

VISION STATEMENT AND WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT POLICY

A Water Level Management (WLM) Vision for the future

- Understanding catchment reaction to weather events and planning to mitigate the negative effects of any potential future extreme events
- Securing a sustainable eco system for future generations
- Reducing flood risk through sustainable solutions
- Recognising and understanding the potential effects of climate change and how this can be managed to ensure future generations do not suffer through lack of long term planning
- Addressing social and economic needs and requirements through enhanced biodiversity
- Reducing carbon emissions through the use of renewable energy wherever reasonably possible
- Delivering Water Framework Directive (WFD) edicts in improving watercourse environment
- Actively promoting partnership working with the Environment Agency (EA) and the Lead local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) Yorkshire Water (YW) Local River and Wildlife Trusts, Partnerships and other bodies.
- Offering Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) advice and management

Water Level Management Policy

1. To deliver this policy the Board will seek to strategically manage the flow of water through the Drainage District, for the benefit of people, property, commerce, industry, agriculture and the aquatic environment.
2. The Board will investigate and implement where feasible reductions in pumping station operation, thereby reducing energy usage and therefore the Board's carbon footprint.
3. It is the Boards intention to liaise closely with other Risk Management Authorities in all areas of water level management, so as to promote the purpose of water level management to all rate payers and raise awareness of flood risk management challenges and successes.
4. The Board undertakes to consider the Water Framework Directive, to conserve and enhance biodiversity and fully comply with all related UK and EU Legislation; to recognise the potential effects of climate change and to consider this in the long term vision of sustainable water level management.
5. The Board will, where appropriate, offer advice and guidance to other Risk Management Authorities on maintainable sustainable drainage systems and may consider maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within the Drainage District for others
6. The Board will work with the Environment Agency supporting the management and maintenance of main rivers where appropriate.
7. The Board recognises it has a responsibility to enhance biodiversity, for the social and economic benefits this delivers and to work with tourism, leisure, wildlife and environmental groups.
8. The Board will only consider undertaking work for 3rd parties on a case by case basis, ensuring that these works can be implemented without compromising the Boards vision, integrity or financial position.
9. The Board will seek to provide out of hours contact for emergency response and work with Risk Management Authorities at all times.

Policy objectives

VISION STATEMENT AND WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT POLICY

- a) The Board will strategically manage flow through the Drainage District by managing pumping stations and Ordinary Watercourses.
- b) Pumping station operations shall be controlled by the Board for the benefit of each sub-catchment and its rate payers, and includes management of 3rd party stations where appropriate. Pumping station assets will be inspected on a regular basis to update the Capital Works Plan and inform the Boards asset Partners. .
- c) Ordinary Watercourses are the responsibility of the riparian landowner whether these are open channel or piped sections or culverts. The Board will develop Drainage Guidance for landowners to clarify ownership and roles and responsibilities. This will explain the level of maintenance required to permit the free flow of water through the district, the role of the Board, and the level of maintenance undertaken by the Board. The Board will consider day-lighting of existing piped Watercourses.
- d) The Board will review obstructions to flow within the District through taking action where necessary or serving Notice on the responsible persons/riparian landowner.
- e) The Board will identify what it considers to be key Watercourses for annual Maintenance based upon their strategic importance to maintaining the flow of water through the District. Annual maintenance activity is dynamic, therefore subject to change. The Board will encourage the provision of buffer strips adjacent to any Watercourse to facilitate access, for emergency maintenance works, to reduce erosion and siltation and help achieve WFD compliance.
- f) The Board will liaise with developers at the earliest opportunity regarding any proposals for surface water discharge into the District.
- g) The Board will seek to provide a reasonable standard of protection to agricultural land, people, property, and infrastructure. This will be based upon currently accepted drainage standards.
- h) The Board will continuously review the Drainage District Water Level Management based upon hydraulic sub-catchments, telemetry (water level sensors, rainfall gauges, CCTV, remote monitoring and control of pumped levels) and adopt the Total Catchment Management approach to optimise gravity systems, and pursue opportunities for water storage and irrigation.
- i) The Board will build on existing relationships with all Risk Management Authorities at Operational and Strategic levels, contribute and communicate the benefits of Water Level Management to Local and National Flood Risk Strategies, and take part in Risk Management partnership groups as appropriate.
- j) The Board will promote the benefits of water level management through newsletters to rate payers, through Council Tax explanations (where possible), through Parish newsletters (where appropriate), through participation in Risk Management Authority exhibitions, and through a dedicated website.
- k) The Board will progress the development of hydraulic models of the Drainage District to quantify and promote the benefits of Water Level Management and storage.
- l) The Board will utilise hydraulic models of the Drainage District to assess the effects of climate change and consider the implications through an evolving Water Level Management Strategy.
- m) The Board will build on existing relationships with the Environment Agency to share Maintenance Plans and review the benefits of Main River systems for the Drainage District.
- n) The Board will consider working for 3rd parties after review of the benefits for the Drainage District, a review of financial issues and time constraints on the Maintenance Plan.
- o) The Board will provide 24 hour out of hours contact through a Duty Officer and on-call rota. The Duty Officer shall receive Environment Agency flood alerts, Met Office rainfall warnings, take part in Flood Advisory Service teleconferences and communicate/report to the LLFA and Environment Agency emergency response teams where appropriate.

VISION STATEMENT AND WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT POLICY

p) An Emergency Response Plan will be developed and provided to the LLFA as well as defining what the Board can respond to and what rate payers can do to protect themselves

q) The Duty Officer and Chairman will work with partners to suit prevailing conditions and consider alternative pumping operations during Flood Response where required

Strategy to achieve Policy objectives

The Board will:

- Seek to ensure all rate payers are fairly represented
- Reduce and eliminate wherever practicable, on a risk based approach, invasive maintenance activities
- Recognise and understand the potential negative effects of climate change and how this can be managed to ensure future generations do not suffer through lack of long term planning
- Introduce WLM to the wider community through schools and local drop-ins, district councils
- Communicate Board Operations to Risk Management Authorities and rate payers where appropriate
- Manage water levels through the exclusive use of telemetry, optimise use of gravity systems and advance plan for incoming weather events
- Reduce pumping station activity and electricity usage based on a better understanding of catchment requirements
- The Board will publish proposals for annual maintenance plans each year on the Boards website.
- Implement the strategic installation of water level sensors throughout the catchment
- Protect assets through the use of CCTV
- Programme WLM activities based on known scenarios and utilising where possible a linked catchment approach to store water
- Link the telemetry to the MET Office Hazard Manager, automating pumping station management and response
- Promote the use of berms and buffer strips in the Internal Drainage District (IDD)
- Link catchments to attract Flood Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Grant in Aid