WARBOYS, SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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Administered by:

21st May 2026

Dear Board Members

Upcoming meeting of the Board
Thursday 28th May 2026

Please find overleaf the agenda for the meeting of the Board to be hosted at the Lakeside Lodge, Pidley PE28 3DF at 5.30pm on Thursday 28th May 2026.

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

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

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

Yours truly

P BURROWS, FCIWEM C.WEM CEnv

Clerk to the Board

WARBOYS, SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Thursday 28th May 2026 – 5.30pm

Lakeside Lodge, Pidley PE28 3DF

Agenda:

Item No	*Topic*	*Format*	*Lead*
1	Welcome & apologies	Verbal	Chair
2	Declarations of Interest	Verbal	Chair
3	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising • Confidential item	Pages 3 – 10 Verbal	Chair/Clerk
4	Constitution & Membership	Pages 11 - 13	Clerk
5	Clerk's Report	Pages 14 - 18	Clerk
6	Environment Officer's Report	Pages 19 - 20	Clerk
7	Consulting Engineer's Reports.	Pages 21 - 30	Clerk or Engineer
8	Health & Safety	Pages 31 - 39	Chair
9	District Officer's Report	Verbal	DO
10	Governance • Accounts Return for 2024/25 • Auditors Report for 2024/25 (link) • Annual Governance Statement	Pages 40 - 42 Pages 43 - 47 Page 48	Clerk
11	Finance Report: looking back • Budgeting • Payments 2025 • Annual Accounts and Finance papers 2025/2026	Pages 49 - 50 Page 51 Pages 52 - 53 Pages 54 - 58	Clerk
12	Finance Report: looking forward • Determination of land for rating purposes • Rating Estimates for 2026/2027 • Agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levy requirements or 2026/2027	Pages 59 - 60 Page 61 Page 62 - 63 Page 64	Clerk
13	Date of Next Meeting Thursday 20th May 2027 5:30pm	Verbal	Chair
14	Any other business	Verbal	Chair

(NB: If required for any agenda item:

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

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At an Inspection and Meeting of the Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB
Held at Lakeside Lodge on Thursday 27th November 2025.

PRESENT

D Brown (Chair)	J German
T Noble (Vice-Chair)	I Johnson
J Armstrong	S Johnson
D Cornwell – meeting only	Ms C Lowe – meeting only
D Edwards	Ms L Munns
D England	J Short
D Fabb	H Whittome

Paul Burrows (Clerk) representing the Clerk was in attendance with Andrew Wool (MLC Head of Finance), Tracy Driver (Finance Officer) and David Coles (Compliance & Enforcement Officer) attending for part of the meeting. Alwyn Sweeney (District Officer) was also in attendance.

Inspection

Board Members went on a tour of parts of the district, starting at Puddock Pumping Station where 2025 slubbing works of the basin by BJ Plant were reviewed and the performance of the new Komassu machine discussed. The District Officer and D Fabb highlighted the teething trouble issues with the new machine and the flail, many of which have been resolved. This includes it being registered as an industrial vehicle; new latching button on flail controls; slew motor seeping and setting up of the hydraulic flows and fittings. The machine is good on the road and has a much better reach than the old machine which has provided beneficial for recent works. The Chairman highlighted that the extension is not to be attached for driving on the road as that would be dangerous.

The District Officer highlighted how an additional smaller bucket for the machine would be valuable for smaller drains and to tackle cot effectively. The Chairman sought view on what to do with the old machine and other attachments stored at the station.

Board Members then inspected four locations within the district along critical conveyance channels of Fenton Lode/Fillenham's Drain scope future drain/bank maintenance work and see locations where riparian owner action is needed. The Board also inspected their drainage system downstream of the pocket park discharge, identifying maintenance and culvert screen repair works.

RESOLVED

> Arrange for the old machine (plus spare tyres) to be auctioned at Cheffins Action Services. A reserve price of £8,000 was considered appropriate and the Chairman authorised to confirm having taken advice from the auctioneers.
>
> To consider using a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the old machine for an additional bucket and associated equipment and to keep the various attachments.
>
> D Fabb to secure a price to refurbish the grill at the culvert on the border with Sutton & Mepal IDB and the Chairman authorised to approve works accordingly.

Meeting

Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed members including D Cornwell and C Lowe who could not attend the inspection. He started by thanking all the staff of the Middle Level Commissioners for their fantastic delivery efforts on behalf of the Board. The Chairman paid thanks to three previous Board Members who did not stand for election, Charles Leadbetter the previous Chairman and Mark England as a previous Chairman and member of 25 years. He also thanked Stephen Whittome for this dedicated and longstanding service to the Board. Board Members wholeheartedly agreed.

Apologies were received from Cllr J Carney, S Edgley and M Heading.

The Chairman added that in his two years in the role so far, he could not have managed without the dedicated help and advice from a number of Board Members. He thanks I Johnson for his support to the District Officer with pumping and T Noble as Vice Chairman. He passed gratitude to D Fabb for his involvement with the new digger and to S Johnson for his involvement in the Middle Level IDB Change Working Group. However, he added that he would value more Board members actively contributing.

T Noble supported the Chairman's remark and passed his thanks for the Chairman's excellent steering of the Board on behalf of himself and other members.

B.1948 Declarations of Interest

The Chair 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.

H Whittome declared an interest as a Middle Level Board Member.

B.1949 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed, and no matters arising were raised.

RESOLVED

> That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 30th May 2025 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1950 Constitution & Membership

Elections

The Clerk reported that as the number of candidates for membership did not exceed the number of persons to be elected (21), the following candidates were elected as Members of the Board for a period of three years from 1st November 2025, viz:-

ARMSTRONG Jacob	HEADING Marc E
BROWN Daniel D	JOHNSON Ian
CORNWELL David W	JOHNSON Sam
EDGLEY Stephen	MUNNS Lucy C A
EDWARDS Daniel J	NOBLE Thomas E A
ENGLAND David W	SHORT Jonathan
FABB Daniel	WHITTOME Hugh W
GERMAN James	

The Chair and Vice Chair agreed to continue in their roles, and this was unanimously agreed by the Board. J Short agreed to replace C Leadbetter on the Finance Committee and the Chairman advised that he welcomes any member to attend the Finance Committee.

P Burrows summarised the latest in terms of the reconstitution of the Board. The current elected membership of 15 being the number needed for the reconstituted Board. He added that the Environment Agency have advised that Defra are ready to advertise the schedule within the London Gazette with consultation lasting 4-6 weeks. Following this they will then write the Statutory Instrument with a further advertisement period ahead of rubber-stamping through Parliament. Then an Instrument of Appointment is needed to be developed between Defra and the Board. This is not published and the names and addresses of the first members of the newly constituted Board are needed to demonstrate members have a relationship with the district.

RESOLVED

> Existing Board Members were comfortable in their names and addresses being included within the Instrument of Appointment for the reconstituted Board.

B.1951 Chairman's Items

The Chairman reported the latest on the Bartlett's agreement for their service crossings across the Board's asset at Washways PS. They have four years of payment outstanding, approximately £5,000. The agreement should have been reviewed every 2 years and as such a revaluation has taken place. Ruth Martin, MLC Lead Clerk is actively moving this forward in terms of an updated agreement and invoicing.

The Chairman handed over to I Johnson to update on the Pocket Park and a recent encouraging meeting with the landowners I Johnson reported that they are now aligned with the landowners in that a gravity solution is the optimal and most sustainable solution. The Chairman thanks Dave Bantoft at the MLC for his overview within that meeting. The action is now for both parties to write to Tarmac. He added that on the inspection Members saw how works were required at the culvert where the receiving drain from the pocket park does under the road and then Board responsibilities start downstream.

The Chairman highlighted that the drain maintenance programme for 2026 needs to focus on Fenton Lode and High Fen, with some of the critical sections seen by Members on the inspection. H Whittome enquired about how we can better work around cropping and what ought the Board to do in the case that famers ignore notices and don't remove their crop to enable efficient Board maintenance. A discussion was had where other Boards were cited that would go on and maintain regardless.

The District Officer added that his aim was to now get notices out a year ahead of works such that there is then no excuse for not adjusting cropping.

The Chairman thanks S Ablett at the MLC for her work leading the electricity contract for MLC and the IDBs highlighting to Members than we are now with British Gas. He thanks D Cornwell again for agreeing to join the Electricity Committee on behalf of the Board. The District Officer added that British Gas have been in touch to replace two smart meters than have not been dialling in their readings.

