

# **The Witham First District Internal Drainage Board**



## **Statement of Accounts And Annual Report For Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006**

**Witham House  
School Lane  
Washingborough  
Lincoln  
LN4 1BW**

**Tel: (01522) 794479  
Fax: (01522) 793944**

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## **Explanatory Foreword**

### **Introduction**

The Board's accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 are set out on pages 11 to 12. They consist of the statements explained below.

- **The Income and Expenditure Account** (*page 11*)

This statement shows the income and net expenditure on the major functions and services for which the Board is responsible, and compares that cost with the income received.

- **The Balance Sheet** (*page 12*)

This is fundamental to the understanding of the Board's financial position at the year end. It shows the balances and reserves at the Board's disposal; its long-term indebtedness; and the fixed and net current assets employed in its operations, together with summarised information on the fixed assets held. Also included are the assets and liabilities of all activities of the Board.

These accounts are supported by the Statement of Accounting Policies and various notes to the accounts.

## **The Statement Of Responsibilities For The Statement Of Accounts**

### **The Board is required:**

- a) To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Board, that officer is the Clerk to the Board.
- b) To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.

### **The Clerk to the Board's Responsibilities**

The Clerk to the Board is responsible for the preparation of the Board's Statement of Accounts which is required to present fairly the financial position of the Board at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

In preparing the statement of accounts, the Clerk to the Board has:-

- a) Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- b) Made judgement and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- c) Complied with generally accepted accounting practice.

The Clerk to the Board has also:-

- a) Kept proper accounting records which were up to date.
- b) Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Certificate of the Clerk to the Board**

This statement of accounts is that upon which the auditor should enter his certificate and opinion. It presents fairly the financial position of the Board at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

Signed:

Name: C J Elkington

Designation: Clerk to the Board

Date:

## Statement on the System of Internal Control

### 1. Scope of Responsibility

The Board is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. In discharging this overall responsibility, the Board is also responsible for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Board's functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

### 2. The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. It is an ongoing process designed to identify, prioritise, evaluate and manage the risks to the achievement of the Board's functions.

### 3. The Internal Control Environment

The key elements of the internal control environment are the financial and performance management of the authority, financial and performance reporting to the Board and compliance with established policies, procedures, laws and regulations. Risk management is provided by a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures, management supervision and a system of delegation and accountability.

### 4. Review of Effectiveness

The Board has responsibility for conducting a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control. The review is an ongoing process and is informed by the work of managers within the Board and any comments made by the Audit Commission.

Signed:

Signed:

(signature of Chairman and Clerk to the Board)

Date:

Date:

## Statement of Assurance

We acknowledge as the members of The Witham First District Internal Drainage Board our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the statement of accounts, and confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Board's statement of accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006, that:

	Agreed - Yes or No*	'Yes' means that the Board:
1. we have approved the statement of accounts which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices.		prepared its statement of accounts in the way prescribed by law.
2. we have 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 taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice which could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Board to conduct its business or on its finances.		has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.
4. we have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.		has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the Board's accounts.
5. we have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Board and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.		considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the board and has dealt with them properly.
6. we have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the Board's accounting records and control systems.		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the Board.
7. we have taken what we consider to be appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from the internal and external auditors.		has taken appropriate action in response to matters brought to its attention by auditors.
8. we have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year end, have a financial impact on the Statement of Accounts.		disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.

This Statement of Assurance is approved by the Board and recorded as board minute reference

dated  /  /

Signed on behalf of the Witham First District Internal Drainage Board

Signed by: Chair  Date  /  /

Signed by: Clerk  Date  /  /

\* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a **separate sheet** for each 'NO' response that has been given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

**AUDITORS' REPORT**

**TO**

**WITHAM FIRST DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

**We have audited the Statement of Accounts on pages 11 to 19 which have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies as set out on pages 9 to 10.**

**This report is made solely to Witham First District Internal Drainage Board in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 54 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and of Audited Bodies, prepared by the Audit Commission.**

**Respective Responsibilities of the Witham First District Internal Drainage Board and Auditors**

As described on page 4 the Witham First District Internal Drainage Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2004. Our responsibilities as independent auditors are established by statute, the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission and our profession's ethical guidance.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements present fairly:

- the financial position of the Board and its income and expenditure for that year.

