

CONINGTON AND HOLME INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Conington and Holme Internal Drainage Board
held at the Admiral Wells Inn, Holme on Tuesday the 8th June 2021

PRESENT

J Racey Esq (Chairman)
P J Davies Esq
D R Elmore Esq

R Elmore Esq
T Simpson Esq
T R West Esq

The Clerk to the Board was in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Alban, G P Bliss Esq and Ms A Glanville.

B.1051 Standing Orders

Further to minute B.1015, the Clerk reported that ADA have obtained agreement from Defra for the flexibility which allowed the Board to choose how they wished to hold Board meetings during the pandemic to become permanent. This change will allow remote attendance or fully virtual meetings to take place in future should that best meet the Board's particular requirements at that time.

RESOLVED

That the Board adopt the revised Standing Orders.

B.1052 Declarations of Interest

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

Mr Simpson declared an interest in the planning application (MLC Ref Nos. 207 & 212) received from J H Simpson & Son.

B.1053 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 9th June 2020 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1054 Resignation of District Officer

Mr P J Davies offered his resignation at the meeting and the Board thanked him for his years of service and commitment to the Board. There was accordingly a vacancy on the Board and several suitable candidates would be approached to see if one of them may be interested in becoming a member and taking on the role of District Officer.

RESOLVED

That Mr Davies' decision be received with regret and that the Board's appreciation of the manner in which he had undertaken his duties as District Officer be recorded in the minutes and a letter of appreciation and best wishes be sent to him.

B.1055 Great Fen Project

Further to minute B.1021, the Clerk outlined the current project focus in relation to wet farming trials and the aim to see if it was possible to grow alternative crops/plants with the water table held near to peat surface. He also advised of the recent vandalism of the bird hide. It was noted by some Members that wildlife that would have previously been found in Holme Wood appeared diminished and that it had been alleged that Fox Hollies and Rhododendrons had been cleared deliberately.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk enquire if the Fox Hollies and Rhododendrons had been cleared deliberately and if so why.

B.1056 East Coast Main Line Level Crossing Closure Programme

Further to minute B.1022, the Chairman reported that the access bridge had been replaced with something more substantial and that Network Rail had carried out some in channel culvert clearance work, the exact extent however was unknown. They had also promised to fence off the area adjacent to the culvert inlet to allow safe access to the weedscreen. This work was however outstanding with no date given on when it might go ahead.

B.1057 BT Poles to Conington Peterborough – Points 22-24

Further to minute B.1023, it was noted that whilst some BT poles remained in place those that affected the IDBs access had been removed to the satisfaction of the Board.

B.1058 Catchwater Drain, upstream of Cooks Lane

Further to minute B.1024, it was noted that following the winter event the Middle Level Commissioners had carried out emergency works on the Catchwater Drain. However, these were failing and a more permanent solution would be required. It was expected that these works would be undertaken this year.

B.1059 Inspection – Conington Pumping Station

Further to minute B.1025, the Chairman reported that the re-wiring appeared to be effective and that he would therefore be reluctant to suggest any further intervention. He noted that the station had failed during the winter event and had been overwhelmed by water. He also noted that a manual override had since been added to one of the pumps which would at least allow the pump to be run should sensor failure occur, albeit with a close eye being kept on it to ensure the wet-well is not sucked dry.

RESOLVED

To monitor the performance of the station at this time and not to undertake any works on it until and unless they are necessary.

B.1060 Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised:-

(i) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a sixth Chair's Meeting was held virtually on the 26th November 2020.

Topics discussed included the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Executive giving an update on COVID-19 actions and responses, the change of MLC Chairman from Marc Heading to Jonathan Brown, updates on the Technical Services Department review (which aims to address the delays in responding to planning and consenting matters) and an update on the work of WRE. He also advised that Defra had commented positively on the Good Governance Guide published by ADA and that on the back of this feedback ADA were currently working on an Environmental Good Governance Guide. It was also noted at this meeting that Agricultural and Environmental Bills were passing through Parliament, the later including clauses benefiting IDBs, allowing them to expand their boundaries or for entirely new IDBs to be created, which was welcomed by the Chairmen as a positive step forward. Paul Burrows spoke on the work of the Environment Agency covering topics such as carbon baselining, national strategies, the tactical plans (which are securing much needed grant allocation for the area) and the need to continue to grow partnership working. He also spoke for Brian Stewart, the RFCC Chairman, who unfortunately was suffering from a poor broadband connection. On behalf of Brian, he advised that following the re-shaping of the local RFCC, there were two extra EA nominated positions available and that in this respect he wanted to propose that an Ex-officio seat be created for the incumbent Chair of the Great Ouse branch of ADA. This is likely to be Marc Heading who is expected to take over from Harry Raby in the spring. The new post will inject a direct link to farming which is of course the major business sector covered by this RFCC. The meeting finally turned to the future amalgamation of IDBs which it was generally agreed are likely to increase over time as succession planning has to be addressed.

ii) Application for byelaw consent

That the following application for consent to undertake works in and around watercourses had been approved and granted since the last general meeting of the Board:-

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date Consent Granted</u>
Network Rail	Redeck Holme Brook Side Bridge and reinstate surfaces to approach roads	8 th April 2021

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consent be approved.

iii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 83rd Annual Conference of the Association was held virtually on Wednesday the 11th November 2020.

The conference this year was held in two distinct and separate parts, with the morning session comprising of key speakers and questions and the afternoon the AGM.

Key speakers in the morning were;

David Cooper, Deputy Director for Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Policy (Defra) – who first thanked the IDBs for the work they do and then endorsed the efforts being made to improve governance through the publication of the ‘Good Governance Guide’ and the work in hand on ‘Good Environmental Governance’. He then went on to speak about the ambitious aims of government, the record investment agreed by treasury for the next six year funding cycle and the Agriculture Bill that if passed will facilitate the creation of new IDBs and allow existing IDBs to expand districts. He finished by stating that the key was to educate people and to work together to share good practice.

Chris Stoate, Head of Research (Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust) – who spoke about the Allerton Project which was a carefully implemented scheme to directly measure the impacts of controlling headwaters using measures such as leaky dams. This work consisted of schemes on similar upland sub-catchments where a direct comparison could be made between interventions and non-interventions. The results were very promising with downstream peak flows being reduced by around a quarter where the most effective measures were installed. Chris accepted that there were challenges surrounding maintenance and that the choice of natural materials and design was key. He also noted that in the locations chosen any failed leaky dam materials would get caught on stream bends well before any risk of being washed downstream into urban areas.

Toby Willson, Executive Director of Operations (Environment Agency) – who is soon to leave the EA reflected on the target to be carbon neutral in less than a decade and in doing this noted that the equivalent carbon release linked to pumping alone from the February event this year was equivalent to that of 1200 houses. He went on to point out that the onus is on us to act now and that if we fail to do so it will be our children and grandchildren who will face the consequences.. He acknowledged the hugely influential role of ADA’s voice in the development of national strategies and the work being done in partnership with IDBs to be more resilient. He finished by setting out three challenges.

- 1) To develop true partnerships where all organisations are working unified towards the same goals.
- 2) To achieve net zero carbon emissions, asking specifically what the IDBs were doing towards this?
- 3) To develop and implement strategies to attract young people into the industry.

Questions were taken from the floor and were wide ranging from asking why there was so little information being shared on the development of ELMs to why it was necessary in one location for the EA to undertake an environmental check before removing a dead tree from across a watercourse.

A more formal question and answer session ended the morning, the panel being made up from, Julia Beeden from Cambridgeshire County Council, Emily Clarke from Anglian Water, John Curtin from Environment Agency, David Jenkins from Wessex RFCC, Innes Thompson from ADA and David Thomas from the Middle Level Commissioners. When asked a question David Thomas, your Clerk, took the opportunity to advise of the importance and value of the work being undertaken by WRE and also to point out to Toby Wilson that he absolutely agreed with the sentiments of partnership working and also the key aims of the EA but noted that true partnership working was a two way street and that there were still areas of policy development that ADA were not being involved with sufficiently. Toby accepted that the EA were not perfect and that more work needed to be done on this.