B.1952 Clerk's Report

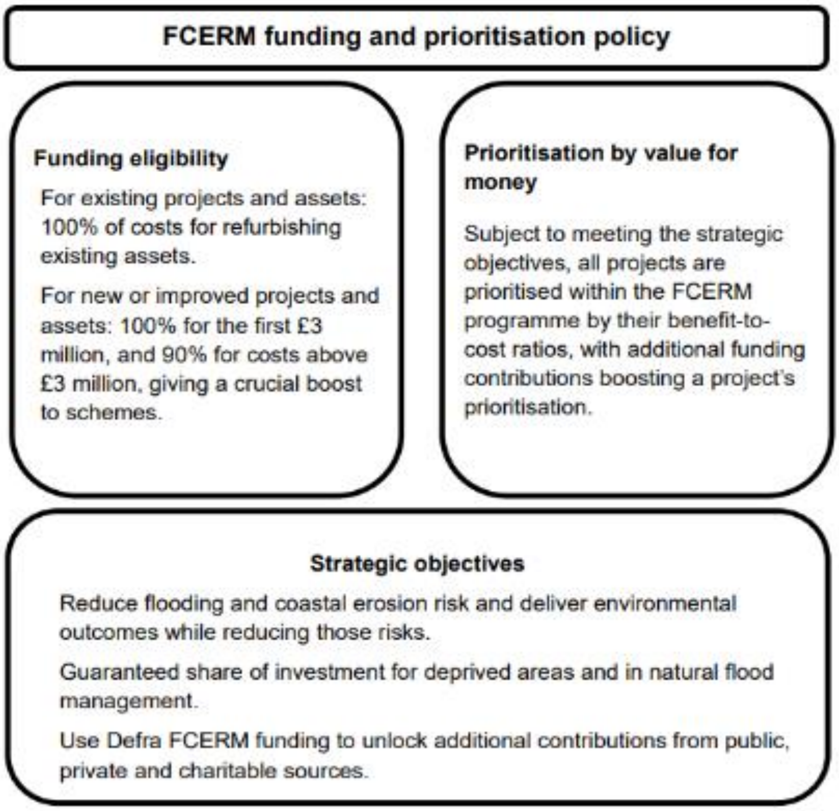
P Burrows provided the following report.
Data Provision

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.

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.

IDB Funding & Costs Research

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. 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. Board Chairman are being asked to reply to Sam Ablett by 1st January 2026 in order to assist her in preparing the form for return. This Board's Chair has already provided this which is appreciated. The questions posed include providing details around watercourse maintenance, Health and Safety, Board members training, and public and press engagement.

B.1953 Consulting Engineer's Report

P Burrows highlighted that potential and ongoing specific enforcement matters ought to be dealt with confidentially. D Coles (MLC Compliance & Enforcement Officer) joined for this 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.)

P Burrows referred to the Consulting Engineer's summary and M&E Reports.

In terms of compliance and enforcement, P Burrows added to the report highlighting that overall fees from developers are on the increase and together with an increasing number of cost recovery agreements, the costs to Boards is reducing. He added that greater enforcement is bringing with it an increase in consenting workload which was already high. To address this the Middle Level Board has agreed to increase staffing to serve MLC and IDBs.

He added that to be agile and responsive with compliance and enforcement cases, his officers need direction and approval from the Board in good time, and this often cannot wait until the next Board meeting. He therefore asked the Board to consider delegating approval to the Chairman and Vice Chair.
The Board reviewed the M&E Engineer's Report and H Whittome highlighted the recommendation to plan for a pump removal and overhaul every year, staring with Puddock and then Washways.

I Johnson advised that he felt Pidley PS was the Board's biggest risk but that it had a PTO connection as back-up, adding that all pumps won't go down at once and Washways can divert to Puddock. He feels that it would be a waste of money and that electric outage is a bigger issue for the district. He added that High Fen has a spare pump so has resilience. H Whittome suggested there needs to be a happy medium found between an annual overhaul and relying on system resilience. D Fabb added the MLC have a stock of mobile pumps. P Burrows added that this package was still being developed and deployment plans need to be developed. D Fabb added that there may be simple fixes the Board can manage with a more detailed inspection, for example lowering water levels to access bolt corrosion and replacing in-situ rather than a full overhaul.

P Burrows asked about Acre Fen control panel as per the M&E Engineer's recommendation. I Johnson added that this station was somewhat of a contingency for Westmoor so less of a risk. On Westmoor the District Officer highlighted that the station may need a new cover or security fencing, given its condition and local anti-social behaviour.

The Chairman passed the Board's thanks to D Bantoft for the upcoming grant funded refurbishments of two weedscreen cleaners and confirmed that Board Members and the District Officer will be on-hand to manage any weed build-up whilst the cleaners are out of action.

RESOLVED

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

B.1954 District Officers Report

The Chairman thanked the District Officer who is now in his 2nd year of dredging works, adding that he is extremely happy with his performance. He is working hard in summer putting in lots of hours and needs to take that time back in lieu over winter.

The District Officer reported on the following additional matters than were not covered on the inspection or earlier in the meeting.

His truck has now done 122,000 miles and following its MOT has had new brake discs and pads and suspension issues addressed. He added that there is an issue with it slipping out of second gear. H Whittome advised that this should be diagnosed from a H&S perspective with the Chairman to agree any resultant fix. The Board concurred.

He reported issues with the senor at Westmoor with a low level tripping the senor. This could be resolved with either a telemetry alarm fix or potential move to a different position within the pump well. He will work with the M&E Engineer on this.

He asked whether the Board would purchase a suitable chainsaw to help address some of the issues that affect access to undertake drain maintenance. Board Members highlighted that suitable training, certification, PPE and lone worker issues would need to be considered and addressed. J Armstrong, who has the relevant equipment, PPE and certification, offered to spend a day with the District Officer to tackle key issues across the district. The Chairman thanked J Amstrong for this generous offer.

The District Officer referred to examples seen on the inspection where access to Board drains is difficult due to collapsed or missing culverts across riparian ditches. He added that this is understandable in places given hare coursing but does affect the efficiency and effectiveness of his work for the Board. He asked whether there was any budget for culvert works and for a pull-through. Following some discussion, H Whittome suggest the District Officer develop a prioritised strategic plan of what he felt was needed. P Burrows added that if this was also costed it could be used by the Chairman and RFO in building options for 2026 rates and estimate. H Whittome added that significant planning would be needed including an Environmental Screening Report provided well ahead of any proposed works so that any mitigations could also be planned.

B.1955 Finance Report

A Wool referred to the Budget Monitoring report, and he reported that spending is currently broadly on budget and adhering to the estimates, recognising that winter pumping was an unknown. He highlighted from his report that the IDB Fund income of circa £116,000 meant that there was budget available for possible works to the slacker at Washways PS and that the Chairman would advise on a course of action.

T Driver was invited to the Board by the Chairman to outline the current situation with rating of land and the complexity of resolving changes and addressing unrated land. T Driver summarised that the Board has a rateable area of 5,335.905 ha with 89.11% of the district subject to drainage rates and 10.89% special levy (including roadway and tracks). She added that currently there are 114 ratepayers with 262 assessments across 1711 fields, reminding Members that most are also rated by the Middle Level Commissioners. Currently there are 163 fields that are unlinked to a ratepayer, adding that this will also include tracks and roadways. This equates to 72.606 ha with an annual value of £10,768 which raises a drainage rate of £3,300. This sum is uncollected because it is not linked to a ratepayer and therefore forms a deficit against budgeted estimates. Under the Land Drainage Act we can only recover the current and previous financial year's uncollected rates once an owner is identified, therefore any previous year's uncollected rates must be written off. A Wool added that formally writing off what cannot be recovered will also resolve an issue highlighted by the Internal Auditor.

In addition to the unknown landowner issue, T Driver highlighted the complexities of managing changes in tenancy and landownership to ensure the distribution of rates was also correct. She added that we are unable to maximise the use of the DRS rating system and provide ratepayers with maps. We are also reliant on ratepayers proactively letting us know if they are under or over-rated and when there is change in their landholding or tenancies. This does not routinely happen, and rate reviews are ad hoc and there’s a growing number of these to undertake across all administered IDBs and the MLC. She added that there is also a complexity in that in some cases we understand that landowners pay the rates on behalf of tenants. To resolve this matter requires a dedicated focus without other work distractions. The only Board that is in a strong position is Sutton & Mepal IDB where a project took 3 years to address these issues. Ratepayers of this IDB now receive a map with their rate demand that they can return with any changes.

A Wool added that an initial step ahead of fully scoping and resourcing any activity would be for Board Members to mark-up maps with their local knowledge. This will help address any unrated land and identify how much of an issue for the Board the distribution of rates may be. Board Members agreed to take the maps away and complete the initial activity.

RESOLVED

> The Board approved that the Responsible Finance Officer can write-off any rates that are unable under legislation to be collected.
>
> The Board reviewed and approved the determination of land for rating purposes and write-off of associated rate arrears.