We review the Statement on Internal Control on pages 5 to 6 and report if it is misleading or inconsistent with other information we are aware of from our audit of the financial statements. We are not required to consider whether the statement covers all risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the board's corporate governance arrangements or its risk and control procedures. Our review was not performed for any purpose connected with any specific transaction and should not be relied upon for any such purpose.

We read the other information published with the statement of accounts and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the statement of accounts.

### **Basis of Audit Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission, which requires compliance with relevant auditing standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the board in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the board's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we consider necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

### **Opinion**

**In our opinion the financial statements present fairly the financial position of Witham First District Internal Drainage Board as at 31st March 2006, and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.**

### **Certificate**

**We certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission.**

**Signature:**

**Name:**

**Designation:**

**Date:**

**Audit Commission  
2nd Floor,  
Witham House  
Canwick Road  
Lincoln  
LN5 8HE**



## **Statement Of Accounting Policies**

### **1.) General**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **2.) Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets are valued on the following basis:

- a) land, operational and non-operational buildings are included in the balance sheet at historical cost. Pumping Stations are not included in the Balance Sheet.
- b) vehicles, plant and equipment are included at historic cost. A depreciation charge is made against the appropriate income and expenditure code and balances created in the renewal funds.

### **3.) Depreciation**

Land and buildings are not depreciated on the grounds that an ongoing repairs and maintenance policy results in an extension of useful life and negates the necessity for material depreciation.

A depreciation charge is made against the running costs of plant and equipment and vehicles on a straight line basis over their useful economic life, if the value of the plant does not negate the necessity for material depreciation.

### **4.) Debtors and Creditors**

The revenue accounts of the Board are maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with SSAP 2. That is, sums due to or from the Board during the year are included whether or not the cash has actually been received or paid in the year. An exception to this principle relates to electricity and similar payments which are charged at the date of the meter reading rather than being apportioned between financial years. This policy is consistently applied each year and therefore does not have a material effect on the year's accounts.

There is no provision for bad debts.

**5.) Deferred Charges**

There are no deferred charges.

**6.) Stocks and Work in Progress**

Stocks are valued in the Balance Sheet on the average price basis with no allowance made for obsolescent and slow moving items. This is a departure from the requirements of SSAP 9 which require stocks to be shown at actual cost or net realisable value, if lower. The effect of the different treatment is not material.

**7.) Government Grants And Contributions**

The Board received no government grants or contributions during the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

**8.) Leases**

The Board has no operating or finance leases.

**9.) Reserves**

Revenue Reserve – The Boards policy is to maintain this balance at approximately 10% of the annual revenue expenditure.

Renewal Funds – The Boards policy is to build up sufficient funds over the useful economic life of major assets to enable replacement. This is through a depreciation charge as set out in the fixed asset register.

**10.) Pensions**

The Board pays an employers contribution of 450% of the employees contribution into the Lincolnshire County Council Superannuation Fund. The workforce based at the depot's cost is recharged as part of the employee overhead to the maintenance codes where the employee has worked.

The Annual Report of the Lincolnshire County Council's Superannuation Fund is available from:

Lincolnshire County Council Superannuation Section  
County Offices  
Lincoln  
LN1 1YE

See also Note 14: Disclosure of Net Pensions Asset/Liability.

## Income And Expenditure Account For The Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006

<b>Income</b>	<i>Notes</i>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
I001 - Drainage Rates		329552	346314
I002 / I003 - Special Levies	6	160809	168025
Highland Water Contributions	7	6666	11291
Anglian Water Contribution		0	628
I006 - Rechargeable Income		12811	6711
I007 - Interest		8576	9593
I008 - Sundry Income		15322	44397
I010 - Insurance Claims		0	0
I011 - Rates Costs		110	150
<i>Total Income</i>		<i>533846</i>	<i>587109</i>
 <b>Expenditure</b>			
Environment Agency Precept		94875	90131
Joint Administration	8	80457	88958
Establishment & Admin	9	1399	7019
Drain Maintenance	10	190456	213828
Pumping Stations	11	105815	89093
Depot	12	8197	9226
Computer Depreciation		834	1183
Other Expenditure		14784	11347
Capital Expenditure		32576	38040
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	13	<i>529393</i>	<i>548825</i>
<b><i>Surplus/(Deficit)</i></b>		<b><i>4453</i></b>	<b><i>38284</i></b>

Signed:

Name: C J Elkington

Designation: Clerk to the Board

Date:

## Balance Sheet As At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006

	Notes	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	1		847323		867571
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Stock		4644		4421	
Debtors	2	16295		15790	
Bank and Cash		215291		140954	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Creditors	3	(13020)		(21333)	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			223210		139832
<b>Creditors Due &gt; 1 Year</b>					
Loans			0		0
<b>Total</b>			<b>1070533</b>		<b>1007403</b>
<b>Represented By :-</b>					
<b>Capital Discharged</b>	4		847323		867571
<b>Fund Balances &amp; Reserves</b>	5				
Revenue Reserve			24401		62684
Plt & Vehicle Renewal Fund			160643		42854
Computer Renewal Fund			2784		3967
Radio Renewal Fund			6812		6812
Highway Bdge/Culvert Rplce			10000		0
AWC Renewal Fund			18570		23515
<b>Total</b>			<b>1070533</b>		<b>1007403</b>

Signed:

Name: C J Elkington

Designation: Clerk to the Board

Date:

## Notes To The Accounts

### Note 1: Fixed Assets

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
A001 - Freehold Land	83060	83060
A002 - Washingborough Office	41547	41547
A003 - Timberland Spa Depot	25910	25910
A004 - Plant & Vehicles	459794	464234
A005 - Machinery & Equipment	172451	196918
A006 - Office Equipment	9749	5902
A007 - Radio Comms Equipment	4812	0
A009 - Housing Properties	50000	50000
<b>Total</b>	<b>847323</b>	<b>867571</b>

### Note 2: Debtors

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
C004 - Rate Levy Control	1745	2628
C005 - Rate Costs Control	210	120
C006 - Sundry Debtors Control	4409	5702
C007 - VAT Account	7999	2939
C009 - Highland Water Control	0	3801
C019 - Other Reserves	1758	600
D012 - Joint Admin Control	174	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16295</b>	<b>15790</b>

### Note 3: Creditors

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
C009 - Highland Water Control	757	0
D001 - Purchase Ledger Control	259	468
D002 - PAYE & NI Control	2304	2470
D003 - Superannuation Control	6400	8007
D010 - Accruals Control	0	2760
D012 - Joint Admin Control	0	3628
D014 - Audit Reserve	3300	4000
<b>Total</b>	<b>13020</b>	<b>21333</b>

Note 4: Capital Discharged On Fixed Assets

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
E001 - Capital Receipts Applied	60765	60765
E002 - Revenue Contributions	301944	301944
E003 - Renewals Funds	301554	321802
E004 - Revaluation Reserve	183060	183060
<b>Total</b>	<b>847323</b>	<b>867571</b>

Note 5: Funds Balances & Reserves

	B/fwd 010405 £	Movement £	Depreciation £	C/fwd 310306 £
Revenue Reserve	24401	38284		62684
Plant & Vehicle Renewal	160643		53870	42854
<i>Purchase: Volvo EW140</i>		(73950)		
<i>Purchase: Vovlo EC160</i>		(89500)		
<i>Purchase: Landreus WeedBucket</i>		(3545)		
<i>Purchase: Drill</i>		(190)		
<i>Purchase: Brush Cutter</i>		(329)		
<i>Purchase: Fuel Tank</i>		(4145)		
Computer Renewal	2784		1183	3967
Radio Renewal	6812		-	6812
Highway Bridge/Culv Prov	10000	(10000)	-	0
AWC Renewal	18570		4944	23515
<b>Total</b>	<b>223210</b>	<b>(143375)</b>	<b>59997</b>	<b>139832</b>

Note 6: Special Levies

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
North Kesteven D C	72324	75569
Lincoln City Council	88485	92456
<b>Total</b>	<b>160809</b>	<b>168025</b>

Note 7: Highland Water Contribution

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
Drains Expenditure	2364	3733
Pumping Stations	3383	6001
Capital Expenditure	0	0
Administration	919	1557
<b>Total</b>	<b>6666</b>	<b>11291</b>

