through agricultural drainage rates and Special Levies.

Net Expenditure in 2025/26 was lower than the estimated budget because of several reasons. Drain works was over budget, this included £10,700 for Revetment works and included £10,010 for works carried out in 2024/25. Fuel costs were £14,385 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 Control Panels at Upwood Common PS and Green Dyke PS were replaced at a cost of £30,627.

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 £186,600. The Asset Replacement Fund as of 31st March is £187,604. The Developers fund balance as of 31st March 2026 is £22,533. This position is reflected in the Boards financial statements and Annual Return which they are requested to review and approve.

1. Budgeting

The budget comparison of the forecast out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2026 presented at the January 2026 Board Meeting 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 £12,973.61.

Following the submission of claims for contributions the net sum of £(1,982.67) (£6,730.10 less £8,712.77 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) was netted off against the 2025/2026 claim based on the Boards' actual expenditure on maintenance work for that financial year and the sum of £12,305.25 in respect of 80% of the Boards' 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:

Work Done	Value	Penny rate equivalent
Upwood Common PS – Control Panel Replacement	£15,290	4.66p
Green Dyke PS – Control Panel Replacement	£15,336	4.68p
	£30,627	9.34p

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: Head of Finance/Assistant Treasurer

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

APPENDIX 1

RAMSEY UPWOOD AND GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

BUDGET MONITORING 2025/2026

		Approved budget 2025/2026	Actual to 30th November 2025	Estimated Out-turn at 31st March 2026	Variance To Budget
		£	£	`	
1	Rates and Insurances	2,150	2,382 [A]	2,382 [A]	232
2	Repairs and Renewals	4,750	1,286	4,750	-
3	Fuel	30,000 [B]	5,588	30,000 [C]	-
4	Drainworks (including District Officer's Fee)	30,250 [D]	23,623 [E]	40,260 [F]	10,010
5	Administration Charge, Health and Safety Contract, Audit Fee, Printing, Stationery, Advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions Etc.	9,700	4,859	10,350	650
6	Environment Agency Precept	5,771	5,771	5,771	-
7	Plant Refurbishment Funding	20,581 [G]	0 [G]	20,581 [G]	-
8	Improvement Works	0	0	25,000 [H]	25,000
9	Reinstatement Of Balances	13,932 [I]	0	255	(13,677)
		117,134	43,511	139,349	22,215
	LESS: Government Grant, Revenue Income Etc.	15,515 [J]	11,463	37,730 [K]	22,215
		101,619	32,048	101,619	0

Estimated General Fund			
Opening balance	176,587	176,587	176,587
Rates raised	101,492	101,492	101,492
Net expenditure	101,619	32,048	101,619
Transfer to Future Works Fund			
Closing balance	176,459	246,031	176,459

Remarks

A - Premiums higher than anticipated

B - Provision based on 2 year average consumption plus estimate for new contract rates from October 2025 (5% Increase)

C - Forecast kept at budget level due to unpredictable pumping volumes.

D - Forecast kept at budget level due to unpredictable pumping volumes.

E - Forecast Includes for :-

Flail mowing & tree cutting	8,100
Slubbing	12,000
	20,100

F - Forecast Includes for :-

Flail mowing & tree cutting	8,100
Slubbing	12,000
2024/25 Works	10,010
	30,110

G - Future works at pumping stations

H -

Control Panel Replacement - Upwood Common	10,000
Control Panel Replacement - Green Dyke	15,000
	25,000

I - Provision for recovery of balances reduced by winter 2023/24 pumping. Recover over 3 years

J - Includes:

Bank interest	2,250
Highland Water	12,973

K - Includes for:

Highland Water Claim	10,323
Storm Recovery Grant - T2b	25,000
Bank interest	2,250