B.1956 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

> That next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday 21st May 2026 at the Lakeside Lodge, Pidley at 5:30pm

B.1957 Any Other Business

The District Officer highlighted the peat mapping work being undertaken by Fenland SOIL a farmer led cooperative, and that they will be in touch with farmers in the district. H Whittome encouraged engagement as it was a valuable process to bring truth and local evidence regarding the presence or otherwise of peat.

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	4
Meeting:	**WARBOYS, SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**CONSTITUTION & MEMBERSHIP**
Date:	**Thursday 28th May 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Gemma Ashby**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

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

1. Current status

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

	Elected Members	Appointed Members	Total Members	Quorum
Composition	21	N/A	24	12
Actual	15	1 FDC, 1 HDC	17	
Vacancies	6	1	7	

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

No	Name	Status (one of four categories)	Commentary
1	Jacob Armstrong	Nominee of ratepayer (Mr C Armstrong)	
2	Daniel Brown	Ratepayer	Chairman
3	David Cornwell	Nominee of ratepayer (Mr D Cornwell)	
4	Stephen Edgley	Nominee of Ratepayer (Mr A Edgley)	
5	Daniel Edwards	Ratepayer	
6	David England	Ratepayer	
7	Daniel Fabb	Ratepayer	
8	James German	Ratepayer	
9	Marc Heading	Ratepayer	
10	Ian Johnson	Ratepayer	
11	Sam Johnson	Ratepayer	
12	Lucy Munns	Nominee of ratepayer (Mr G Munns)	
13	Thomas Noble	Ratepayer	Vice Chair
14	Jonathan Short	Ratepayer	
15	Hugh Whittome	Ratepayer	
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			

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

1.4 Special levy paying District Councils appoint members to Boards and their role is to be part of the Board representing all the non-agricultural interests within the Board's district.

The Council must consider appointing members who have relevant knowledge or experience that is relevant to the Board and its district.

1.5 Appointed members do not need to be councillors or employees of the Council, therefore can represent wider relevant interests within the district, e.g. major infrastructure, commerce, community groups, environmental interests.

No	Name	Appointing Council	Commentary (one of three categories)
1	James Carney	FDC	Councillor
2	Charlotte Lowe	HDC	Councillor

1.6 All Members are reminded that have equal status to each-other around the Board table and are here to serve the interests of the Board.

2. Attendance

2.1 The table below outlines the attendance record for the last four meetings of the Board.

Elected Members

No	Name	27/11/2025	29/05/2025	24/02/2025	28/11/2024
1	Jacob Armstrong	Present	Present	Present	
2	Daniel Brown	Present	Present	Present	Present
3	David Cornwell	Present		Present	Present
4	Stephen Edgley	Apologies	Present	Present	Apologies
5	Daniel Edwards	Present	Present	Present	Apologies
6	David England	Present	Present	Present	Present
7	Daniel Fabb	Present	Present	Present	Present
8	James German	Present	Apologies	Present	Present
9	Marc Heading	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	
10	Ian Johnson	Present	Present	Present	Present
11	Sam Johnson	Present	Present	Present	Present
12	Lucy Munns	Present	Present	Apologies	Apologies
13	Thomas Noble	Present	Present	Present	Present
14	Jonathan Short	Present	Present	Present	Apologies
15	Hugh Whittome	Present	Present	Present	Apologies
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					

Attendance at Chairs Meetings

No	Name	5/12/2025	6/12/2024	6/10/2023	13/12/2022
1	Dan Brown	Present	Present	N/A	N/A

Appointed Members (current and previous)

No	Name (Council)	27/11/2025	29/05/2025	25/02/2025	28/11/2024
1	James Carney (FDC)	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Present
2	Adela Costello (HDC) substitute if C Lowe not available	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Charlotte Lowe (HDC)	Present	Present	Present	Present

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 2 years, and the tenure of the current Vice Chairman is 2 years.

4. Composition and amalgamations

4.1 The Board is encouraged to continually monitor and review its membership, financial and climate resilience, along with assessing its influence locally, regionally and nationally. These are all factors that may lead the Board to consider changing its composition and/or amalgamation with (an)other Board(s). See 'The IDB governance future within the Middle Level of the Fen' within the Clerk's Report.

4.2 Amalgamations and composition changes are not swift processes and can take a number of years. They require planning and additional/specialist resourcing by the MLC as your clerk, Environment Agency and Defra. Therefore, the Board is encouraged to think ahead five to ten years in its decision making, thinking about the next generation.

5. Training

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

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

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

5.4 The Board are asked to outline the training undertaken in the last year as well as future needs or plan for training. Members are asked to identify any topics areas they would value further training on as well as any site inspections that would help them undertake their role on the Board more effectively.

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

Author Name: Gemma Ashby
Role: Senior Business Support Officer

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	5
Meeting:	**WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**CLERK'S REPORT**
Date:	**Thursday 28th May 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Paul Burrows**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

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

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

1. MLC Overview

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

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

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

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

2. MLC Services to IDBs

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

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

3. Policy Reviews

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

Planned new policies include:

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

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

4. Waste Exemptions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This proposal aims to provide:

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

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

6. Data Provision

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

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

7. Electricity

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

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

8. IDB Funding & Costs Research

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

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

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

The project will include:

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

We have been in touch with the consultants leading the work and provided them with information to get them started and provided them with the information we have to hand for their data requests. 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:	**WARBOYS, SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**
Date:	**Thursday 28th 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/Warboys-somersham-pidley/**

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 suggested locations for it to be put up (on a high agricultural building near water)

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

Review of Key Environmental Compliance Indicators (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:		**Alwyn Sweeny**	
KCI:	**Description of KCI:**	**Status:**	**Comments:**
1.	A current channel categorisation map & reasoning is available	Partly complete	In progress – AS to complete supported by SL due to CWS drains. 5-year flail mowing rotation, down to waters' edge both sides ahead of desilting (also 5 year)
2.	Standard Operating Procedures audit has been undertaken and works considered compliant	Complete	AS confirmed
3.	The previous year's maintenance record is available for review and to inform the following year's works planning.	Complete	SL to retrieve from office
4.	A channel maintenance plan (flail mowing and desilting) has been prepared for Board review and approval.	Complete	AS has prepared
5.	All non-routine works undertaken in the previous year were screened for environmental impacts and opportunities using the ESR process	Complete	Yes. Culvert replacement was screened. ESR received for sensitive drain works in Warboys Q4 26.
6.	The Biodiversity Action Plan has been reviewed and objectives for the previous year have been met and following objectives set	Complete	Set for 26-31
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	Complete	In progress for 2026
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. AS will complete

middle level commissioners

Warboys, Somersham & Pidley IDB

Annual Environmental Review - Notes from Meeting

Attended by: Sofi Lloyd, Dan Brown, Alwyn Sweeny, Hugh Whittome.

Date: 12/05/2026

Point No.	Notes:	Action by and due date
1	The KCI's for the Board report were completed	
2	Noted that the district is split into 5 sub-catchments which are managed rotationally each year, mainly cost driven. A sub catchment has both banks mown to waters edge on both sides ahead of desilting works.	
3	SL will arrange with AS to audit routine works this year.	SL
4	SL will confirm with Ruth the boundary of land owned by the IDB at Fenton Lode, including if the berm is still retained or owned by the housing developer.	SL 26
5	SL to liaise with Nicola Oldfield re. project to improve inlets & water level control structures	SL/NO 26
6	SL to investigate if solar powered pumps are available to enable water to be moved from one sub catchment to another more efficiently	SL/NO 26
7	Discussed the project still underway to link the extraction pit at Somersham pocket park to the IDBs drain to manage water levels better and more efficiently. SL to investigate if funding for the project would be available	SL 26
8	Discussed that rotational bank vegetation cutting every 2-3 years is generally taken to be the regime that maximises opportunities for biodiversity however, it has to take in local factors so more frequent may be more appropriate. Longer than 3 years in a rotation tends to support lower diversity.	
9	Discussed possibility of moving to annual weed cutting bucket work in selected drains this year to see if it reduces the need for desilting. Some other boards do this and have seen a reduction in the need to desilt. SL will try to obtain some cost comparisons.	SL 26
10	Discussed that many of the Boards' drains were themselves designated county wildlife sites due to the diversity of aquatic and marginal plant species present. The channel categorisation map and works plan needs to take into account that the regime that has favoured this diversity should be maintained. SL to investigate when the last CWS review was undertaken and work with Alwyn to integrate the vegetation management recommendations of the CWS into the plan before August.	SL/AS 26
11	Highlighted that due to the proximity of the district to Pingle wood & cutting, the land across the district falls into the SSSI Impact Risk Zones, which limits some type of development in the area that could negatively impact the site. MLC consider this on the Boards behalf when necessary.	
12	Noted that the No Mixed Habitat shown on the priority habitat map are scrapes & is adjacent to Wennys wood.	
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.	ALL 2026
14	Discussed the importance of biosecurity. Board should ensure that every contractor provides their biosecurity policy and it is as least as robust as MLC's. Should also ensure that irrigators uphold excellent biosecurity due to moving pumps and equipment across many different channels. Board to provide Biosecurity procedure to them.	AS 26
15	Remaining points captured in the draft BAP.	
16	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.	SL/AS May 26
17	SL will load draft BAP onto the WSP 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 May 26

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:		7
Meeting:	**WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: CHIEF ENGINEER'S SUMMARY & CAPITAL PROGRAMME**	
Date:	**Thursday 28th May 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**		**Nicola Oldfield**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. The Board consider the recommendations for the development of an investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement and grant funding and to confirm acceptance of recommendations to the Consulting Engineer.
B. Confirm if it wants the Engineer to produce a Pump Refurbishment/Replacement Plan for all pumps for the subcommittee.