Note 8: Joint Administration

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
<b>Staff Costs</b>		
J001 - Gross Pay	104996	108122
J002 - Employers NI	8995	9065
J003 - Employers Superannuation	18439	25836
J004 - Travel & Subsistence	8019	8361
J011 - Training	865	1066
J032 - Consultants Fees	3606	5751
Advertising	456	0
<b>Sub Total</b>	145376	158201
Less : Witham 3rd Contrib	(72688)	(79101)
<b>Total</b>	<b>72688</b>	<b>79100</b>
<b>Office Costs</b>		
J006 - Telephone & Fax	1367	1656
J007 - Equipment	669	2067
J008 - Stationery & Consumables	2124	2329
J009 - Statutes/Texts/Periodicals	234	183
J010 - Postage	913	899
J012 - Photocopier	153	120
J029 - Miscellaneous	471	605
K001 - NNDR/Water Rates	1734	1748
K002 - Light & Heat	868	929
K003 - Cleaning	942	977
K004 & K006 - Office Repairs	706	0
K005 - Insurance Premiums	687	655
K007 - Health & Safety	16	176
K008 - Improvements	180	1612
K009 - Security	15	251
K029 - Miscellaneous	14	450
<b>Sub Total</b>	11093	14657
Less : Witham 3rd Contrib	(5547)	(7328)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5546</b>	<b>7329</b>
<b>Computer</b>		
L001 - Repairs & Maintenance	4126	3788
L003 - Software & Upgrading	168	0
L004 - Training	0	0
L005 – Internet, web & misc.	0	1016
<b>Sub Total</b>	4294	4804
Less : Witham 3rd Contrib	(2071)	(2275)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2223</b>	<b>2529</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>80457</b>	<b>88958</b>

Note: 9 Administration & Establishment

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
M002 - Printing & Stationery	0	0
M003 - Advertising & Publicity	149	493
M004 - Audit Fees	1800	4033
M005 - Valuer's Fees	1075	0
M006 - ADA Subscription	780	815
M008 - Legal Fees	(3955)	9
M011 - Bank Charges	9	13
M028 - Election Expenditure	0	0
M029 - Miscellaneous	178	348
O001 - Hire of Meeting Room	60	60
O002 - Members Travel Expenses	108	80
O003 - Annual Tour	945	947
O004 - Insurance Premiums	0	0
O005 - Chairman's Allowance	250	221
<b>Total</b>	<b>1399</b>	<b>7019</b>

Note 10: Drain Maintenance – P001

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
Labour	93289	105042
Plant	88654	94212
0010 / 9000 - Materials / Stock	419	778
0020 - Plant Hire	152	530
0030 - Lincs BAP/Conservation	250	712
0040 - Pest Control	0	0
0070 - Repairs & Maintenance	26	0
0090 - Insurance Premiums	3352	7045
0100 - Health & Safety	75	245
0110 - Telephone	1565	1266
0115 - Radio Fees/Repairs	62	0
0120 - Training	1205	310
0160 - Small Tools	0	0
0140 - Miscellaneous	83	3537
0220 - GIS Maps	0	0
0240 - Protective Clothing	816	151
8000 - Radio Equipment Depcn	508	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>190456</b>	<b>213828</b>



Note 11: Pumping Station Maintenance – Q001

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
Labour Charge	33161	32860
Plant Charge	5347	6288
Materials/Stock	1557	1647
Hire Charges	43	60
Electricity	52476	36726
Repairs	1673	1698
Insurance Premiums	6648	4325
Health & Safety	361	702
Telephone	256	298
Training	0	0
Oils & Lubricants	341	4
Protective Clothing	83	5
Conservation	17	0
Pest Control	84	0
Security	0	0
Miscellaneous	5	145
AWC Depreciation	4263	4944
Anglian Water Cont	(500)	(610)
<b>Total</b>	<b>105815</b>	<b>89093</b>

Note 12: Depot – R001

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
Labour	3539	3021
Plant	0	18
Materials (inc Stock Reval)	405	818
Health & Safety	161	820
Telephone	336	310
Premises Repairs	263	65
Small Tools	168	337
Security	599	687
Hire Charges	138	143
Conservation	0	0
Pest Control	0	0
Protective Clothing	18	34
Insurance Premiums	0	0
Oils / Lubricants	0	19
NNDR & Water Rates	2570	2860
Miscellaneous	0	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>8197</b>	<b>9226</b>

### Note 13: Capital Expenditure

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 £	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 £
Nocton:AWC	32576	0
Timberland AWC	0	35025
Nocton – Level Cont.	0	1645
Sandhill Beck - Telemetry	0	1370
<b>Total</b>	<b>32576</b>	<b>38040</b>

### Note 14: Disclosure Of Net Pensions Asset/Liability

Membership of the Lincolnshire Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is available to all contracted employees of the board whether whole time, part time or casual. Membership of the scheme is not compulsory for employees who have made other arrangements.