Appendix 2

RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

L C Butler - District Officer's fee (1st October 2024 to 31st March 2025)	2,642.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery, travelling, health & safety contract and storm recovery - tranche 1 claim	4,978.63
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	590.28
Middle Level Commissioners - Repair motor and pump at Green Dyke pumping station	334.69
Middle Level Commissioners - Repair to level controller power supply and installation of new level controller at New Fen pumping station (Accounts from Pulsar and RS Components)	3,969.29
Middle Level Commissioners - Expenses in connection with Board meeting (Account from The Old Nene Golf & Country	170.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	218.10
Middle Level Commissioners - Court fees	2.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Board ID cards	14.74
Environment Agency - Precept	2,885.51
R Martin - Expenses in connection with Board meeting (Account from The Old Nene Golf & Country Club)	39.90
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2025	813.60
The Old Nene Golf & Country Club - Expenses in connection with Board meeting	365.40
Ramsey First (Hollow) IDB - Recharge of flail mowing	12,012.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	590.28
Lattenbury Services Limited - Drain maintenance	12,840.00
The Old Nene Golf & Country Club - Expenses in connection with Board meeting prepaid for 2026	204.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP - Audit Fee (2024-2025 accounts)	504.00
IMServ - Meter operator agreement to 21st October 2026	89.42
IMServ - Annual half hourly electricity data collection to 21st October 2026	276.67
Middle Level Commissioners - Grant in aid storm recovery T2a scheme works - Upwood Common pumping station	2,149.57
Middle Level Commissioners - Grant in aid received for storm recovery T2a scheme	-2,991.72
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	616.68
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	171.90
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, storm recovery tranche 2A claim, and internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners, 2024-2025 accounts)	5,118.89
L C Butler - District Officer's fee (1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025)	2,834.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	2,382.48
Environment Agency - Precept	2,885.51
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	489.60
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Discharge consent application - Tesco Stores Ltd.)	3,808.61
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	336.62
Lattenbury Services Limited - Drain maintenance	9,456.00
Lattenbury Services Limited - Drain maintenance	1,392.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	616.68
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2026	854.40
E M Butler Farmers and Contractors - Flail mowing	5,179.20
E M Butler Farmers and Contractors - Flail mowing	748.80
Information Commissioner - Data Protection Registration renewal	52.00
Mason's Agriforestry Contracting - Tree shear all vegetation from IDB drain and flail mowing	6,645.60
T Shepperson Contracting Ltd - Supply of crushed concrete	360.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery, travelling, health & safety, storm recovery tranche 2b claim, ecological and environmental services	8,352.54
Corona Energy - Electricity supply - (Green Dyke pumping station)	105.71
Corona Energy - Electricity supply - (New Fen pumping station)	1,141.14
EDF Energy - Electricity supply - (Green Dyke pumping station)	4,821.05
EDF Energy - Electricity supply - (New Fen pumping station)	19,768.94
EDF Energy - Electricity supply - (Upwood Common pumping station)	2,628.29
British Gas - Electricity supply - (Green Dyke pumping station)	4,550.84
British Gas - Electricity supply - (New Fen pumping station)	850.29
British Gas - Electricity supply - (Upwood Common pumping station)	2,502.17
	131,369.60

(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)

Appendix 3

RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2026
GENERAL FUND

2026				2025			
Mar-31	Payments made during the year:-			Apr-01	Balance brought forward		176,586.69
	Precept		5,771.02	2026			
	Rates and Insurances	2,382.48		Mar-31	Rate income & Special levy	101,494.53	
	Repairs & Renewals	1,091.11			Interest	2,013.76	
	Fuel	15,614.56			Development charges account	890.00	
	Drainworks	48,977.25			Highland Water contributions	10,322.57	
	Administration charge, Audit fee,				Wayleave rental	107.58	
	printing, stationery, advertising etc	10,447.23	78,512.63		Consents	50.00	114,878.44
	Improvement Works:-				Storm Recovery Grant - Tranche 2B		30,626.80
	Green Dyke	15,336.40					
	Upwood Common	15,290.40	30,626.80				
	Transfer to Future Works Account						
	Rates Raised 2025/2026		20,581.00				
	Balance carried forward		186,600.48				
			322,091.93				322,091.93

BALANCE SHEET

Capital Section

Liabilities		Assets		
Capital Provisions	1,770,000.00	New Fen Pumping Station & Store	745,000.00	
		Upwood Common Pumping Station	455,000.00	
		Green Dyke Pumping Station	570,000.00	
	1,770,000.00			1,770,000.00