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.

Refer to Appendix 1 for more details.

2. IDB Recovery Fund T2B

Following the initial, unsuccessful bid for funding, the Environment Agency subsequently awarded funding for the 'Asset Resilience Pumps & Channels' package in June 2025.

Works completed for this district include the following:

1) Weedscreen Cleaner Upgrade Works (CW Engineering) at Washways Pump Station due to be carried out during the winter months, dates to be confirmed.

2) Weedscreen Cleaner Upgrade Works (CW Engineering) at Pidley Pump Station due to be carried out during the winter months, dates to be confirmed.

3. Capital Programme

The Chairman has asked the Consulting Engineer to develop a bid for funding from the recently announced Lowland Peat Discovery & Implementation Fund. This will be for work to replace inlet penstocks.

The Consulting Engineer is progressing this and will liaise with the Chairman during the development of the bid document. We will also confirm if there are resources available to deliver the works once funding is approved. These works are not included on the enclosed Capital Programme.

The Consulting Engineer has also been asked to considered works to refurbish/replace the failing steel sheet piling downstream of Washways Pumping Station. We recommend that a bid is made for FCERM GiA for this.

4. New FCERM grant funding guidance

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

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

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

Project types that are eligible for grant funding include:

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

<u>Asset Refurbishment Projects</u>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<u>Applying for funding</u>

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

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

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

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

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 programme**
Appendix 2: **List of planning applications since last report**
Appendix 3: **M&E Report**

Appendix 1

Warboys Somersham & Pidley 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
Acre Fen p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,400.0	1400.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	4.6	252.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	366.6
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.0	0.0	90.0
	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	20.0	20.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
High Fen p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	4.6	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	59.6
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
	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	0.0
Pidley p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10000.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	149.6
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	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
Puddock p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7,500.0	7500.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	4.6	0.0	0.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	139.6
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.0	0.0	90.0
	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
Westmoor p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4,100.0	4100.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	4.6	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	41.0	135.6
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	15.0
	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	10.0	10.0
	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
Washways p/s	Refurbishment of pumping station	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	239.0	239.0
	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23,860.0	23860.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	4.6	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.6
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	14.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	34.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	30.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
Plant	Isuzu d-Max - AO17 WMW	0	0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0
	Doosan DX140W Excavator - AU09 FEW	0	0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0
Property	Puddock pumping station bungalow	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drainage Channels	Washways discharge channel piling replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	75.0
		27.6	**252.0**	**130**	**119**	**0**	**0**	**10,010**	**185**	**0**	**75**	**255**	**37,380**	**48,434**

There have been 19 planning applications responded to since the last meeting.

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

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

There have been 2 infiltration device applications acknowledged since the last meeting.

Appendix 3

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**		**7**
Meeting:	**WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL**	
Date:	**Thursday 28th May 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**		**Dave Bantoft**

1. M&E key messages and advice

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

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

1.1 M&E Equipment Key Health Indicators

Over the past 2 years we have been compiling and verifying Pumping Station Key Date to allow easier identification of equipment age and the need for refurbishment to assist in developing an investment plan for asset refurbishment or replacement. The details below include any works already scheduled and funded to be completed this year. For example, the weed screen cleaner overhauls at Wash ways and Pidley. 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

			Pump		Weedscreen			
Station	Built	Pump	Overhaul	Control Panel	Weedscreen Bars	WSC Gantry	WSC O/H	WSC Controls
Acre Fen	1984	1984	2006	1984	1984	N/A	N/A	N/A
High Fen	1976	2021 (1) 2009 (2)	2021 (1) 2009 (2)	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020
Pidley	1940s	1979	2005 (1) 2007 (2)	2016	2003	2003	2026	2026
Puddock	1992	1992	2004 (1)	1992	1992	N/A	N/A	N/A
Washways	1975	1975	2016	2016	1998	1998	2026	2026
Westmoor	1962	1962	2007 (1) 2008 (2)	2011	2000	2016	2016	2016

The Key Health Indicators table above shows the critical area for concern and improvement is the pumps. The pumps range from 5 to 64 years old with last refurbishments ranging from 5 to 22 years ago. The Board is advised to develop and start a pump refurbishment/replacement plan for the 7 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. The figures have been updated to include the weedscreen trolley and controls refurbishments at Pidley and Washways.

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

The Board is requested to confirm if it wants the Engineer to produce a Pump Refurbishment/Replacement Plan for all pumps for the subcommittee.

2. Minor Works

2.1 Puddock

The pumps at Puddock regularly show water ingress on the control panel. The insulation resistances are currently satisfactory. These submersible pumps have been in the longest of the board's pumps and lead times for overhaul or replacement of pumps of this type can be from 6 months to well over a year.

Last routine inspection took place at Puddock Pump Station on 4th March 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Slacker leaking excessively
2) Outlet doors not closing completely
3) Pump 1 PFC Fuse 1 blown – removed other fuses on capacitor

2.2 Westmoor

Last routine inspection took place at Westmoor Pump Station on 4th March 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Hose Drums need re-coating
2) Level Controller Buzz
3) Top Grease lines on both pumps don't seem to be getting grease through

2.3 **Acre Fen**

The Pump Cabinet is heavily corroded, and replacement should be considered or fencing around the station which would allow better access with digger to clean the screen. The control panel is from 1984 and the oldest of the WS&P control panels so should be replaced. This is likely to cost in the region of £18k.

2.4 **High Fen**

Routine inspections have identified that Pump 2 insulation resistance has been fluctuating over the last few years. This may be an indication of water ingress into the motor. Pump 2 has been set to duty and will continue to be monitored. If Pump 2 requires replacement the support frame will also need replacing as it is heavily corroded. Pump 2 discharge pipe is weeping which needs to be investigated to determine the repair required. Pumps of this type are often not viable to repair, and replacements can be over 6 months lead time.

Last routine inspection took place at High Fen Pump Station on 4th March 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Pump 2 resistance varying, switched Pump 2 to duty, MLC to Monitor
2) Pump support frame is heavily corroded, if pump 2 needs to be removed a new frame will be required
3) Pump 2 outlet pipe is showing signs of weeping
4) Replaced heater in WSC panel

2.5 **Washways**

The electricity meter at Washways has been replaced and bills have been checked and verified against pump hours to ensure their accuracy.

Pump 1 vibration needs to be investigated to determine the cause, and it may need the pump or gearbox to be overhauled, the gearbox is likely to cost c£10k and the Pump c£40k.

Last routine inspection took place at Washways Pump Station on 5th March 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Running order 3241
2) Pump 4 Engine showing fault code 000729(002D9h). Also Pump 4 Engine won't re-engage switch back to engine
3) Terminal Box to replace in pipe chamber at rear of building – only 12
4) Excessive vibration on Pump 1 – investigation needed

2.6 **Pidley**

Access to Pidley station is problematic through the majority of the pumping season due to the condition of the tracks and these should be improved to facilitate safe access for machinery. Pidley level probes have been replaced with new and the mounting raised to reduce chance of water ingress and level control issues.