The AGM in the afternoon followed the usual format of recording appointments and electing office holders. It was noted that Robert Caudwell would be coming to the end of the normal Chair's term of office and that this would be reviewed next year. The formalities over a lively question and answer session followed which seemed to work very well and may influence how future conferences are arranged.

b) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities will be held virtually this year with log in details available from the ADA website.

c) Meeting of the River Great Ouse Branch

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association was held virtually on Tuesday the 2nd March 2021.

Matters covered were that there was a change in Chairman with Harry Raby stepping down and Marc Heading taking his place. Councillor Doug McMurdo takes on the role of Vice Chairman. This maintains the balance of having upland and lowland members in key roles and also balances council and agricultural ratepayers' interests. John Heading was appointed for another three years on the ADA Board as branch representative. Robert Caudwell gave an update on ADA matters focusing in on progress of the agriculture bill through parliament and the lowland peat initiative which he considers must not negatively impact on livelihoods and the need to produce food for the nation. Next to speak was Brian Stewart who was seeking support for his initiative to create an Ex-Officio post on the FRCC for the sitting Chairman of the Great Ouse branch of ADA (EA nominated post). This was supported unanimously and Marc Heading will take up this new role with immediate effect.

Claire Jouvray and Paul Burrows gave updates on the revenue funding position, which was quite healthy with sources of money found to deliver what had been targeted and on the long-term strategy for the area including the tactical plans which are set to make access to grant in aid smoother than it might otherwise be. A warning was raised that funding may get squeezed as time passes and the financial impact of COVID-19 gets addressed.

Approximately 30 people attended this virtual meeting, which should return to its normal format at Prickwillow Hall next year.

That the date of the next meeting is Tuesday the 1st March 2022.

d) ADA response to publication of EFRA Flooding Inquiry Report

That ADA have responded to the Government EFRA report into the winters flooding, which has the headline conclusion that the lack of clear flood-resilience targets is leaving England at risk of 'playing catch-up' with climate change.

Encouragingly, in addition to recognising these challenges, EFRA have also clearly stated that in light of ever more frequent and severe storms, there is an urgent need to provide long-term funding for the maintenance of existing and new flood defences, to match capital commitment together with a need to examine the mental health impacts of severe flooding, calling for an action plan to address this alongside the economic and physical effects.

ADA's response and the full EFRA report can be found via the following link; <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmenvfru/170/170.pdf>

iv) Capital Funding Projects

That at the spring 2020 budget it was announced by Government that they would provide the Environment Agency with a settlement of £5.2billionn for capital funding projects over the next 6 years, from April 2021 to March 2027, to better protect 336,000 properties. This includes both homes and non-residential properties and presents a significant increase over the current 6-year programme. It is noted that the definition of non-residential properties includes shops, businesses, industrial sites, schools, hospitals, etc. and the new arrangements also facilitate funded improvements to habitat and the environment.

In response to this the Environment Agency have issued new partnership funding rules which go alongside this increased funding programme. The new rules are considered critical to delivering the called for better protection to the target of 336,000 properties, but will also allow:

- updated payments which will now account for inflation and be based on new evidence on the overall impacts of flooding, such as mental health
- increased payments for flood protection schemes which also create a range of environmental benefits
- more funding for flood protection schemes which also protect properties that will later become at risk of flooding due to climate change
- a new risk category which will enable schemes that prevent surface water flooding to qualify for more funding

v) What is Good Governance

That Defra have provided a summary of "What is Good Governance?":-

- Good governance is about the processes for making and implementing decisions. It's not about making 'correct' decisions, but about the best possible process for making those decisions - and therefore good governance, share several characteristics. All have a positive effect on various aspects of Boards including consultation policies and practices, meeting procedures, service quality protocols, officers' conduct, role clarification and good working relationships.

- Boards should implement decisions and follow processes that make the best use of the available people, resources and time to ensure the best possible results for their community – and try to serve the needs of the entire community while balancing competing interests in a timely, appropriate and responsive manner. A community’s wellbeing results from all of its members feeling their interests have been considered by Boards in the decision-making process. This means that all groups, particularly the most vulnerable, should have opportunities to participate in the process.
- People should be able to follow and understand the decision-making process. This means that they will be able to clearly see how and why a decision was made – what information, advice and consultation Boards considered, and which legislative requirements (when relevant) Boards followed. This means that decisions are consistent with relevant legislation or common law and are within the powers of the Acts.
- Anyone affected by or interested in a decision should have the opportunity to participate in the process for making that decision. This can happen in several ways – community members may be provided with information, asked for their opinion, given the opportunity to make recommendations or, in some cases, be part of the actual decision-making process.
- Accountability is a fundamental requirement of good governance. Boards have an obligation to report, explain and be answerable for the consequences of decisions it has made on behalf of the community it represents.

vi) Smart Level System/District Wide Telemetry Bid

That a Local Levy Bid has been submitted that appears to have been successful and will offer a contribution of half the cost of installing telemetry at pumping station sites. This will allow early warnings of pump or weedscreen failure and remote operation. Also, as the bid covers all MLC administered IDBs there is scale which will facilitate very competitive rates.

When looking at the cost of telemetry there will be a number of factors that will impact upon cost. We have asked Xylem to put together a table that should cover the upper and lower bounds of all IDB pumping stations (see below). Prior to placing an order a site survey will be undertaken, average cost for this is expected to be in the region of £200. Xylem will then assess what if any control panel modifications will be required to allow telemetry. The other defining factor will be whether there is to be an additional requirement for remote control of the station pumps and set points. The table covers this range.

The costing bands are:

Low	£2000 - £5,000	Minor panel modifications are required, signals are present but need work to the panel to present or make these available to telemetry.
Medium	£5,001 - £24,999	Signals are not present to enable telemetry and panel modifications are quite intensive to bring the panel to a point where a telemetry unit can be installed.
High	£25,000 +	Signals are not present and the panel requires major modifications to give the required signals. Should this option be required it is anticipated that consideration first should be given to replacement of the control panel which would bring more value and longevity. Signals for telemetry could be more easily accommodated in a new panel.

Note all above figures are gross and if the Board resolves to go ahead as part of the Grant funded scheme currently on offer will be discounted 50%.

Note: The telemetry access will be cloud based, increasing the flexibility in access at the appropriate level for staff and District Officers.

Members discussed the value of telemetry at length and considered it would be of value, however firm costs would be required to ensure it was affordable. The Chairman asked if the station was refurbished could the equipment be transferred. The Clerk expected that although some adjustments would be required to the configuration he expected that it would as the base stations were standard units.

RESOLVED

That Xylem be instructed to survey the site and provide a firm cost for telemetry.

vii) Anglia Farmers

Further to minute B.993(vi), the Clerk advised that although the running of the remainder of the Anglia Farmers electricity contract has continued to be monitored it has been difficult to address some of the issues due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19.

In view of this, the Middle Level Commissioners' resolved to remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30th September 2021 and to continue to monitor the performance of Anglia Farmers over the new contract period.

The Clerk reported that in addition it was proposed that quotes for 'green energy' be included, with a view to moving over to this form of power supply if the cost differential is marginal. The Clerk further reported that the need to show that IDBs carbon footprint is being actively managed over future years is expected to increase with the Environment Agency setting themselves the target of being carbon neutral by 2030.

The Clerk reported that the Chairman had subsequently agreed for the Board to remain with Anglia Farmers.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman's actions be approved.

viii) Fens Biosphere

Further to minute B.1026, the Clerk referred to the leaflet from Cambridgeshire Acre.

ix) Land Registry

That whilst it is a legal requirement for land occupiers to notify the Board of any change of occupation, including releasing contact details for the new occupiers, on many occasions this does not occur and time is spent trying to determine who the new occupier is. When the normal avenues fail to deliver any meaningful information we now use our Land Registry account to gain details of the current land owner. The costs of making an application via this

method are small (currently £6) but obviously this will show up on the Board accounts, hence the need to draw this new way of working to the Boards attention.

x) National Drainage Show & Floodex 2021

That the National Drainage Show & Floodex 2021 will be held at ExCel, London on the 9th and 10th November 2021.