Revenue Section

General Fund	186,600.48	Ratepayers' Account - Arrears		7,191.86
Sundry Creditors	7,056.06	Value added tax - Refunds due		9,319.46
Development Charges Account	31,338.49	Sundry Debtors		13,056.46
Future Works Account	187,603.77	Balance in hand -		
Contributions Holding Account	65,741.25	Barclays - Treasurer's Account	25,000.00	
		Barclays - Business Premium	423,772.27	448,772.27
	2,248,340.05			2,248,340.05

Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley Internal Drainage Board

Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2026

Treasurers Account 2025/2026

1st April 2025			31st March 2026	
Balance brought forward		350,974.45	Payments made during the year	131,369.60
			By returned direct debit/bounced cheque	0.00
31st March 2026				
Receipts during the year				
Clerk's collection account	225,232.95			
Interest on deposit accounts	3,934.47			
		229,167.42	Balance carried forward	448,772.27
		580,141.87		**580,141.87**

Barclays Bank PLc

Current Account

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2026	25,000.00
Less unpresented cheques	0.00
O/S lodgement	0.00
Balance per Trial Balance	**25,000.00**

Cash balances as at 31st March 2026

Barclays Bank PLc

Current Account	**25,000.00**
Business Premium Account	**423,772.27**
Treasury Deposit	**0.00**
Total reconciled cash balances per accounts	**448,772.27**

Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley IDB
Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return
Financial year ended 31st March 2026

					Per Annual Return
Line 1	**Balances brought forward**				
	General Fund		176,586.69		
	Development Charges Account		3,286.40		
	Asset Replacement Fund		165,139.54		
				345,012.63	**345,013**
Line 2	**Rates and Special Levies**				
	Agricultural rates		51,107.53		
	Special Levies		50,512.00		
	Penalty		0.00		
	Costs		-125.00		
	Write-off		0.00		
				101,494.53	**101,494**
Line 3	**Total other receipts**				
	Interest				
		General fund	2,013.76		
		Development charges account	37.48		
		Future Works	1,883.23		
	Consent applications		50.00		
	Wayleave		107.58		
	Highland Water		10,322.57		
	Discharge contributions		97,819.70		
	Storm Recovery Grant		30,626.80		
				142,861.12	**142,861**
Line 4	**Staff costs**				
	Wages/salaries		0.00		
	National insurance contributions		0.00		
	Pension costs		0.00		
	Travelling expenses		0.00		
				0.00	**0**
Line 5	**Loan repayments**				
	PWLB - Principal		0.00		
	PWLB - Interest		0.00		
				0.00	**0**

Line 6	**All other payments**			
	Precept	5,771.02		
	Rates, insurances, telephones	2,382.48		
	Repairs and renewals	1,091.11		
	Fuel	15,614.56		
	Drainworks	48,977.25		
	Administration	10,447.23		
	Development charges fees	3,173.84		
	Write back of provisions	0.00		
	Improvements	30,626.80		
			118,084.29	**118,084**
Line 7	**Balances carried forward**			
	General Fund	186,600.48		
	Development Charges Account	31,338.49		
	Asset Replacement Fund	187,603.77		
	Contributions Holding Account	65,741.25		
			471,283.99	**471,284**

Reconciliation

Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6 471,283.99

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	*Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures **must** agree to underlying financial records.*
1. Balances brought forward	278,650	345,013	*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	85,613	101,494	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	44,923	142,861	*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	64,173	118,084	*Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).*
7. (=) Balances carried forward	345,013	471,284	*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	350,974	448,772	*The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – **To agree with bank reconciliation.***
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	1,770,000	1,770,000	*The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.*
10. Total borrowings	0	0	*The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).*

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

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

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date 21 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:	13
Meeting:	**RAMSEY UPWOOD & GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**	**Subject:**	**FINANCE REPORT: LOOKING FORWARD**
Date:	**Friday 29th 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. Note the Precept to the Environment Agency
D. Review & Approve Rating Estimates for 2024/2025
E. Consider & approve the Agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levy requirements for 2024/2025
F Note that we will be introducing a consistent naming convention for MLC and IDB Reserves during 2026/27, this will include some rationalisation of funds

Finance Officer's summary and key messages

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

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

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

<u>Green Dyke Pumping Station</u>

As reported in the Consulting Engineers report the last overhaul of the pump was completed in 1986. It has been recommended that the pump has a complete overhaul at a cost of between £40,000 to £60,000. No provision has been included in the budget, if approved this could be funded through the Future Works Fund.