Last routine inspection took place at Pidley Pump Station on 19th March 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Pump 1 Noisy Motor (bottom bearing?)
2) Upstream sensor not displaying anything
3) Pump 2 Motor heater fuse has been removed

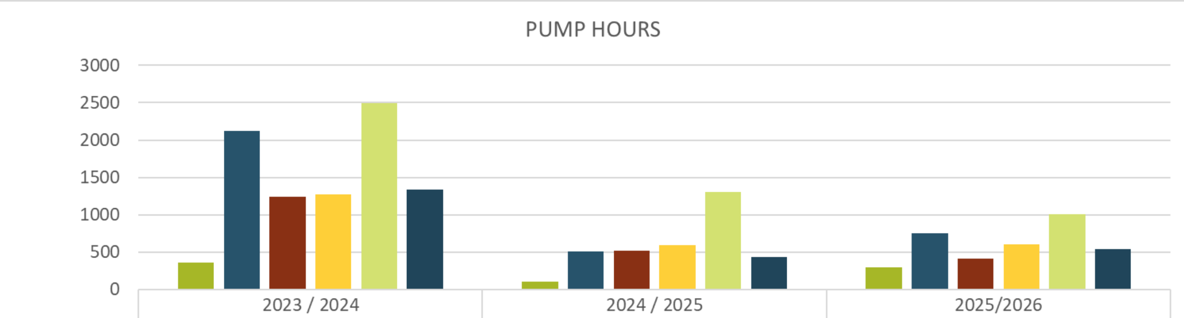
3. Inspections

3.1 HSB Engineering annual inspections for insurance were carried out on 4th September 2025 at Westmoor, High Fen, Pidley & Washways. All weedscreen cleaners passed inspections with no advisories.

3.2 The mandatory site Electrical Installation Condition Reports (due every 5 years) were completed successfully in December 2023.

Station	EICR Date	EICR Due
Acre Fen	6-Dec-2023	6-Dec-2028
High Fen	6-Dec-2023	6-Dec-2028
Pidley	13-Dec-2023	13-Dec-2028
Puddock	13-Dec-2023	13-Dec-2028
Washways	6-Dec-2023	6-Dec-2028
Westmoor	13-Dec-2023	13-Dec-2028

4. Pump Hours



	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2025/2026
Acre Fen	366	111	294
High Fen	2125	507	759
Puddock	1246	518	418
Pidley	1273	591	606
Washways	2492	1304	1006
Westmoor	1333	439	539

5. Water level Management

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

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

Author Name: Dave Bantoft
Role: M&E Engineer

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	8
Meeting:	**WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**HEALTH & SAFETY**
Date:	**Thursday 28th 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

Warboys, Somersham & Pidley DDB Site

carried out on

Thursday, 29 January 2026

by

AW Safety Management

Key Information	
Client:	Warboys, Somersham & Pidley IDB
Site:	Washways, Westmoor Pumping Stations
Site Contact:	Daniel Brown
Site Contact E-mail:	enquiries@middlelevel.gov.uk
Inspection date:	29/01/2026
Inspected by:	Vicki Clutterbuck
Introduction:	This health and safety Inspection Report is part of the annual support programme from AW Safety Management and is designed to review the practical implementation of health and safety arrangements within the Company. The purpose of the inspection was to assess systems, management controls, working practices and identification of hazards and the controls in place. The aim was to conduct an examination to ensure that best practice is used and there has been compliance within set standards and any relevant legislation. We plan our work to ensure that we have a reasonable expectation of detecting any significant control weaknesses, however, our processes alone are not a guarantee that all operational conditions / activities will be witnessed, this is particularly relevant for any off-site activities. The responsibility for maintaining suitable controls for the safety of employees and anyone else who may be affected and safe operation of the business rests with the management of the Company. Subject areas that require action are detailed in the 'Action Plan' section of the report. Each subject is given a brief outline and the suggested remedial action required, a target completion date (based on the priority rating) and the person responsible for ensuring that the action is addressed. The person responsible listed against the action is based on our visit to site and understanding of the Company structure. Each subject area is given a priority rating, which is based on the auditor/s knowledge, understanding & judgement and is selected to highlight areas of non-compliance and provide general guidance on safe working. Where applicable, a number of key photographs are included in the report, these are referenced to the relevant subject area reference number. These can be used as a reminder of conditions at the time of inspection and provide additional guidance on the action required.

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

Purpose of Inspection / Executive Summary

I was accompanied to two of the six pumping stations (Washways & Westmoor). It is under the assumption the 2 duplicate actions for these will also be applicable to Acre Fen, High Fen, Piddley & Pucddock please ensure to check the insurance certificate and extinguisher service date at these locations.

Please find action listed in report below, no other areas of concern were raised at the time of inspection

Actions were discussed on site at the time of inspection. Thank you to Daniel Brown for accompanying me at the pumping stations.

If you have any questions in relation to actions raised on this report, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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

Reference Number	Additional Controls / Actions / Comments	Supporting Photographs / Pictures	Person(s) Responsible	Risk Rating	Action Complete When / Who
Washways 01	Certificate of Employers Liability Insurance on display within branch is currently out of date. In accordance with regulation 5. (2) of The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 in date certification must be on display in view of all employees. Replace with current certificate.		Daniel Brown	High	
Washways 02	Fire extinguisher is past its next service due date (Oct 2024) Fire extinguishers can deteriorate over time, and regular servicing helps ensure they are working properly and can be used in an emergency. Servicing is to be arranged and any paperwork relating to this is acquired and held within Health and safety records.		Daniel Brown	High	

Action Plan					
High Priority			Immediate Action Required		
Medium Priority			Planned Action Required		
Low Priority			Actionable Comment		
Reference Number	**Additional Controls / Actions / Comments**	**Supporting Photographs / Pictures**	**Person(s) Responsible**	**Risk Rating**	**Action Complete When / Who**
Westmoor 1	Two areas were noted with unprotected edges. When people work over or in the vicinity of water measures are required to be put in place to prevent falls into the water. Installation of edge protection is recommended to mitigate the risk of falls into the water.	 	**Daniel Brown**	**Medium**	
Westmoor 2	Certificate of Employers Liability Insurance on display within branch is currently out of date. In accordance with regulation 5. (2) of The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 in date certification must be on display in view of all employees. Replace with current certificate.		**Daniel Brown**	**High**	

Action Plan					
High Priority			Immediate Action Required		
Medium Priority			Planned Action Required		
Low Priority			Actionable Comment		
Reference Number	**Additional Controls / Actions / Comments**	**Supporting Photographs / Pictures**	**Person(s) Responsible**	**Risk Rating**	**Action Complete When / Who**
Westmoor 3	Fire extinguisher is past its next service due date (Oct 2024) Fire extinguishers can deteriorate over time, and regular servicing helps ensure they are working properly and can be used in an emergency. Servicing is to be arranged and any paperwork relating to this is acquired and held within Health and safety records.		**Daniel Brown**	High	

Contacts & Addendum	
Contact Information:	**AW Safety** **Nottingham Office:** Edwinstowe House, High Street, Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9PR **Lincolnshire Office:** Boston Enterprise Centre, Venture House, Enterprise Way, Lincolnshire, PE21 7TW **Cumbria Office:** Low Cross Buildings, 4 Low Cross Street, Brampton, Cumbria, CA8 1NP **Tel:** 0330 223 7470 **E-mail:** Support@awsafety.co.uk
Website:	www.awsafety.co.uk / www.irmconnect.co.uk
Note:	It is important to note that this Inspection highlights conditions at the time of the visit at the premises detailed on the front cover of the report. It remains the responsibility of the management and staff within the business to make known to the inspector any potentially unsafe conditions or practices which were not apparent during the Inspection, or that may take place at any off-site location. It is the ongoing responsibility of management to ensure that the business and its employees operate safely at all times and that any day-to-day health and safety issues are addressed immediately. Any queries or inaccuracies with this report should be raised immediately with the auditor.
AW 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:	**WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**GOVERNANCE**
Date:	**Thursday 28th 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:

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY IDB
INSURED VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS

PUMPING STATIONS & BUNGALOW

	As at 1st April 2026	
Puddock Pumping Station	1,074,365.00	
Pidley Pumping Station	1,255,752.00	
High Fen Pumping Station	1,024,135.00	
Acre Fen Pumping Station	641,829.00	
Washways Pumping Station	2,371,975.00	
Westmoor Pumping Station	1,081,342.00	
	7,449,398.00	Index linked
Puddock Bungalow	150,000.00	
	7,599,398.00	

4. IDB1 (Annual Report to Defra)

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

5. Exercise of Public Rights

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Annual Governance Statement

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

Author Name: Paul Burrows
Role: Clerk

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

Appendix 1

Warboys Somersham & Pidley 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 Warboys Somersham & Pidley 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 Warboys Somersham & Pidley Internal Drainage Board

The Clerk
Warboys Somersham & Pidley Internal Drainage Board
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambridgeshire
PE15 0AH

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

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

Announcement made by: P Burrows - Clerk to the Board

Date of Announcement: 22nd September 2025

Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY 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: 23/05/2025 29/05/2025 03/06/2025

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: 03/06/2025

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

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

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

We acknowledge as the members of:

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY 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.*

	Yes	No	N/A	
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.				*has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.*

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

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

29/05/2025

and recorded as minute reference:

B.1942

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

Chair

Clerk

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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY 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	684,194	608,890	*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	223,877	265,726	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	44,671	175,596	*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	37,145	42,449	*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	306,707	214,231	*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	608,890	793,532	*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	937,142	1,006,312	*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	5,227,309	5,227,309	*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

AHWool

Date 19-05-2025

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

29/05/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

B.1943

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 **Warboys Somersham and Pidley Internal Drainage Board – DB0119**

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 15/09/2025

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY 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:**		**11**
Meeting:	**WARBOYS, SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**	**Subject:**	**FINANCE REPORT: LOOKING BACK**	
Date:	**Thursday 28th May 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**		**Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Note the Budgeting review within Appendix 1.
B. Note the Highland Water contributions
C. Consider and approve the payments detailed within Appendix 2.
D. Consider and approve the Annual Accounts & Finance Papers 2024/2025 within Appendix 3.

