

Policy (PO) and Strategic Objectives (SO) aligned

PO 1 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.

SO a The Board will strategically manage flow through the Drainage District by primarily managing pumping station infrastructure and Ordinary Watercourses.

SO b Pumping station operation shall be controlled by the Board for the holistic benefit of each sub-catchment and include management of 3rd party pumping 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. Operations shall be communicated to other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and rate payers where appropriate.

Aspirations

- Protect assets through the use of CCTV
- Programme WLM activities based on known scenarios and utilise where possible a linked catchment approach to store water

SO c Ordinary Watercourses are the responsibility of the riparian landowner whether these are open channel, piped sections or culverts. The Board will develop Drainage Guidance for landowners to clarify ownership and their 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 culverts/piped Watercourses.

SO d The Board will review obstructions to flow within the District, taking remedial action where necessary or serving Notice on the responsible persons/riparian landowner.

SO e The Board will identify Watercourses for annual Maintenance based upon their strategic importance to maintain the flow of water throughout the District. Annual maintenance activity is dynamic, therefore subject to change. The Board will publish proposals for annual maintenance plans each year on the Board's website. The Board will strongly encourage the provision of buffer strips adjacent to any Watercourse to facilitate access, for both annual and emergency maintenance works, to reduce erosion, siltation and help achieve Water Framework Directive (WFD) compliance.

Actions

- The Board will publish proposals for annual maintenance plans each year on the Boards website.
- Actively promote the use of berms and buffer strips within the Internal Drainage District (IDD)

SO f The Board will liaise with developers at the earliest opportunity regarding any proposals for surface water discharge into the IDD.

SO g The Board will seek to provide drainage standards in line with current standards

Action

- Seek to ensure all rate payers are fairly represented

SO h The Board will continuously review WLM within the IDD based upon hydraulic sub-catchments, telemetry (water level sensors, rainfall gauges, CCTV, remote monitoring and control of pumped levels) and adopt a Total Catchment Management (TCM) approach to optimise gravity systems, and pursue opportunities for water storage and irrigation.

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Aspiration

- Implement the strategic installation of water level sensors throughout the catchment
- Link catchments to attract Flood Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Grant in Aid

PO 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. This will be achieved by initiating 'night-time' pumping regimes, optimising gravity systems and investigating opportunities for water storage for the benefit of biodiversity, irrigation and flood risk management.

Action

- Reduce pumping station activity and electricity usage based on a better understanding of catchment requirements

PO 3 It is the Boards intention to liaise closely with other RMAs in all areas of water level management, so as to promote the benefits of water level management to all rate payers and raise awareness of flood risk management challenges and successes.

SO i The Board will build on existing relationships with all RMAs at Operational and Strategic levels, contribute and communicate the benefits of WLM to Local and National Flood Risk Strategies, and take part in Risk Management partnership groups as appropriate.

SO j The Board will promote the benefits of WLM through newsletters to rate payers, through Council Tax explanations (where possible), through Parish newsletters (where appropriate), through participation in RMA exhibitions, and through the Boards website.

SO k The Board will progress the development of hydraulic models of the Drainage District to clearly understand the requirement for pumping station infrastructure and promote the benefits of WLM and storage. – **Partially completed**

SO 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 WLM Strategy.

Actions

- Introduce WLM to the wider community through schools and local drop-ins, district councils
- Communicate Board Operations to RMAs and other stakeholders within the IDD
- Recognise and understand 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
- Manage water levels through the exclusive use of telemetry and planning in advance for incoming weather events

PO 4 The Board undertakes to consider the WFD, to conserve and enhance biodiversity and fully comply with all related UK and EU Legislation; to recognise the effects of climate change and to consider this in the long term vision of sustainable WLM.

PO5 The Board will actively offer advice and guidance to local authorities on

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maintainable sustainable drainage systems and may consider maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within the Drainage District.

PO 6 The Board will work with the Environment Agency supporting the management and maintenance of main rivers where appropriate.

SO m The Board will build on existing relationships within the Environment Agency to share Maintenance Plans and review the benefits of Main River systems for the Drainage District.

PO 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.

Aspiration

- Reduce and eliminate wherever practicable, on a risk based approach, invasive maintenance activities

PO 8 The Board will only consider works 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.

SO n The Board will consider working for 3rd parties after reviewing the possible benefits for the IDD, whilst ensuring such works will not expose the Board financially or interfere with delivery of the Boards own Maintenance Plan.

PO 9 The Board will seek to provide out of hours contact for emergency response and work with Risk Management Authorities at all times.

SO 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.

SO 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

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

- Link the telemetry to the MET Office Hazard Manager, automating pumping station management and response