The LGPS is a defined benefit statutory scheme, administered in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997, as amended. It is contracted out of the State Second Pension.

In 2005/06 pension costs have been charged to the revenue account on the basis of contributions payable to the LGPS, based on the last formal actuarial valuations calculated as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004. The next formal valuation is due as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 the Board had the following overall assets and liabilities for pensions that have not been included in the balance sheet.

Net Pension Assets as at	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006
	£000	£000
Estimated Employer Assets (A)	505	640
<i>Present Value of Scheme Liabilities</i>	566	670
<i>Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities</i>	0	0
Total Value of Liabilities (B)	566	670
Net Pension Asset (A)-(B)	(61)	(30)

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the roll forward approach. These are assessed by rolling forward the value of employer's liabilities reported as at the latest formal valuation, allowing for the different financial assumptions required under FRS17. In calculating asset share, assets have been rolled forward allowing for investment returns (estimated where necessary), the effect of contributions paid into, and

estimated benefits paid from, the fund by the employer and its employees. Service cost has been calculated using the projected unit method of valuation. A set of demographic assumptions consistent with those used for the formal funding valuation as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004 have been adopted. These include:

Assumptions as at	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006	
	% per annum	Real % per annum	% per annum	Real % per annum
Price increases	2.9		3.1	
Salary increases	4.4		4.6	1.5
Pension increases	2.9		3.1	
Discount rate	5.4		4.9	1.7

The expected return on assets is based on the long term future expected investment return for each asset class as at the beginning of the period (i.e. as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004). The actuary has calculated that the following assumptions are appropriate as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006:

Asset Class	Expected Return at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006 (% per annum)
Equities	7.4
Bonds	4.6
Property	5.5
Cash	4.6

All information is taken from the LGPS “Actuarial Valuation as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 for the purposes of FRS17”, produced by the actuary Hymans Robertson. A copy is held at the office if further information is required.

# **Policy Statement on Flood Protection and Water Level Management**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### Purpose

- 1.1 This policy statement has been prepared by The Witham First District Internal Drainage Board to provide a public statement of the Board's approach to its management of flood risk and water levels in its area.

### Background

- 1.2 The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has policy responsibility for flood and coastal defence in England. However, delivery is the responsibility of a number of flood and coastal defence "operating authorities" which includes the Witham First District Internal Drainage Board.
- 1.3 The Government has published a policy aim and three objectives for flood and coastal defence <sup>1</sup>. To ensure a more certain delivery of the aim and objectives by the individual operating authorities the Government has published a series of high level targets <sup>2</sup>. The first target requires each operating authority to publish a policy statement setting out their plans for delivering the Government's policy aim and objectives in their area. This will include an assessment of the risk of flooding and coastal erosion in their area, and what plans they have to reduce that risk.
- 1.4 This policy statement fulfils that requirement. Copies are available from the Board's offices at Witham House, School Lane, Washingborough, Lincoln LN4 1BW. We are also providing a copy to DEFRA, the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, the Environment Agency and local Authorities.

1.5 The Government's policy aim is:

*To reduce the risk to people and the developed and natural environment from flooding and coastal erosion by encouraging the provision of technically environmentally and economically sound and sustainable defence measures.*

1.6 The key objectives to achieve this aim are:-

*(a) To encourage the provision of adequate and cost effective flood warning systems.*

*(b) To encourage the provision of adequate, economically, technically and environmentally sound and sustainable flood and coastal defence measures.*

*(c) To discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding and coastal erosion.*

## **2. HOW THE BOARD WILL DELIVER THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AIM AND OBJECTIVES.**

2.1 The Witham First District IDB supports the Government aim and objectives for the management of flood risk and water levels. Our policy and approach will be consistent with them as follows:-

**Objective (a): to encourage the provision of adequate and cost effective flood warning systems.**

- The Board will assist the Environment Agency wherever possible in its provision of adequate and cost effective flood warning systems. Co-operate with the Agency in responses to flood emergencies and participating as necessary in exercises to develop and test emergency response procedures, reviewing such arrangements every two years.