Finance Officer's review and key messages

For 2025/2026 the Board had estimated expenditure for the year of £257,422. This was equivalent to a rate of 31.00p, to be raised through Agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levies.

A budget monitoring exercise was carried out for the winter board meeting, and this was reviewed in November 2025 based on figures to October 2025 which at that point gave an indicative estimate that estimated net expenditure would be in line with the budget set.

Actual net Expenditure in 2025/2026 was lower than the estimated budget because of several reasons. Drain works were approximately £7,000 below budget because of costs being less than original thought. The main savings during the year were Fuel costs which were approximately £25,000 lower than budget, following a dry summer and less than average year for pumping volumes. Administration cost was approximately £1,600 higher than budget due to higher Audit costs and additional administration fees in respect of the Storm Recovery Grant work. Other Improvement costs related to the Weedscreen cleaner overhaul works at Washways and Pidley Pumping Stations respectively and Access Improvement works for the deployment of Mobile Pumps. These works carried out was fully funded from the Storm Recovery Grant.

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 £259,226. The Asset Replacement Fund as of 31st March is £154.235. The Development fund balance as of 31st March 2026 is £230,924. This position is reflected in the Boards financial statements and Annual Return which they are requested to review and approve.

1. **Budgeting**

1.1 The budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2026 is included as Appendix 1.

2. Payments for 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.

3.2 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 £27,850.

3.3 Following the submission of claims for contributions the net sum of £(4,068.35) (£20,723.34 less £24,791.69 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 £27,042.99 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
Washways PS – Weed Screen Overhaul	£64,470	7.78p
Pidley PS – Weed Screen Overhaul	£64,470	7.78p
Access Improvements – Mobile Pump Deployment	£15,180	1.83p
	£144,120	17.39p

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: Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer

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

Appendix 1

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WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET MONITORING 2025/2026

		Approved budget 2025/2026 £	Expenditure to 31.10.2025 £	Est. Expenditure 01.11.25 to 31.03.26	Estimated out-turn at 31.03.2026 £	Variance to budget £	Actual 2024/2025 £
1	District labour (including District Officer's salary)	47,000	27,811	19,865	47,676 A	676	42,449
2	Rates, insurances and telephones	7,000	6,980	-	6,980 B	(20)	6,557
3	Repairs and renewals	33,750 C	15,368 C	18,382	33,750 C	-	37,509
4	Drainworks Piling works	35,000 D	3,239 D	28,095	31,334 D	(3,666)	15,970
5	Fuel (oil and electricity)-including District Officer's travelling	107,500 E	38,065 F	69,435 F	107,500 F	-	85,364
6	Administration charge, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	29,000	13,144	15,857	29,000	-	28,729
7	Environment Agency - Precept	24,147	24,147	-	24,147	-	23,673
8	Capital Reserve Fund	- G	-	- G	- G	-	-
9	Internal Loan Repayment	12,447	-	12,447	12,447	-	-
		295,844	128,753	164,080	292,833	(3,011)	240,252
	Improvement Works	-	-	116,122 I	116,122	116,122	16,371
	Bad debt provision	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>Less income</u>						
	Budgeted income	38,422 F	31,256 F	120,372	151,628 F	113,205	157,611
		257,422	97,497	159,830	257,328	(94)	99,012

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Gas cylinders, gas torch, bolts, washers, shackle and brush with calmp and shafts	154.42
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery, travelling, health and safety contract and storm recovery tranche 1 claim	15,340.33
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,618.08
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	2,089.50
3B Design & Print - Landscape signage for Puddock pumping station	304.80
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to pump 4 at Washways pumping station	558.51
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Washways pumping station	3,328.13
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Washways pumping station	220.01
Middle Level Commissioners - Installation of ultrasonic pump level controller and repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Pidley pumping station (Accounts from Pulsar and NL Hydraulics)	3,107.63
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	571.68
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	470.64
Middle Level Commissioners - Service engines, replace battery and repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Washways pumping station (Accounts from Allerton, Witham Oil and RS Components)	2,580.52
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Pidley pumping station (Accounts from CW Group, Hayley Group and RS Components)	4,820.69
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of padlocks	48.53
Middle Level Commissioners - Replace outside light and check low level probes at Westmoor pumping station	174.01
Middle Level Commissioners - Set winter levels at Acre Fen pumping station	60.43
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply remedial health and safety signage	69.60
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at High Fen pumping station (Account from RS Coponents)	676.17
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply light and repair to syphon breaker at Puddock pumping station (Account from March Electrical)	378.90
Middle Level Commisssioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)	575.70
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance credit as parrt already invoiced	(835.20)
Middle Level Commissioners - Board ID card	22.13
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Bolts, battery wire connectors, hydraulic pipe with elbow ends fitted, flat faced probe with washer and soldering wires on control panel	196.41
Cambridgeshire County Council - Right of way (Warners Drove, Somersham)	30.00
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv	358.27
Environment Agency - Precept	12,073.39
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2025	1,246.80
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv	198.95
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	410.78
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Screws, screw driver, drill bits, lenghs of flat steel, grease, bolts and Tiger seal	128.11
Lakeside Lodge Golf Centre - Expenses in connection with Board meeting	70.00
Ivan Barret Ltd - Full service and MOT AO17 WMW	579.75
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv	199.06
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Plates cut out and welded in drain, 50 litres of hydraulic oil, hydraulic hose, bag of oil dry, washers, box of grease cartridges, flat steel and welding plates on own posts for signage	695.52
T R West Ltd - Supply and install new toughend A rated sealed unit	245.00
Marbeni-Komatsu Ltd - Purchase of Komatsu wheeled excavator	193,200.00
Bank charges	15.00
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv, supply of 5,000 litres of gas oil, grazon Pro and 15 litres of Roundup	4,603.11
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,749.84
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - New box maufactured and fitted at pumping station	269.47
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv and machining KD treated carcassing	364.89
Middle Level Commissioners - Grant in aid storm recovery T2a scheme works at Washways and Westmoor pumping stations	11,060.24
Middle Level Commissioners - Grant in aid received for storm recovery T2a scheme	-8,300.02
N L Hydraulics - Quick release flat face carriers, flat face probes, hose, seals and adaptors	243.84
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Hand wipes, Hammerite paint, brake cleaner, brush for drill, brush for grinder, paint brushes and washers	214.60
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,312.80
Middle Level Commisssioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	2,686.80
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Fuel filters, grease, lower seal, upper seal, diesel fuel adaptor and hose clips	129.44
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, storm recovery tranche 2A claim, IDB change contribution and internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners 2024-2025)	16,238.17
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Weedscreen cleaner HSB insurance check)	324.72
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Discharge consent application - Mr F Adams)	348.37
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv and supply of 5,000 litres of gas oil	4,120.39