Members should note that the budget proposal includes for the full recovery of highland water claims of £4,989 which is an adjustment to the 2025/26 claim and the 2026/27 estimated claim.

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

1. Fees, Remunerations and Subscriptions

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

The Sum of £4,274 was allowed for services of the District Officer 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 £5,771.02.

3. Estimates for 2026/2027

3.1 The estimated budget for 2026/2027 is shown in Appendix 1.

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

4. Rate Requirements for 2026/2027

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

4.2 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: Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer

Appendix 1 Estimates for 2026/2027
Appendix 2 Rate Requirements for 2026/2027

Appendix 1

RAMSEY UPWOOD AND GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET PROPOSAL 2026/2027

		Approved budget 2025/2026 £	Actual to 31st March 2026 £	Proposed Budget 2026/2027 `	Variance To Budget
1	Rates and Insurances	2,150	2,382 [A]	2,700 [B]	232
2	Repairs and Renewals	4,750	1,091	4,750	(3,659)
3	Fuel	30,000	15,615	26,000 [C]	(14,385)
4	Drainworks (including District Officer's Fee)	30,250	48,977 [D]	32,190 [E]	18,727
5	Administration Charge, Health and Safety Contract, Audit Fee, Printing, Stationery, Advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions Etc.	9,700	10,447	11,500	747
6	Environment Agency Precept	5,771	5,771	5,886	-
7	Plant Refurbishment Funding	20,581 [F]	20,581 [F]	25,436 [F]	-
8	Improvement Works	-	30,627 [G]	-	30,627
9	Reinstatement Of Balances	13,932 [H]	-	-	(13,932)
		117,134	135,491	108,462	18,358
	LESS: Government Grant, Revenue Income Etc.	15,515	44,011 [I]	6,842 [J]	28,496
		101,619	91,481	101,619	(10,139)
	Estimated General Fund				
	Opening balance	176,587	176,587	186,600	
	Rates raised	101,495	101,495	101,619	
	Net expenditure	101,619	91,481	101,619	
	Closing balance	176,462	186,600	186,600	

Remarks

A -	Premiums higher than anticipated	
B -	Assume 10% Increase	
C -	Provision based on 3 year average consumption plus estimate for new contract rates from October 2026 (20% Increase)	
D -	Includes:-	
	Flail mowing & Weed Control (£4,425 from 24/25)	9,590
	Slubbing (£5,585 from 2024/25)	20,163
	Planning Fees	1,875
	Revetment Work	10,700
	District Officer and Ecology Fees	6,649
		48,977
E -	Forecast Includes for :-	
	Flail mowing & tree cutting	8,600
	Slubbing	13,000
F -	Future works at pumping stations	
G -	Control Panel Replacement - Upwood Common	15,290
	Control Panel Replacement - Green Dyke	15,336
		30,627
G -	Future works at pumping stations	
H -	Provision for recovery of balances reduced by winter 2023/24 pumping. Recover over 3 years	
I -	Includes:	
	Bank interest	2,014
	Highland Water	10,323
	Storm Recovery - T2B	30,627
J -	Includes:	
	Bank interest	1,750
	Highland Water	4,989

Appendix 2

Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley 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 COMMISSIONERS MUST BE BORNE FOR 2025/2026 IS: -

a) Proportion to be borne by the Agricultural Sector – 50.29%

b) Proportion to be borne by Special levy issued to Huntingdonshire District Council – 49.71%.

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £1,649.

In 2026/2027 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levy would raise £3,278.

Revenue balance in hand on 31st March 2026 - £185,197

The estimated net expenditure of £101,619, which does not include provision for refurbishment works at pumping stations, in 2026/2027 is equivalent to: -

a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 31.00p and

b) a Special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £50,512

In 2025/2026 a rate of 31.00p in the £ was raised together with a Special levy of £50,512 on Huntingdon District Council.

P BURROWS

Clerk to the Board

May 2026