B.1061 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

The Board considered the Report of the Consulting Engineers, viz:-

Conington & Holme I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – May 2021

Pumping Station

The pumping station controls failed over the Christmas rainfall event and had to be adapted to allow the pumps to run. Subsequent to this Speechley Electrical undertook some repairs, but more work is required and with this in mind the three-monthly routine inspections have been temporarily suspended (as requested by the Chairman) and the Middle Level Commissioners await further instructions in this regard.

It is important to note that the station is considered to be at the end of its reasonable operational life and is in urgent need of replacement.

A recent inspection of repair works to the Board's old pumping station inlet at Connington Fen Bridge has been undertaken. The site inspection indicates recent remedial repair works undertaken by the Board's contractor and Board members during the winter months is satisfactory. Steel sheet piles procured from the Middle Level Commissioners' stock have been driven into the bed of the old pump inlet channel in order to stabilise subsiding infilled materials within the redundant intake channel of the old pump. The surrounding grass area has been levelled and grass seeded.



In order to maximise the life of the recently installed steel sheet piles, the Board may wish to consider coating the exposed steel with a suitable metal paint. This will serve to minimise oxidation of the steel in future years.

Pumping Station Valuations - Conington & Holme IDB	
<p>The following is an estimate of the maximum expected cost of rebuilding or replacing the pumping station on the same or an adjacent site following a catastrophic failure, eg a fire, a collapse or an explosion.</p>	
Site Name	Conington & Holme I.D.B - Conington Pumping Stn.
Site Data	
No. Pumps	2
Station Capacity	0.71 cumecs
Station built	1970 pumps last overhauled early 1980's
Description of Station	2 no. Allen Gwynnes 15" Vertical Mixed Flow Bowl No. C4/79390/1 with Brooks Crompton Parkinson Wound Rotor 30kW @ 970 rpm motor. 1no Newbrook SPL26 Dual Drive BHI WR auto controls. Brick control building with felt covered flat roof with roof hatches.
Valuation	
Civils Works	£431,300.00
M&E	£209,570.00
Other	£44,760.00
Total	£685,630.00
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sump/pipework etc	£340,500.00
Hard standing	£0.00
Fencing	£0.00
Outfall	£34,050.00
Pumphouse	£45,400.00
Other	£11,350.00
M&E	
Pump etc	£110,300.00
Control Equipment/cabling	£33,090.00
Power Supply	inc in public liability
Motors/gearbox installation	£33,090.00
Weedscreen/ raker	£33,090.00
Other	
Approvals	£11,190.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,595.00
Design	£16,785.00
Supervision	£11,190.00

Pumping Hours

Conington Pumping Station

Pump	Total hours run Apr 17-Apr 18	Total hours run Apr 18 – May 19	Total hours run May 19 – May 20	Total hours run May 20 – May 21	
No 1	376	6	463 (10451)	151 (10602)	
No 2	43	54	28 (8820)	1 (8821)	
	Total hours run Mar 12-Apr 13	Total hours run Apr 13-Apr 14	Total hours run Apr 14-Apr 15	Total hours run Apr 15-Apr 16	Total hours run Apr 16-Apr 17
No 1	289	116	59	41	15
No 2	599	412	593	196	110

Flood Risk Management (FRM) for the Fens [previously reported as the Future Fenland Project]

The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer has represented both the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards on the Technical Group since the last Board meeting.

Tactical Plans for the Fens

In response to the following question raised at the March East IDB meeting in June:

“Clerk to provide further information to members regarding the cost to the Board, of whether the Board has any input into the project and whether the Board is able to remove themselves from the arrangement if costs escalate.”

the Environment Agency's Fenland Partnerships Advisor, FCRM, Vicky Eade, advised as follows:

“As you know, there has not been any cost to the Board in developing the plans, aside from officer time to provide data and information. The agreement to the plans is on the basis that any work in the Fens area will be to maintain the current Standard of Service (SoS) for the area, until the Flood Risk Management for the Fens project has set out the preferred direction and options for managing the flood risk infrastructure in the Fens. If the Board were to remove themselves from the Tactical Plans, then they would not be able to demonstrate they have taken a Strategic Approach in assessing options to managing risks, as set out in the Partnership Funding Guidance 2020, to avoid the double counting FCERM Grant in Aid (GiA). Which would then mean maximum amount of eligible grant available for any scheme in their Board area, would be capped at 45%.

Input to the Tactical Plans has been represented by David Thomas and Graham Moore at the Fens Technical Group.

I have noted that March East IDB do not have any capital works planned for the Tactical Plan period, so in terms of cost increases I assume you mean contribution to Phase 2 of the FRM for the Fens project. When we have developed that phase, any contributions to the project would be made with a legal agreement, which would specify how cost increases would be dealt with.”

An allocation has been made available to the Board to maintain its system over the next 15 years. The details of this funding allocation are currently being clarified.

The Tactical Plans referred to in this document cover what has been termed the 'Great Ouse Fens', which covers the catchment of the River Great Ouse in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Its boundary to the west is formed of the right bank of the River Nene and includes all of the Middle Level catchment area and its constituent IDBs.

'Flood Risk Management for the Fens' is a project that has been set up to plan the best way of managing future flood risk in the whole Great Ouse Fens area. It is to be a Strategic Outline Programme which will set out the preferred option for managing flood risk in the Fens, taking in to account climate change and sea level rise (Strategic Outline Programmes sit above/before Strategic Outline Cases and are large scale programmes, so the Fens catchment scale fits this.)

The project will recommend actions that will be the best/most appropriate way of managing flood risk in the Fens over the next 50-100 years. The Flood Risk Management for the Fens project will take approximately 10-15 years to complete and in the mean time we need to know the maintenance and capital work needed in the area to continue to manage flood risk over the next two 6 year capital Grant in Aid settlement cycles, the period 2021 to 2027 and 2027 to 2033.

The background to the above is that the East Anglia Flood & Coastal Risk Management team have been working with national colleagues to come up with a better way of presenting the whole picture of future investment to allow us to have a conversation with government about the short, medium and long term plans for the area. We agreed that we would produce Tactical Plans for each of the sub-catchments (Middle Level, South Level, West and East of Ouse and King's Lynn areas) to look at ALL FCRM assets for all sources of flooding that would better present the short term programme of works required and the agreed amount of benefits (Outcome Measures) that can be claimed for each project. This advice has led to the piece of work around benefit apportionment to address the issues with double counting of outcome measures by individual projects. In January 2019 all IDB Chairs in the Fens area were sent a letter, explaining the Fens project and how it fitted with the Strategic Approach for Flood & Coastal Risk Management Projects. This strategic approach fits with the Tactical Plans.

The Tactical Plans therefore clearly set out what maintenance and capital works are required in each sub catchment over the next 12 years (feeding into the East Anglian Area pipeline of work), and what benefits this work delivers. The plans also highlight the apportioned Outcome Measures and the likely FDGiA funding each scheme can attract based on maintaining the Standard of Service, along with the Partnership Funding (PF) scores to show where PF contributions are needed. The Plans also take into account benefits that have been claimed already in the previous six year capital investment programme (2015-2021).

The expectation is that work in the Fens area will only be to continue delivering the current Standard of Service for the area, until the Flood Risk Management for the Fens project has set out the preferred direction for the area as a whole. This can, though, include capital interventions to assets to return them to design standards, where assets are currently below target conditions and Standard of Service levels. The expectation is that those with assets in the area will be able to provide a plan of work for the next 12 years, and this will lead to us having a joined up, strategic approach for the short to medium term providing certainty to all RMAs with their investment planning and highlighting the amount of FDGiA funding individual schemes are eligible for. It will however remain the case that for each scheme a business case will need to be developed and approved before any grant is released and of course over the six year period national priorities for funding FRM schemes could impact the amount of grant available, in any given year, for schemes that come forward that do not currently have an allocation of funding.