**Objective (b): to encourage the provision of adequate economically, technically and environmentally sound and sustainable flood and coastal defence measures.**

- Within the drainage district potentially all the area is at some risk of flooding. The Board will seek to retain this risk at acceptable levels through appropriate improvements and the implementation of a sound maintenance strategy. They will also seek to ensure that the Environment Agency's flood defences, which also afford protection to the district, are maintained at a satisfactory standard.
- Work will be carried out in accordance with best practice and to deliver best value for money taking due regard of guidance available from MAFF, the Environment Agency and other organisations.
- Regulate as necessary using the available powers the actions of others to ensure their works do not increase the flood risk.
- Ensure that riparian owners are aware of their responsibilities for maintenance.
- Play a positive role in fulfilling our statutory and other responsibilities for nature conservation, including achievement of the Government's environmental objectives and targets. We acknowledge our responsibilities under the Land Drainage Acts of 1991 and 1994, The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the European Birds and Habitats Directives and the Conservation (Natural Habitats & C) Regulations 1994.
- When carrying out our works we will seek to avoid wherever possible damage to environmental interests and aim to ensure no net loss to habitats covered by Biodiversity Action Plans and seek opportunities to enhance the aquatic environment.

- Ensure that for those Water Level Management Plans where we are the leading operating authority we work in partnership with English Nature to complete, implement where appropriate, and review Plans in accordance with MAFF guidance on plan completion and the timetables set out in the High Level Targets.
- Co-operate with other bodies and make input to the development of Shoreline Management Plans, Coastal Habitat Plans and Local Environment Agency Plans.

**Objective (c): To discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding.**

- The potential impact on flood risk through future development in the Drainage District, or in the wider catchment draining to the District is fully recognised by the Board and it will take an active role in the assessment of structure planning, local plans and individual applications to ensure flood risk is not increased. Where appropriate the Board will secure from Developers contributions to cover the cost of both immediate and longer term works necessary in ensuring that any potential increase in flood risk can be removed. Such contributions will be recorded in accordance with DETR/MAFF Circular (successor to 30/92).

### 3. FLOODING RISKS IN THE BOARD'S DISTRICT

3.1 As mentioned in Section 2, the entire drainage district is at some risk to flooding. That risk is substantially controlled but some variation in the standards of protection will apply. The following are the key details of the District:

Catchment Area draining to and including the District	16,500 ha
Total area of the District	15,753 ha
Area of Agricultural Land	15,485 ha
Area of Residential & Industrial Property	268 ha
<u>Major Infrastructure</u>	
Motorway	0 km
Classified Roads - A roads	14.35 km
- B roads	9.58 km
- other C.C. roads	104.52 km
<u>Sites of Environmental Interest</u>	
SSSI	4.78 ha
Nature Reserve (Metheringham Delph)	30 ha

3.2 The Witham First District IDB has provided the Environment Agency with information on the major flood defence assets for which the Board are responsible. The information is available from the Environment Agency at Waterside House, Waterside North, Lincoln LN2 5HA.

3.3 Assets for which the Board has operating authority responsibility

Pumping Station	14 No.
Other Water Level Control Structures	0 No.
Watercourses	266 km
* Critical Watercourses	0 km
Raised Embankments	2.77 km



\* Critical watercourses are those from which overspilling will put at risk of flooding a significant number of people and properties. Against clear criteria the above length has been agreed with the Environment Agency.

Passing through or adjacent to the District are the following assets maintained by the Environment Agency.

Main Rivers	151 km
River Raised Embankments	201 km

#### 3.4 Flood Risk From These Watercourses

This section sets out the Board's assessment of flood risk taking into account the following:

- Assets in place considering design standard and life.
- Environment Agency flood risk maps.
- Other information such as the history of flooding and land use impacts.

3.5 The areas which are more vulnerable to flooding due to the particular local circumstances are adjacent to Environment Agency main rivers Witham, Sleas, Carr Dyke and the Delphs. The Board is satisfied that there are minimal risks to human life arising from any failure in its own assets or overspilling from its watercourses.

3.6 Through the operation and maintenance of the pumping stations and the channel system the Board seek to maintain a general standard capable of providing flood protection to agricultural land and developed areas of 1 in 20 and 1 in 100 years respectively. This likely return cannot be taken literally and should be considered as a chance of some overspilling from the system taking place each year as being 5% and 1% respectively.