Anglia Farmers Ltd - Levy rebate	(12.12)
Marbeni-Komatsu Ltd - 5 years/4,000 hours service contract for Komatsu wheeled excavator	8,976.00
Bank charges	15.00
Information Commissioner - Data Protection Registration renewal	52.00
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv and twinwall pipe	1,134.73
PKF Littlejohn LLP - Audit fee (2024-2025 accounts)	1,260.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	517.44
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	7,045.93
Middle Level Commissioners - Telemetry repairs to pump 1 (Account from RS Components)	102.47
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of road tax for AO17 WMW and AU09 FEW, death in service insurance premium and land registry search fees (Accounts from Unum and HM Land Registry)	747.57
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of padlocks, cable height meter and flail c/w bolt and locking nut (Accounts from Shoc and Engineering & Hire)	609.00
Ivan Barret Ltd - Supply of number plate - AE75 BXR	31.84
N L Hydraulics - Quick release flat face carriers, seals and adaptors	49.22
J C Roberts - Disposal of dredging from Puddock Road drain	1,200.00
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Chain, hand wipes, 10mm tap, disposable gloves, bolts amd EP2 grease	90.66
Environment Agency - Precept	12,073.39
B J Plant Hire Ltd - Drain maintenance	21,864.00
Lakeside Lodge Golf Centre - Expenses in connection with Board meeting	140.00
Middle Level Commisssioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	1,373.70
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv	151.20
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,013.76
IMServ - Annual half hourly electricity data collection to 22nd October 2026	603.65
IMServ - Electricity meter operator agreement to 22nd October 2026	211.25
IMServ - Annual half hourly electricity data collection to 22nd October 2026	276.67
IMServ - Electricity meter operator agreement to 22nd October 2026	89.42
Lakeside Lodge Golf Centre - Expenses in connection with Board meeting	685.40
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - 2' brush, long handle muck fork and alloy shovel	116.11
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv and post concrete	226.74
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv	189.91
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - WD40	113.82
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2026	1,309.20
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	816.48
Ivan Barrett Ltd - Repairs to AO17 WMW	907.67
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv	184.47
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to telemetry and fault find on heater	132.74
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of signage	53.70
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to pump panel (Account from RS Components)	579.53
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Discharge consent application)	10,017.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply waste carrier licence, title register for land and insurance for excavator AE75 BXR (Account Barclaycard, Land Registry and Towergate)	2,269.48
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to pump 1 and automatic weedscreen cleaner at Wahways pumping station (Account from RS Components)	1,381.17
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,531.20
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply flail c/w bolt and locking nut (Account from Engineering & Hire)	322.20
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - 1 long handle Krone	107.95
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Derv and supply of 5,828 litres of gas oil	5,170.85
Corona Energy - Electricity supply (Acre Fen pumping station)	177.27
Corona Energy - Electricity supply (High Fen pumping station)	-352.51
Corona Energy - Electricity supply (Pidley pumping station)	6,200.26
Corona Energy - Electricity supply (Puddock pumping station)	227.43
Corona Energy - Electricity supply (Westmoor pumping station)	0.00
Corona Energy - Electricity supply (Washways pumping station)	-40.92
EDF Energy - Electricity supply (Acre Fen pumping station)	1,792.27
EDF Energy - Electricity supply (High Fen pumping station)	5,430.42
EDF Energy - Electricity supply (Pidley pumping station)	16,994.67
EDF Energy - Electricity supply (Puddock pumping station)	14,891.39
EDF Energy - Electricity supply (Westmoor pumping station)	4,444.98
EDF Energy - Electricity supply (Washways pumping station)	38,968.18
British Gas - Electricity supply (Acre Fen pumping station)	379.51
British Gas - Electricity supply (High Fen pumping station)	3,066.27
British Gas - Electricity supply (Pidley pumping station)	10,346.90
British Gas - Electricity supply (Puddock pumping station)	3,793.52
British Gas - Electricity supply (Westmoor pumping station)	3,157.91
British Gas - Electricity supply (Washways pumping station)	21,715.99
District Labour	47,672.71
	545,947.56

(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)

Appendix 3

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026
GENERAL FUND

2026				2025			
Mar-31	Expenditure during the year:-			Apr-01	Balance brought forward		239,763.53
	Precept		24,146.78	2026			
	Rates, insurances, telephones	9,112.16		Mar-31	Rate income & Special levies	257,003.56	
	Repairs & Renewals	15,614.00			Write Off Of Unknown Occupiers	(25,582.32)	231,421.24
	Fuel	82,692.90					
	Drainworks	28,082.33			Interest		2,996.42
	District Labour	47,675.63			Consents		250.00
	Administration charge, Audit fee,				Landowners Consent		3,564.40
	printing, stationery, advertising etc	30,597.60	213,774.62		Rent		6,600.00
					Highland Water Contributions		22,974.64
	Improvement works						
	Washways PS - Weedscreen cleaner	64,470.15			Write Back of Provisions		14.07
	Pidley PS - Weedscreen cleaner overh	64,470.15					
	Access Improvements	15,180.00	144,120.30		Storm Recovery Grant - T2B		144,120.30
	Purchase of Komatsu Excavator		161,000.00		From Development Charges Account		
					Purchase of Komatsu Excavator		161,000.00
	Depreciation Charge - Small Tool & Equipment		120.38				
	To Development Charges Account						
	Funding of Purchase of Excavator		10,316.88				
	Balance carried forward		259,225.64				
			812,704.60				812,704.60

BALANCE SHEET
Capital Section

Liabilities			Assets		
Capital Provisions		5,290,057.67	Bungalow, Puddock Pumping Station	126,291.00	
			Pumping Stations	5,013,500.00	
			Plant Assets	150,645.78	
		5,290,057.67	Stock	9,232.65	5,299,669.43

Revenue Section

General Fund					
Revenue	108,579.86		Ratepayers' Account - Arrears		18,939.06
Capital	150,645.78	259,225.64	Sundry Debtors		15,507.51
			Value Added Tax		34,839.05
Development Charges Account		230,924.01	Balance in hand -		
Grant in Aid		164,011.21	Treasurer's Account	81,429.16	
Sundry Creditors		80,028.80	Business Premium Account	798,754.66	880,183.82
Capital Reserve Fund		154,235.46			
Asset Replacement Fund		20,656.08			
Low Level Restoration Fund		50,000.00			
		6,249,138.87			6,249,138.87

Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2026

Treasurers Account 2025/2026

1st April 2025			31st March 2026		
Balance brought forward		1,006,311.63	Payments made during the year	545,947.56	
			Returned Direct Debit	884.89	546,832.45
31st March 2026					
Receipts during the year					
Clerk's collection account	411,413.95				
Old cheque written back	0.00				
Interest on deposit accounts	9,290.69	420,704.64	Balance carried forward		880,183.82
		1,427,016.27			**1,427,016.27**

Barclays Bank PLc

Current Account

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2026			80,000.00
Less unpresented cheques:			0.00
Add outstanding lodgements:	27/03/2026	Visa	1,429.16
Balance per Trial Balance			**81,429.16**

Cash balances as at 31st March 2026

Barclays Bank PLc

Current Account	**81,429.16**
Business Premium Account	**798,754.66**
Treasury Deposit	**0.00**
Total reconciled cash balances per accounts	**880,183.82**

Warboys Somersham & Pidley 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		276,160.75		
	Development charges account		374,316.35		
	Asset Replacement Fund		92,432.45		
	Low level restoration fund		50,000.00		
	Contributions holding account		622.08		
				793,531.63	**793,532**
Line 2	**Rates and Special Levies**				
	Agricultural rates		229,051.56		
	Special Levies		28,027.00		
	Penalty		0.00		
	Costs		-75.00		
	Write-off		-25,582.32		
				231,421.24	**231,421**
Line 3	**Total other receipts**				
	Interest				
		General fund	2,996.42		
		Development charges account	4,677.97		
		Asset Replacement Fund	1,616.30		
	Consent applications		250.00		
	Rent		6,600.00		
	Sale of Asset		23,290.00		
	Highland Water		22,974.64		
	Grant in Aid		0.00		
	Discharge contributions		22,937.12		
	Land owners consent		3,564.40		
	Private Works		0.00		
	Write back of provisions		14.07		
	Storm recovery grant		144,120.30		
				233,041.22	**233,041**
Line 4	**Staff costs**				
	Wages/salaries		40,694.28		
	National insurance contributions		5,353.56		
	Pension costs		1,627.79		
	Travelling expenses		0.00		
				47,675.63	**47,676**
Line 5	**Loan repayments**				
	PWLB - Principal		0.00		
	PWLB - Interest		0.00		
				0.00	**0**

Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB
Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return

Financial year ended 31st March 2026

				Per Annual Return
Line 6	**All other payments**			
	Precept	24,146.78		
	Rates, insurances, telephones	9,112.16		
	Repairs and renewals	15,614.00		
	Fuel	82,692.90		
	Drainworks	28,082.33		
	Administration	30,597.60		
	Development charges fees	290.31		
	Write back of provisions	0.00		
	Purchase of Asset	161,000.00		
	Improvements	144,120.30		
			495,656.38	**495,656**
Line 7	**Balances carried forward**			
	General Fund	319,033.24		
	Development charges account	230,924.01		
	Asset Replacement Fund	94,048.75		
	Low level restoration fund	50,000.00		
	Contributions Holding Account	20,656.08		
			714,662.08	**714,662**

Reconciliation		
Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6		714,662.08