As part of the Tactical Plans works, the base line economic benefits have been calculated for each of the Board's assets. This represent the potential maximum Grant-in-Aid that would be supportable, should a scheme or a series of schemes need to come forward to keep the asset operational over the 15 year period, whilst analysis of the long term catchment needs is identified. These sums effectively represent a cap on grant and are not allocated monies. They have been developed to help support scheme economics should an application for allocation be successful and in the development of the business cases. For this Board these sums by asset are;

Asset	Max eligible FDGIA £
Conington PS	171,050*
Conington & Holme Main Drains	68,738

*** This figure has been taken from the 2020 PAFS details for the 50 year appraisal and relates to the planned Pumping Station replacement in 2023/24**

Baseline Report & Economic Appraisal Report

The draft report documents have been the subject of an internal consultation with the Technical Group. A detailed response was issued by the Middle Level. The results of the consultation are currently being reviewed by the Agency and its consultant, Capita, and it is understood that this will be issued imminently.

Further to the last Meeting Report, additional supporting information has been supplied to the Agency and its consultants concerning the proportion of the annual cost that is due to electricity use, versus the proportion of the annual cost that is due to maintenance and inspection activities and the proportion of pumping stations that are not powered by grid electricity and rely on other energy sources. This information was provided to inform part of the Fens Carbon Baseline work that is being undertaken.

A virtual meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was arranged for the end of April in advance of the publishing of the Baseline Report which the Agency has advised it aims to publish in the week commencing 10 May (after the local elections) via a new Fen's webpage on ADA's website.

The Integrity of Corrugated Steel Pipes

Several Boards both within and adjacent to the Commissioners' area have experienced problems with the sudden deformation and failure of corrugated steel pipes, many of which were installed during the 1980s/early 1990s, that have needed urgent action often requiring the total replacement of the structure concerned with its unexpected costs.

The Board will be aware of the implications of a structure failure particularly during a high rainfall event. Therefore, in order to reduce the risk of the failure it is considered appropriate for the Board to investigate the integrity of such structures for which it is directly responsible.

Where an asset's condition is recorded as requiring attention but is currently in a reasonable condition, it is recommended that the Board allows for remedial, replacement or removal works in its future maintenance and funding programme.

Structures for which the Board is not responsible but which could also impact on the Board's system should also be inspected and, where appropriate, a notice issued to the responsible parties in accordance with the Board's Byelaw No. 11, as detailed below:

11. Repairs to Buildings

The owner of any building or structure in or over a watercourse or on the banks thereof shall, upon receipt of a notice from the Board that because of its state of disrepair –

- (a) the building or structure is causing or is in imminent danger of causing an obstruction to the flow of the watercourse, or
- (b) the building or structure is causing or is in imminent danger of causing damage to the bank of the watercourse,

carry out such reasonable and practicable works as are specified in the notice for the purpose of remedying or preventing the obstruction or damage as the case may be within such reasonable time as is specified in the notice.”

High Rainfall Event and Flooding Incident

Early December brought higher than average rainfall in the UK with some eastern areas exceeding their typical December rainfall by the middle of the month.

A more intense rainfall period was experienced just before Christmas which was formed from a concentrated belt of rain that extended from the Severn Estuary to The Wash. A few days later Storm Bella crossed the country on 26 and 27 December. Fortunately, rainfall in the Eastern Counties was relatively low but this, and further rainfall, served to retain the saturated condition of the catchment which continued to respond rapidly to further rainfall events.

The Middle Level Commissioners recorded 127.5mm of rain at their March office during December, with 52.5mm being recorded on 23 December. A total of 10mm was recorded between 24 December 2020 and 2 January 2021.

Whilst the amount of rain that fell during this period was not as great as that experienced in August 2014, it fell on highly saturated ground that offered no sponge effect and led to significant flooding within the local area which was featured in the local media.

Flooding was reported to Cambridgeshire County Council, in its capacity as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), at several locations including Yaxley, March, Manea, Ramsey, Glatton, Swavesey, Doddington, Wimblington, Wisbech, Chatteris, Stilton, Sawtry, Conington, Wisbech St Mary, Friday Bridge, Leverington, Whittlesey, Elm, Rings End and Benwick.

The Clerk to the Board attended a high level meeting with Steve Barclay MP and representatives from other organisations and both the Clerk and the Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer have attended both routine and extraordinary meetings of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Flood and Water (C&P FloW) Partnership and the Fenland Flooding Sub-group which have discussed issues associated with the flooding event.

Flood incident reporting and investigations are currently being undertaken by the various Risk Management Authorities (RMA) involved.

As previously stated, upon initial review, it appears that the instances of reported flooding are less than experienced in August 2014. However, due to the number of incidents the County Council, in its role as the LLFA, is likely to prepare several Section 19 reports.

The preparation of any reports may involve the participation of the Middle Level Commissioners' staff on behalf of the Board. However, no internal flooding has yet been identified within the Board's district.

NB: Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) places a duty on LLFAs to undertake a flood investigation after a 'significant' flood event, to the extent that it considers necessary or appropriate. Flood events are to be classed as 'significant' when certain criteria are met, such as internal flooding to five or more properties and/or if damage and disruption is caused to critical infrastructure and buildings; such as major roads and hospitals. The purpose of the report is to investigate the:

- Events leading up to the flooding
- Numbers of properties flooded
- Which RMAs have flood risk management functions in respect of the flooding
- Whether each of those authorities has exercised or is proposing to exercise those functions in response to the flood.

Planning Procedures Update

Concern has been raised by various Board members for whom the MLC provide a planning service concerning the adequacy and competency of the agents and engineering consultants employed by

applicants. The submission of poor application documents has been an issue for many years not only for the MLC and its associated Boards but also for other IDBs and the planning authorities.

In order to improve submissions and reduce delays in obtaining approvals the employment of suitably qualified agents/consultants with appropriate knowledge of water level and flood risk management is encouraged but whilst it is possible to “suggest” suitable agents/consultants who may be interested in providing a service to the applicant it would not be appropriate to make recommendations.

The use of Infiltration Devices

There has been no further progress on this.

Example of Good Practice

Reserved matters for Outline planning application 17/01445/OUM for erection of up to 53 houses to include public open space and details relating to access on land rear of Garden Close Sutton – Abbey Developments Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 002 & 004)

The re-submitted Reserved Matters application (East Cambridgeshire District Council Ref No 20/01169/RMM MLC Ref No 004) for this development was refused permission in January primarily on issues relating to the failure to comply with the Sutton Neighborhood Plan and District Council Policies relating to landscape and settlement characteristics, Design and Biodiversity. However, the Decision Notice also includes the following:

“6 The applicants have failed to take a precautionary approach to the Riparian Ownership rights and responsibilities of new occupants of Plot Nos 22-31 and 40-46 by locating development within a watercourse on land between the rear of these dwellings which if not properly managed and maintained could lead to flooding of the site and adjoining land to the detriment of their living environment and that of adjoining occupiers contrary to Policies ENV2 and ENV8 of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015 and the Flood and Water SPD.”