3.7 Reduction and Management of These Flood Risks

The Board monitor the condition of its pumping station and watercourses, particularly those designated as critical, overspilling from which could affect property. Consistent with the established need a routine maintenance programme is in place to ensure that the condition of the assets is commensurate with the standards of protection which are sought.

Where standards are not at the policy level, improvement works, where they can be demonstrated to meet with DEFRA criteria, will be considered and undertaken as appropriate.

The Board welcome from its agricultural ratepayers, special levy councils and members of the public any comments on the condition of its system which could lead to any increased flood risk.

- 3.8 The Board will seek to promote the need for works in its District and create an understanding among people who live and work in it as to what the flood risk is and the efforts made to control it. They will also seek to achieve directly and through local councils a culture within which the watercourses are seen as vital to controlling flood risk, whilst providing an interesting aquatic habit and dissuade abuse of them through dumping waste or obstructing flows in other ways.

**4. REVIEW OF THIS POLICY STATEMENT**

The Witham First District IDB will review this Policy Statement within a period not extending beyond 5 years.

References

<sup>1</sup> Strategy for Flood and Coastal Defence in England and Wales MAFF and Welsh Office, September 1993

<sup>2</sup> High Level Targets for Flood and Coastal Defence Operating Authorities and Elaboration of the Environment Agency's Flood Defence Supervisory Duty MAFF,  
November 1999.

**Policy implemented: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2000**

**Last review dated: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2003**

## **Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000**

### **Policy Statement**

The Witham First District Internal Drainage Board will give due regard to its duties under the Race Relations Act. The Board will welcome applications for employment from any member of any racial group; promote equality of opportunity, promote good relations between people of different racial groups, eliminate unlawful discrimination and monitor race equality using systems and data management to be devised and implemented by the Clerk.

### **Race Equality Scheme**

The Board are not required to publish a scheme under the provisions of the Act.

### **Employment Duty**

#### **1. Applicants For Employment**

The Board had no vacancies in the year.

#### **2. Staff In Post**

The Board employ six full time employees.

Six employees (100%) have designated themselves as ‘White English’ under the standard criteria for Ethnic groups as designated by the Act.

## **Biodiversity Report**

The Board are required to report on all losses and gains of habitat to the Environment Agency.

The Board reported no losses and no gains for the year.

In addition to the duty placed upon them by DEFRA, the Board provide information for the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan. The report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005 detailed:-

39.2 km category 3 watercourses surveyed  
Water Voles present on 31.2 km  
Brown Hare noted at 29 locations  
Kingfishers present at 3 locations  
Mink present at 1 location  
12 Owl boxes maintained and monitored  
1.5 acre Wildlife Area maintained at Walcott Bank and entered into the  
Lincolnshire Environmental Award Competition

## **Water Level Management Plans**

The Board have one SSSI within the drainage district.

### **Wilsford and Rauceby Warrens**

WLMP completed and agreed October 1995

WLMP reviewed and agreed July 1997

WLMP currently being reviewed

Following a change in the grant in aid regime, the Board are investigating the possibility of implementing the plan, however, the landowners, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust have intimated that they have no desire to implement any changes to the site.

## **Asset Surveys**

The Board are required to submit information to the Environment Agency as follows:-

### **1.) Critical Ordinary Watercourses**

The Board maintain nil metres of watercourse designated as a COW.

### **2.) Embanked Watercourses Condition Assessment**

The Board maintain small embankments on the following watercourses:

2142 Digby Fen Roadside Drain  
2146 Evans Dyke  
2188 Cottage Drain

All embankments are in very good, good or fair condition.

### **3.) Structures**

In addition to the requirements of DEFRA, the Board undertake regular inspections of all pumping stations and structures. All structures are mechanically sound.

## **Administration**

The Board have been jointly administered with the Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board since October 1987. The office is owned by both Boards on an equal share basis and office equipment and staff costs are shared equally.

### **Freedom of Information**

The Board have adopted a publication scheme as required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

As part of the commitment to transparency and accountability, a website has been developed to provide information on the Board and its activities. In addition, it offers downloadable forms and links to relevant authorities. The website can be accessed at <http://www.witham-1st-idb.co.uk>

### **Local Government Ombudsman**

The Board fall within the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman.

There were no complaints registered against the Board in 2005/2006.

### **Standing Orders**

The Board submitted amended Standing Orders to the Department of Food and Rural Affairs on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2005. They were approved on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006.

### **Financial Regulations**

The Board approved amended Financial Instructions on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006.