Reconciliation to Accounts

Balances carried forward per Annual Return - As above		714,662.08
Add Back:-		
Restatement of Assets	501.49	
Depreciation	-120.38	
Assets acquired in year	0.00	
Assets disposed of in year	-24,000.00	
Profit on disposal	23,998.00	
		379.11
Balances carried forward per Accounts		
General Fund	259,225.64	
Development charges account	230,924.01	
Asset Replacement Fund	154,235.46	
Low level restoration fund	50,000.00	
Contributions Holding Account	20,656.08	
		715,041.19

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY 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	608,890	793,532	*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	265,726	231,421	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	175,596	233,041	*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	42,449	47,676	*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	214,231	495,656	*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	793,532	714,662	*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	1,006,312	880,184	*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	5,227,309	5,351,834	*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 AHDool

Date 15/05/2026

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

DD/MM/YYYY

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	12
Meeting:	**WARBOYS, SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**	**Subject:**	**FINANCE REPORT: LOOKING FORWARD**
Date:	**Thursday 28th May 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Consider the Finance Officer's summary
B. Fees, remuneration and subscriptions
C. Review Contributions from Developers (Confidential papers)
D. Note the Precept to the Environment Agency
E. Review & approve Determination of land for rating purposes & Rate arrears
F. Review & Approve Rating Estimates for 2026/2027
G. Consider & approve the Agricultural Drainage Rates and Special Levy requirements for 2026/2027
H. 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. Standard figures have been reviewed and approved by the finance committee.

The rating estimates for 2026/2027 are made up of standard budget. 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.

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

Members should note that the budget proposal includes for the full recovery of highland water claims of £21,489.

<u>After fully reviewing the Estimates, the Boards Reserves, and likely future annual running costs, the Finance Committee recommend that for 2025/2026 the rate should be reduced to 31.00p together with a Special levy of £7,183 on Fenland District Council and a Special levy of £20,910 on Huntingdonshire District Council.</u>

1. Fees, Remunerations and Subscriptions

1.1 The Board to approve the review of Rental agreement and appointment of a letting agent to administer Tenanted property.

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 £24,146.78.

3. Determination of Annual Values & Rate Arrears – Appendix 1

4. Estimates for 2026/27

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

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

5. Rate Requirements for 2026/27

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

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

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

Appendix 1 Determination of annual values & rate arrears
Appendix 2 Estimates for 2026/27
Appendix 3 Rate Requirements for 2026/27

Appendix 1

Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB

Determination of Annual Values for Rating purposes — May-26

2026-2027

Location	Transfer value to Special Levy - £65.95 per hectare	Area (Hectares)	Agricultural Land	Special Levies: Fenland	Special Levies: Hunts.	Special Levies: TOTAL	Rate W/Offs
	Opening Values (£)	4431.461	**739,983**	**22,957**	**67,453**	**830,658**	
	Opening %		89.08%	2.76%	8.12%	99.97%	
Location	Reason for change.						
Doddington Road, Chatteris	Sold as individual building plots	1.083	-135	71			41.85
Roundhouse Farm Puddock Road Warboys	Domestic Dwelling	0.211	-36	14			22.68
Roundhouse Farm Puddock Road Warboys	GIS Rating Review	-8.346	-1,107				343.17
Previously Red Tile Farm	Arrears relating to April - October 2016						2602.48
West Street Chatteris	Housing Development	1.970	-274	130			98.64
	Total determinations	4223.115	-1,552	215	0	0	
	Closing Values (£)		**738,431**	**23,172**	**67,453**	**829,056**	
	Closing %		89.11%	2.76%	8.12%	100.00%	
							£3,108.82

Appendix 2

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET PROPOSAL 2026/2027

	Actual 2020/2021	*Actual 2021/2022*	*Actual 2022/2023*	*Actual 2023/2024*	Actual 2024/2025	Approved budget 2025/2026	Actual 2025/2026	Proposed budget 2026/2027
					£	£	£	£
1 District labour (including District Officer's salary)	*35,077*	*36,089*	*65,747*	*37,145*	42,449	47,000	47,676	51,500 [A]
2 Rates, insurances and telephones	*4,430*	*4,452*	*4,616*	*5,614*	6,557	7,000	9,112	10,250 [B]
3 Repairs and renewals	*16,700*	*19,401*	*17,122*	*29,494*	37,509	33,750 [C]	15,614 [C]	43,591 [C]
4 Drainworks	*26,894*	*83,345*	*16,267*	*12,354*	15,970	35,000 [D]	28,082 [D]	34,500 [D]
Piling works								
5 Fuel (oil and electricity)-including District Officer's travelling	*61,477*	*48,545*	*68,792*	*210,247*	85,364	107,500	82,693	101,000 [E]
6 Administration charge, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	*23,218*	*23,516*	*23,975*	*25,531*	28,729	29,000	30,598	32,400
7 Environment Agency - Precept	*21,877*	*21,877*	*22,314*	*22,984*	23,673	24,147	24,147	24,630
8 Capital Reserve Fund	*22,532*	*12,532*	-	-	-	-	-	- [F]
9 Internal Loan Repayment	-	-	-	-	-	12,447	10,317	10,317 [G]
	212,205	*249,757*	*218,833*	*343,369*	240,252	295,844	248,238	308,188
Improvement works	*99,562*	*10,632*	*28,361*	-	16,371	-	144,120 [H]	-
LESS Interest on Deposit Accounts, Private Works, Highland Water Contributions, Contributions from Development Charges Account etc	*122,844*	*72,719*	*54,987*	*39,276*	157,611	38,422 [I]	180,506 [I]	51,181 [I]
Net Expenditure	*188,923*	*187,669*	*192,207*	*304,093*	99,012	257,422	211,853	257,007
Rate Requirement								*31.00 p*
Rate set	*20.00p*	*21.00p*	*22.00p*	*27.00p*	*32.00p*	31.00 p		

Budget Proposal 2026/2027

Remarks		Budget 2025/2026	Actual 2025/2026	Budget 2026/2027
A -	Includes provision to increase by Middle Level pay award from anniversary of commencement of employment.			
B -	Includes provision for increased insurances, telephones			
C -	Includes provisions for:			
	General provisions	13,500	9,861	13,345
	Acre Fen PS - Repairs	-	-	-
	High Fen PS - Repairs	-	189	-
	Pidley PS - Repairs	15,000	2,573	-
	Puddock PS - Repairs	750	513	-
	Washways PS - Repairs	-	4,727	-
	Westmoor PS - Repairs	-	1,625	-
	Westmoor PS - Repairs - T2A Adj	-	(1,658)	-
	Washways PS - Repairs - T2A Adj	-	(5,496)	-
	Repairs to Slacker at Puddock	-	-	20,000
	Culvert Repairs	-	-	5,000
	Truck	1,500	1,594	1,750
	Digger	3,000	1,686	3,496
		33,750	15,614	43,591
	Pump overhaul provision 2023/24 & 2024/25 not raised			
D -	Includes contractors accounts:-			
	Flail Mowing	-	-	-
	Slubbing (machine hire)	25,000	19,220	25,000
	Chemical weed control	500	-	500
		25,500	19,220	25,500
E -	Provision based on 3 year average consumption and estimate for new contract rates from October 2026 (20% Increase)			
F -	Does not include provision for future asset improvement fund			
G -	Repayment of Capital and Interest to Development Fund	12,447	10,317	10,317
H -	Washways PS - Weedscreen cleaner overhaul	-	64,470	-
	Pidley PS - Weedscreen cleaner overhaul	-	64,470	-
	Access Improvements	-	15,180	-
		-	144,120	-
I -	Estimated income includes:			
	Full calculated Highland Water Claim	27,850	22,975	21,489
	Storm Recovery (T2B) Grant - Asset Resilience and Mobile Pumps	-	144,120	-
	Rent	6,600	6,600	6,600
	Consents	-	3,814	1,178
	Interest on General Fund	1,500	2,996	1,914

Appendix 3

Warboys Somersham & Pidley Internal Drainage Board

Rate and Special Levy requirements

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

a) Proportion to be borne by the Agricultural Sector - 89.07%

b) Proportion to be borne by Special levies issued to Councils: -

Huntingdonshire District Council -	8.14%	
Fenland District Council -	2.79%	10.93%

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £7,384.

In 2026/2027 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levies would raise £8,291.

Revenue cash balance in hand on 31st March 2026 - £259,226.

The estimated net expenditure for the Boards Revenue and Capital Programmes in 2026/2027 is £257,007, this does not include for any future works funding and equivalent to: -

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

b) a Special levy on Fenland District Council of £7,183 and

c) a Special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £20,910

In 2025/2026 a rate of 31.00p in the £ was raised together with a Special levy of £7,117 on Fenland District Council and a Special levy of £20,910 on Huntingdonshire District Council.

P BURROWS

Clerk of the Board

May 2026