Members will be only too well aware of the importance of riparian watercourses in the larger flood risk and water level management system within the fenland environment and the workload and financial burden that dealing with riparian issues can cause. The importance of these “assets” is often overlooked or ignored when considering planning applications where planning authorities are under pressure to reach growth targets. Therefore, it is considered that the position taken is an unusual but appropriate one which should be applauded and considered as an example of best practice for all the planning authorities in the “fenland” environment.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 6 new development related matters have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

<i>MLC Ref.</i>	<i>Council Ref.</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Type of Development</i>	<i>Location</i>
227	H/20/01018/HHFUL	Mr & Mrs Parma	Residence (Extension)	Glatton Ways, Glatton
228	H/20/01452/FUL	Ratcliffe Heavy Recovery	Workshop and office	Great North Road, Conington
229	H/20/01542/HHFUL	Dr Hackman	Residence (Double garage with store)	Church Road, Glatton
230	H/20/01225/FUL	TRC Property Improvement	Residential (2 plots)	Infield Road, Glatton
231	H/20/02225/HHFUL	Mr C Ord	Residence (Extension)	Cottons Close, Conington
232	H/21/00428/HHFUL	Ms Sastry	Residence (Extension)	The Green, Church Road, Conington

Planning applications ending 'HHFUL' relate to Householder applications for Full Planning Permission

From the information provided it is understood that all the developments propose to discharge surface water to soakaways, infiltration devices and/or Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

No applications for Infiltration Device Self Certification or the Checking Service have been received since the last meeting report.

Further to Minute B.994 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters (iii) the current position is being ascertained in respect of the following developments:

- *Various developments at Glatton Hall, Glatton Ways, Glatton – Glatton Hall Estates Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 066, 070 & 120), Mr J. McClelland (MLC Ref No 079), Newton Chinneck Ltd operating as St Georges Care Home (MLC Ref Nos 127 & 142) and Berkley Care (Glatton) Ltd (MLC Ref No 204)*
- *Developments at D J C Produce, Pingle Bank, Holme - DJC Farms Ltd (MLC Ref No 084), NJC & Sons Farms (MLC Ref No 194) and Client of RAB Consultants (MLC Ref No 201)*
- *Various developments at Yew Tree Cottage, 4 Conington Lane, Conington – Mr & Mrs Carling (MLC Ref Nos 122 & 176) + Mrs E Carling (MLC Ref No 205)*
- *Proposed application for an Annexe/Extension at Belle Vue, Washingley Road, Folksworth – Mr & Mrs Raiko (MLC Ref Nos 192, 220, 223 & 225)*
- *Extensions and alterations to bungalow at 17 Infield Road, Glatton - Mr & Mrs Gordon (MLC Ref No 197)*
- *Various developments at Denton Lodge Farm, Old North Road, Stilton – J H Simpson & Son (MLC Ref Nos 207 & 212)*

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC)

No further correspondence has been received from HDC concerning Planning Policy issues and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Flood and Water Management (FloW)

Partnership

The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer has represented both the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards since the last Board meeting.

The main matters up to November 2020 that may be of interest to the Board are as follows:

Future Meetings

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic meetings have been, and are likely to continue to be, held virtually. Whilst this does have some benefits the number of participants attending and the restraints that holding a virtual meeting presents restricts open discussion and meetings can be constrained by time limits.

Staffing Updates

There have been several changes of staff both through retirement, internal re-assignment and seeking alternative employment at both the City and County Councils together with other RMAs.

National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy for England

The Strategy together with the results of the consultation were reviewed by defra before being issued to the Secretary of State. Problems experienced have included the transposing of comments received and the differing opinions on the content of the final document. The text being carefully worded to enable it to be deliverable

The revised Strategy was 'laid before Parliament' during July.

Note: The revised Strategy was subsequently adopted by the Government in late September.

Local FRM Strategy

Both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Strategies are due to be reviewed in the near future and they may be replaced by a joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough response. The updates will be undertaken once the National Strategy details are finalised.

Riparian Responsibilities

In order to raise awareness of and instigate discussion on an issue that causes difficulties for RMAs, including the Boards, primarily due to increased workload and costs, the County Council's Flood Risk and Biodiversity Team prepared an "Issues and Options Briefing Note" seeking changes to current practices that are inefficient and create inconsistency across the county in the use of public resources to address the issues associated with riparian assets. The document has been considered by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) and was subsequently

presented to the RFCC Chairman Group with the hope that it would actively support a national information campaign. Unfortunately, this did not happen but the information has been fed into the national strategy via the EA and the action plan is likely to contain actions related to riparian owners.

The Oxford–Cambridge (OX-Cam) Arc Property Flood Resilience (PFR)

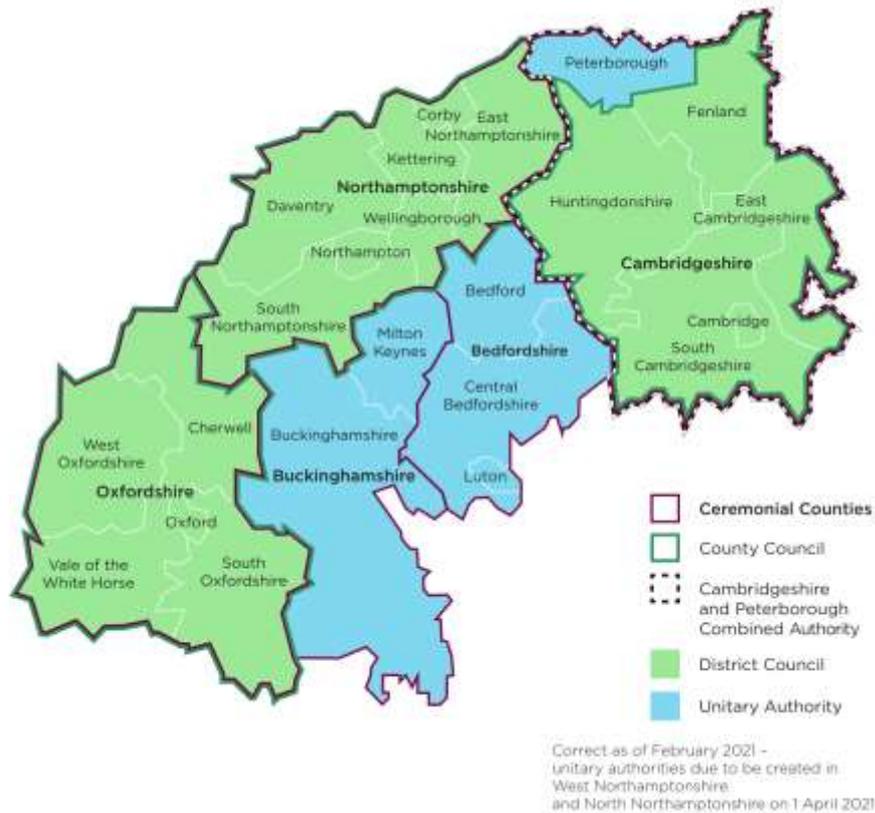
A successful £700k Grant-in-Aid (GiA) bid was made by a consortium of six LLFAs across the region, including Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), Peterborough City Council (PCC) and Northampton County Council (NCC), in respect of The Oxford–Cambridge Arc (formerly the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford corridor).

Five workstreams included:

1. Engaging with communities to inspire behavioural change to include community engagement in our area.
2. Creation of a demonstration property to highlight how PFR is installed and works, likely to be in Oxfordshire.
3. Training materials and information online including videos from the demonstration property.
4. A register of PFR installations and an interactive map that could be used to help provide more competitive insurance cover.
5. Evaluation of the project and areas of success.

A request for an extension and additional funding as a result of the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic was submitted to defra.

The Baseline Report has been completed.



Plan showing the extents of the Ox-Cam ARC

Flood and Coast Resilience Innovation Programme

In response to the availability for funding as part of the Government’s Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme, the County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, working with partners, including the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards, and other key stakeholders submitted an expression of interest for several workstreams which offered innovative approaches to improve resilience to flooding and coastal change, including the ability to adapt to future climate change. Unfortunately, the bid was unsuccessful and other sources of funding are currently being investigated.

Good Governance for Internal Drainage Board Members

Electronic copies of the Guide, copies of the You Tube training modules and workshop presentation slides can be viewed at <https://www.ada.org.uk/knowledge/governance/>.

Public Sector Co-operation Agreements (PSCA)

Following a problem encountered within the North Level District IDB which required close liaison with Peterborough City Council, in its role as the Highway Authority, several partners have expressed an interest in widening the project to include the possibility of arranging PSCAs with IDBs and Councils was discussed but has not yet been concluded.

Major Flood Response and Recovery document

This is a comprehensive document prepared jointly by the County Council's Flood Risk and Biodiversity team in consultation with the emergency planners.

Two of the problems discussed include the difficulty that most watercourses are riparian owned and how to convey the information contained within the document without increasing stress and anxiety during or following times of flood.

A consistent approach was requested concerning the provision of sandbags. This is hard to achieve given the desire and need to reassure communities during flooding. The problems associated with the use of sandbags are recognised and it is considered by some people that they do at least provide reassurance to landowners who consider that they are "better than nothing". Political decisions often take precedence about the use of sandbags in relation to this matter however guidance from the County Council's Emergency Planning Team concerning the publication and management of the document is on hold due to the workload generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sign off is required from Huntingdonshire District Council.

Rain Gauges Project

The rain gauge project which is providing a network of gauges across East Anglia funded by Anglian Central RFCC, AWSL and RMAs has been delayed due to lack of resources but will recommence when new officers have been employed.

Peterborough City Council is not part of this project; it already has a rain gauge network which is largely on school sites.

Cyber Security for Flood Assets

Following the highlighting of this potential issue by the Partnership's Chairman, Cllr Wotherspoon, a report has been prepared by the County Council's Flood Risk and Biodiversity Manager which primarily advises that most partners have policies and training in place.

The group discussed concerns around cyber security, data security and the vulnerability of flood risk assets now that there is greater use of mobile technology, automatic telemetry etc to manage assets.

Lessons learnt from recent flood events elsewhere

(a) Environment Agency (EA)

Following the higher than average rainfall experienced during the winter of 2019/20, the EA has been collating data from the Lincolnshire flooding where more than double the monthly rainfall (130mm compared to the normal 50mm) caused a significant incident (breach) at Wainfleet. A recovery programme was put in place looking at locating and fixing defects but also community engagement and asset data gathering.

A debrief exercise originally planned for April 2020 was postponed.

(b) Cambridgeshire County Council - Flood Risk and Biodiversity

(i) *Flooding in Milton Keynes – May 2018*

Following the flooding experienced an independent review was undertaken in 2019, identifying a 1 in 800 event, 419 internally flooded properties, 4 schools, a hospital and £7m economic impact estimated. A major incident was not declared which has resulted in data sharing issues. The report can be viewed at <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/environmental-health-and-trading-standards/emergency-planning/flood-and-water-management-drainage?chapter=5>

It was reported that there were 58 recommendations.

Note: The County Council Flood Risk and Biodiversity team provide a service to Milton Keynes Council.

(ii) *August flooding in Cambridgeshire*

Flooding occurred in Bluntisham, Colne, Cottenham, Earith, March, Somersham, St Ives, St Neots/Eaton Socon, Weston Colville and Woodhurst plus garden flooding in a number of locations.

Work has been undertaken in conjunction with the County Highways team to investigate and address some of the issues directly.

CCC and PCC Climate Change Strategy/Plan

(a) Peterborough City Council (PCC)

Following the councillors of the City Council's unanimous decision, in July 2019, to declare a climate emergency and agreement to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030, the City Council has prepared a Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP).

A copy of the CMAP can be found at the following web page:

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/campaigns/climate-change>

PCC has launched a Climate Action Management Plan with 20 actions for 2020, the intention is then to write a Climate Change Adaptation Plan by the end of 2020, which, it is hoped, will align with the local strategy.

(b) Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)

The County Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy was out to consultation from 20 December 2019 to 31 January 2020. There was a good response to the consultation. The document was due to be presented to the Council in the spring but the meeting was postponed due to COVID-19.

The Strategy is split into Mitigation, Adaptation and Natural Capital. The related action plan will remain live. Some of the key areas of interest politically include removal of CCC buildings and schools from oil heating, degradation of peat in the Fens, tree planting and biodiversity net gain.

Further details can be found at <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/climate-strategy>

(c) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate

An initial public consultation sought the views of residents and organisations between 26 October and 13 November to help determine their areas of focus. This will be followed by a six week "call for evidence" and following consideration of the submission a recommendation report is planned to be issued in the spring.

The County Council was keen to ensure that water and flood management are a key focus and is planning on submitting a RFCC response which will highlight the evidence gathered as part of the FRM for the Fens project in particular.

Anglian Water Services Limited (AWSL)

(a) Price Review 2019 (PR19)

Whilst Ofwat liked what was being proposed by AWSL within its Business Plan for 2020-2025 it did not want customers' bills to be increased within the Asset Management Plan (AMP) period. AWSL contends that it is thinking longer term and trying to deal with wider issues such as climate change.

AWSL together with Bristol Water, Yorkshire Water and Northumbrian Water have appealed against Ofwat's decision in respect of submission by referring this to the Competition Markets

Authority (CMA). However, Thames Water has not done so instead making significant redundancies. This does leave uncertainty for AWSL as the CMA can choose to review everything and this can take up to a year to complete.

Note: In order to reduce charges to its customers AWSL currently appears reluctant to incur what it considers might be any unnecessary additional costs beyond what it is obliged to accept.

(b) Flooding Partnership Funding Programme

The Partnership Funding Programme had been removed from the Business Plan for 2020-2025 but after AWSL supplied more information Ofwat agreed that the programme could go back into the Plan.

The Partnership funding programme is now a performance commitment with a penalty for under delivery. Ninety-two schemes are to be delivered. Funding is restrained and there will be considerable scrutiny to ensure good value to customers. It is essential that partners are open about deliverability to ensure that the programme can adapt accordingly.

(c) Drainage & Wastewater Management Plans (DWMPs)

See the separate item later in this report.

Cambridgeshire County Council – Highways

Highway Gullies

The CCC mapping work on its highway gullies is complete.

Environment Agency (EA)

(a) Flood Risk Management (FRM) for the Fens [previously reported as the Future Fenland Project]

See the separate item elsewhere in this report.

(b) Great Ouse catchment

Flood storage and conveyance study

A successful workshop has been held.

Middle Level & South Level Barrier Bank works

Progress Update - As the works have increased a greater volume of material has been needed than originally thought. As a result, the cost of the project has risen from £27m to £35m and the programmed completion date has been extended by two years.

Highways England (HE)

Organisational Changes

Former Kier staff have been “TUPED” into Highways England under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006. The Technical Drainage Lead is Jenni Stout, in the Asset Team. Simon Baldrey has replaced Claire Parsons as the Environment Management Lead.

(a) Highway Schemes

A10

The Combined Authority are identifying opportunities for a project between Ely and Cambridge.

A47 - Guyhirn Junction Improvements

The improvement works are within the existing land boundary thus negating the need for a Development Consent Order (DCO). Therefore, the works can be achieved under existing permits and could start before the Wansford/Sutton section.

Ground Investigation has recently been undertaken by Galliford Try, the appointed contractor for the A47 Corridor Improvements.

(b) Environment Designated Fund

The next round has commenced with a larger fund anticipated for Road Investment Strategy (RIS) 2 than RIS 1. Water quality and flood risk are now listed as separate elements.

Drainage & Wastewater Management Plans (DWMPs)

Commissioned by Water UK in collaboration with defra, the Welsh Government, Ofwat, the EA, Natural Resources Wales, Consumer Council for Water, ADEPT and Blueprint for Water, Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans are the new way for organisations to work together to improve drainage and environmental water quality.

The DWMP Framework provides the basis for more collaborative and integrated long-term planning by water companies, working with other organisations that have responsibilities relating to drainage, flooding and protection of the environment. It makes use of the tools and approaches to enable investment to be targeted more effectively, provide customers and stakeholders with better information about the UK’s drainage and wastewater services and will set out how water and wastewater companies intend to extend, improve and maintain a robust and resilient drainage and wastewater system.

Whilst AWSL has a direct regulatory focus in relation to providing evidence in support of its strategic business plans, it is important to recognise that the responsibility for developing the

drainage and wastewater plan is shared between all stakeholders and collaborative engagement is essential.

The framework follows a clear five step process which culminates in the identification of risk and the appropriate solution to mitigate this. The key focus is on co-creation to ensure the plan joins up the approach and considers all risks from growth, climate change, customer behaviours and that there is not a water company bias approach.

1. Strategic context.

This document forms the first step in the process. Which includes outlining the background to the DWMP, identifying the key concerns of the stakeholders, and establishing the method of tracking the level of risk.

2. Risk Based Catchment Screening (RBCS).

Initially an Anglian Water exercise, this identifies which of the ~1,100 water recycling catchments are triggered to go through the DWMP process based on a prescribed process using historic data. This list is then shared with stakeholders for comment. Any catchments previously excluded can be brought in at this point if required.

3. Baseline Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (BRAVA).

A collaborative exercise to identify the level of risk in each water recycling catchment and how complicated it may be to mitigate. A variety of future design horizons are considered to understand the progression of risk over time.

4. Options Development and Appraisal (ODA).

Where joint opportunities are possible, a collaborative exercise will identify the potential solutions to address the risk. Where joint opportunities are not possible, Anglian Water will identify their appropriate solution.

5. Programme appraisal.

Taking a regional view, the programme will have to balance the cost and risk of current and future customers, ensuring services are provided for both and must reconcile the need to keep bills affordable with the need to plan for future challenges, whilst meeting the expectations of our customers as understood through extensive customer engagement.

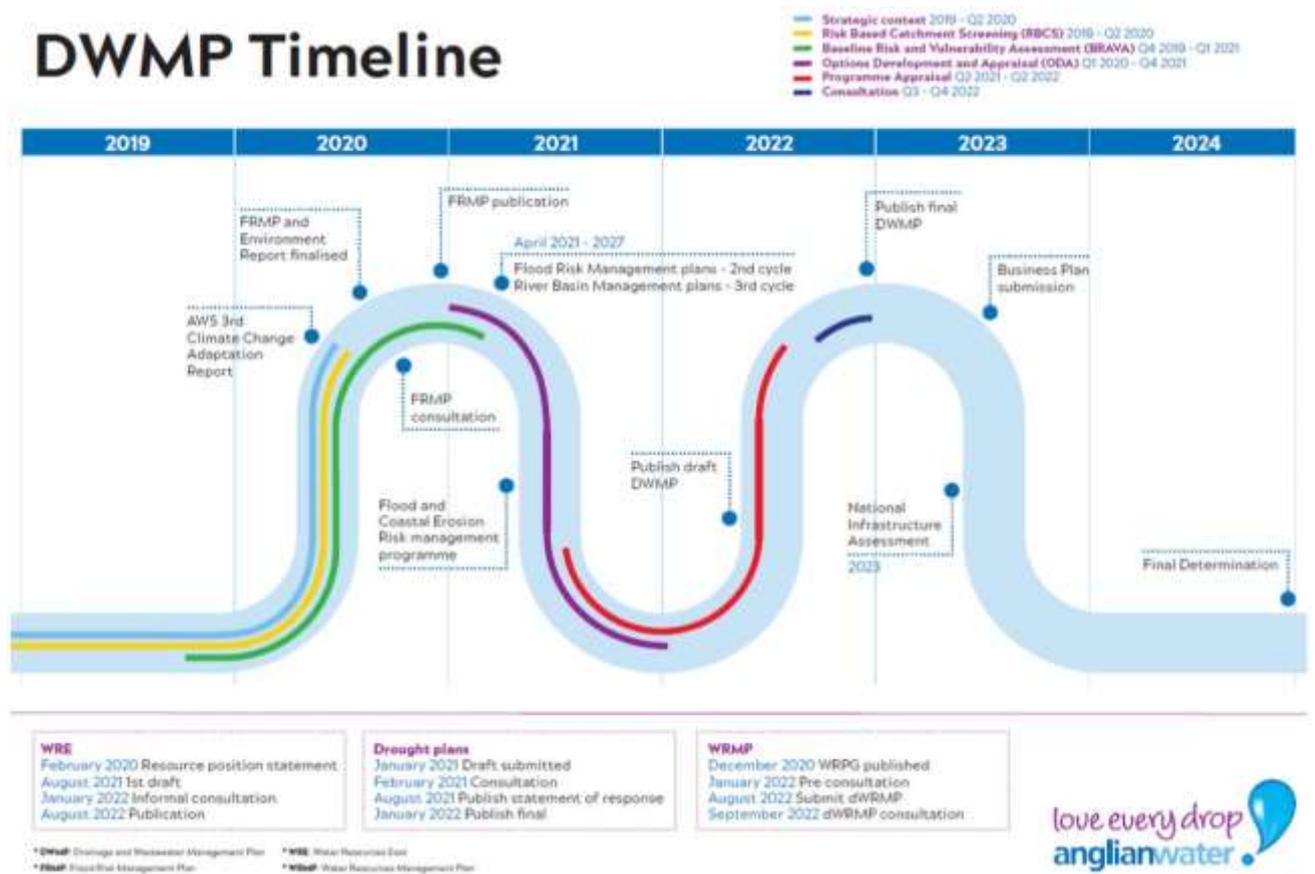
To be published in 2022, the DWMP will cover the period 2025-2050 and will be framed around AWSLs [Strategic Direction Statement](#), its new co-created 25 year forward vision for the region, which will follow on from the [Water Recycling Long-Term Plan \(WRLTP\)](#) published in 2018.

Further details can also be found at <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/drainage-and-wastewater-management-plan/>.

Of its approximately 1,130 WRC assets, AWSL progressed 573 of its catchments through to the Baseline Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (BRAVA). This equates to 51% of the catchments and covers almost 97% of the population served. It is hoped that the BRAVA results will be available by the end of December 2020.

The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer has represented both the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards and has identified that there are currently twenty five WRCs which are of "interest" to the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards, either directly or indirectly.

It is acknowledged that the assets do not necessarily discharge directly into the Board's system but this could occur if the WRC was to fail.



AWSL Ref	WRC Site	2019 Reported Population	Q1		Q2		Notes
			Concern about the Facility Rating		Concern about the Managed Watercourse Rating		
			Short Term 0-15 years	Long Term 15-25 years	Short Term 0-15 years	Long Term 15-25 years	
HOLMSC	Holme	545	1	1	1	2	Small catchment that is unlikely to see significant growth. Concerns about the adverse impacts on the receiving watercourse system including the current and future outfall/catchment extents, the capacity and maintenance of the receiving watercourses, flood risk implications, volumetric flow and water quality permits/consents.
SAWTSC	Sawtry	6312	1	2	2	2	Reasonably sized catchment in which growth is occurring. Catchment extents will increase as future growth occurs. Concerns about the adverse impacts on the receiving watercourse system, including the Great Fen Project, involving the current and future outfall/catchment extents, the capacity and maintenance of the receiving watercourse system, flood risk implications, volumetric flow and water quality permits/consents. The Sewer Drain discharges unregulated by gravity into the Middle Level Catchwater Drain. Headwall is in poor condition.

In order to more readily identify the issues and catchments that are of concern, AWSL requested that a rating of the relevant assets was provided. The comments issued for the assets within the Board's catchment area are detailed in the above table.

General Advice

Assistance has been given, on the Board's behalf, in respect of the following:

- (a) Network Rail – An application for byelaw consent to re-deck Holme Brook Side Bridge and reinstate surfaces to the approach roads has been recommended for approval. This bridge is on the railway access track on the west side of the railway line.

- (b) Further to an enquiry from the property owner at Brookside Cottage a site meeting was held and it was discovered that there were a number of byelaw and discharge infringements. Unfortunately, as the owner was shielding under COVID-19 restrictions making further progress on this matter has not been possible until recently. The owner has however now been contacted to arrange a meeting to discuss the infringements.
- (c) BT Open Reach telegraph poles which had been placed alongside Church Lane, Conington were restricting maintenance plant from accessing the Board's watercourse. No application for consent had been received for the placement of these poles and BT Open Reach was contacted to remove them. The removal was undertaken during March/April 2020.
- (d) A meeting was held with the Board's Chairman and Network Rail to review the problem with high water levels through a culvert under the railway. Network Rail agreed to undertake clearance works to alleviate the problem.
- (e) A complaint was received from a house owner in Glatton after high flows in the watercourse over the Christmas 2020 period caused erosion of his garden. The location is Point 72 at the end of the Board's drainage system, immediately downstream of a long culvert under a garden and road. Maintenance of the Board's watercourse is very difficult at this location and is also prevented by items such as a wooden fence and house extension which have not received the Board's consent. The house owner will pursue the matter with his insurance company.

Consulting Engineer

27 May 2021

C&H(307)\Reports\May 2021

Members discussed Glatton Hall bridge which passes over a Board maintained watercourse and that the banks here had suffered scouring and needed remedial works.

It was noted that whilst Glatton Parish Council had raised concerns and complaints following on from the winter event and are demanding action, during the event the IDB system remained in bank and Members have not been advised of any residential properties being flooded. It was however acknowledged that several trees will need to be removed in the near future.

The condition of the pumping station structure was discussed and it was acknowledged that it should be considered in a poor state of repair requiring relatively urgent attention. A simple replacement of the station is at this time ruled out due to funding challenges, ie the Board's ability to repay a loan and the lack of access to grant-in-aid for a fully funded scheme. It was therefore concluded that some form of refurbishment should be looked at. Concrete spray lining the intake or overplating the piles were sighted as options. It was also felt that if the full 'Holding the Line' Environment Agency grant allocation could be called upon with perhaps a loan of up to £80k then a £250k scheme would be possible which it would be hoped would be enough to deal with the existing station structural problems and provide for a single pump to replace the two currently in use (plus a control panel upgrade).

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved
- ii) That Members approach the owners of Glatton Hall bridge to discuss the remedial works needed to the banks and agree actions.
- iii) To sanction consultancy spend up to £1k to investigate options and present them with rough costings to the next meeting of the Board.

B.1062 Capital Improvement Programme and Loan Funding

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme and loan funding.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme and loan funding be approved in principle and kept under review.

B.1063 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

The Clerk referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, dated December 2020, previously circulated to Members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.1064 Report on maintenance work in the District

- a) Gravity Area

It was reported that the Conington Brook had not been flailed last year but would be treated as a priority this year.

Maintenance is planned around point 32.

It was noted that the Catchwater Drain at point 70 would benefit from being dredged but, due to concerns of contamination from the A1, sampling and testing would be needed first.

b) Pumped Area

It was reported that the length between points 13 and 14 is to be maintained this year. The Chairman will obtain an estimate for carrying out channel management between points 40 and 42 which will be brought to the next meeting of the Board for consideration.

c) Flail Mowing

Members considered the flail mowing undertaken last year and the arrangements to be made for this year.

RESOLVED

i) That Mr John Harding be authorised to carry out flail mowing of the Board's drains for 2021/2022. The Chairman to send a District plan to Mr Harding with the Board's requirements and with the request that he flail mow as many of the Board's drain as possible this year.

ii) That the District Officer obtain a quotation for carrying out channel management between points 40 and 42 for consideration at the next meeting of the Board.

B.1065 State-aided Schemes

Consideration was given to the desirability of undertaking further State-aided Schemes in the District and whether any future proposals should be included in the capital forecasts provided to Defra.

RESOLVED

That no proposals be formulated at the present time.

B.1066 Environment Agency – Precepts

The Clerk reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2021/2022 in the sum of £2,100.00 (the precept for 2020/2021 being £2,100.00).

B.1067 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

The Clerk reported that the sum of £1,053.62 (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency (£1,221.39 representing 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2020/2021 less £167.77 overpaid in respect of the financial year 2019/2020).

B.1068 Association of Drainage Authorities
Subscriptions

The Clerk reported that he had been advised that subscriptions for 2021 will remain unchanged at £565.

RESOLVED

That the requested ADA subscription for 2021 be paid.

B.1069 Contravention of Byelaws – 1 Brookside Cottage, Pingle Bank

It was reported that a meeting with the resident at 1 Brookside Cottage had been delayed as an occupant of the property had been shielding. However, recently the Solicitor/Assistant Clerk had written to the owner requesting a meeting now as soon as possible.

RESOLVED

That the Solicitor/Assistant Clerk continue to pursue this matter.

B.1070 Health and Safety

Further to minute B.1036(B), the Chairman referred to the report received from Cope Safety Management following their visit to the District on the 30th October 2020.

It was noted that two matters had been identified in the Cope Safety Management report. The first was installation of a PTO guard, which had now been added. The second was the suggestion of installing a rail to attach to when clearing the pumping station weedscreen. On this second recommendation, rather than installing a rail, the Chairman was ensuring he did not undertake the work alone and the other party supervising him had been shown how to turn off the pumps in an emergency.

B.1071 Special Circumstance Policy on Tendering

The Clerk referred to the policy that had been produced and advised Members that there had been issues for some IDBs during the COVID-19 pandemic in respect to meeting their normal policy on numbers of valid tenders or quotations. It was intended that this policy would only apply in special conditions such as these and that to invoke the policy the Chairman would need to record what the special circumstance was before it could be used.

RESOLVED

That the Board formally adopt this policy.

B.1072 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board –
2019/2020

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2020.

- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2020.

B.1073 Defra IDB1 Returns

The Clerk referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2019/2020 which Members noted and approved.

B.1074 Budgeting

The Clerk referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2021.

B.1075 Review of Internal Controls and appointment of Internal Auditor

The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of Internal Controls.

The Clerk advised that their Internal Auditor, Whiting & Partners, were in the third year of a three year contract and that normally the Middle Level Commissioners would be tendering for this work at this stage. However, with COVID-19 the Middle Level Commissioners had approached Whiting & Partners and asked if they would be prepared to continue into a fourth year on the same terms. They had agreed. It was also being proposed that going forward auditors be invited to tender for a five-year term, the principle being that this gave both parties certainty over a longer period. For the Boards this meant that the investment in time in getting a new internal auditor up to speed represented better value.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve the one-year extension of the appointment of Whiting & Partners as Internal Auditor and to support the proposal for a five year contract to be tendered thereafter.

B.1076 Risk Management Assessment

- a) The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with their current Risk Management Policy.
- b) The Board reviewed and approved the insured value of their building.

B.1077 Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

The Clerk reported that, as resolved at its last meeting, the Board will continue with a limited assurance review and not take advantage of the audit exemption available for smaller public bodies with income and expenditure less than £25,000.

RESOLVED

To continue with a limited assurance review as has been carried out in previous years.

B.1078 Exercise of Public Rights

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

B.1079 Annual Governance Statement – 2020/2021

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2021

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2021.

B.1080 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £40,884.18 which had been made during the financial year 2020/2021.

(NB) – The District Officer declared an interest in the payment made to Davies Contracting.

B.1081 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2020/2021

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2021 as required in the Audit Regulations.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2021.

B.1082 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2021/2022

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2021/2022 and were informed by the Clerk that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be:-

	<u>Area 1 (Gravity Area)</u>	<u>Area 2 (Pumped Area)</u>
Drainage rates	54.10%	97.56%
Special levy	45.90%	2.44%

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.

ii) That a total sum of £27,153 be raised by drainage rates and special levy (Area 1 - £12,285; Area 2 -£14,868).

iii) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are:-

	<u>Area 1</u>	<u>Area 2</u>
Drainage rates	£6,646	£14,505
Special levy	£5,639	£363

iv) That drainage rates be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District as follows:-

<u>Area 1</u>	<u>Area 2</u>
10.0p in the £	30.00p in the £

v) That a Special levy of £6,002 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.

vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).

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

B.1083 Display of rate notice

RESOLVED

That notice of the rate be affixed within the District in accordance with Section 48(3)(a) of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.1084 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday the 7th June 2022.