Internal Drainage Boards in England

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Annual Report for the year ended

31 March 2023

The Law – the following annual report is provided in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the Land Drainage Act 1991.

No later than 31 October 2023 a copy must be provided to:

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Division, Ground Floor, Seacole, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF via flood.reports@defra.gov.uk
- Engineering & Standards - Policy Manager, Asset Management and Engineering, **Environment Agency**, Goldcrest House, Alice Holt Lodge, Farnham, Surrey. GU10 4LH via james.addicott@environment-agency.gov.uk
- The Chief Executives of:
  - all local authorities that pay special levies to the Board;
  - all County Councils or London Boroughs within which the Board is situated.

Please complete the form electronically. If you are unable to complete the form electronically, please complete in BLOCK LETTERS using **black ink**.

Please round all cash figures down to nearest whole £.

SOW & PENK IDB	Internal Drainage Board

Section A – Financial information

Preliminary information on special levies issued by the Board for 2023-24

Information requested below is essential in calculating future formula spending share. It is not covered elsewhere on this form or by the external auditor's certificate.

Special levies information for financial year 2023-24 (forecast)	
Name of local authority	**2023-24 forecast £**
1. STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL	113,896
2. SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL	4,048
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
Total	117,944

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2023

All Internal Drainage Boards must ensure that the Income and Expenditure information provided below is consistent with the Board's annual accounting statements which have been prepared in accordance with proper practices found in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – A Practitioners' Guide to proper practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory annual accounts and governance statements March 2017*

	Notes	Year ending 31 March 2023 £
INCOME		
1. Drainage Rates		X 11,392
2. Special Levies		X 112,852
3. Higher Land Water Contributions from the Environment Agency		X 0
4. Contributions received from developers/other beneficiaries		X 1,002
5. Government Grants (includes capital grants from EA and levy contributions)		X 0
6. PSCAs from EA and other RMAs		X 0
7. Loans		X 0
8. Rechargeable Works		X 0
9. Interest and Investment Income		X 190
10. Rents and Acknowledgements		X 0
11. Other Income		X 2,144
Total income		**X** 127,580
EXPENDITURE		
12. New Works and Improvement Works		Y 1,600
13. Total precept to the Environment Agency		Y 8,635
14. Watercourse maintenance		Y 101,705
15. Pumping Stations, Sluices and Water level control structures		Y 0
16. Administration		Y 27,837
17. PSCAs		Y 0
18. Rechargeable Works		Y 0
19. Finance Charges		Y 0
20. SSSIs		Y 0
21. IDB Biodiversity and conservation (other than item 20 expenditure)		Y 68
22. Other Expenditure		Y 0
Total expenditure		**Y** 139,845

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS		
23. Profits/(losses) arising from the disposal of fixed assets		**Z** 0
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		**X-Y+Z (12,265)**
24. Developers Funds income not applied in year		0
25. Grant income not applied in year		**0**

Notes:

11. Include all other Income, such as absorption account surpluses (for example plant and labour absorption accounts).

12. State the gross cost of undertaking minor capital works that have not been capitalised and the annual depreciation charges of all major schemes that have been capitalised. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the schemes.

13. State the total precept demanded for the year as properly issued by the Environment Agency, in accordance with section 141 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Providing that the precept has been properly issued as before stated it should always be included here, even when the Board has appealed against the amount of contribution, in accordance with section 140 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Where the Board knows with certainty the outcome of any such appeal, it should also include the appropriate accrual/prepayment.

14. State all costs associated with the maintenance of watercourses, meaning work associated with open channels, pipelines, culverts, bridges, etc. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the maintenance programme.

15. State all costs associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures.

16. Include the cost of non-technical staff only, office accommodation, annual depreciation of office equipment that has been capitalised, minor office equipment that has not been capitalised, postages, telecoms', stationery, printing, advertising, auditing of accounts, general insurances and all other costs associated with supporting the organisation. Please note that this does not include support costs, which are directly associated with the delivery of front line services.

17. State all costs associated with the PSCA

18. State all costs associated with undertaking work for third parties. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with undertaking the rechargeable work.

19. Include the cost of servicing any borrowing, in terms of bank/loan/hire purchase Interest payable.

20. State all costs associated with undertaking works – capital or maintenance – specifically for helping to achieve favourable condition on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). In most cases, these costs will be incurred in implementing actions set out in SSSI Water Level Management Plans or SSSI River Restoration Plans.

21. State all costs associated with undertaking works – capital or maintenance – that are likely intended to help conserve biodiversity (other than works on SSSIs). These costs are likely to be incurred in implementing actions set out in an IDB's Biodiversity Action Plan or other conservation actions on non-designated sites.

22. Include all other expenditure, such as a provision for bad/doubtful debts, write-offs, and absorption account deficits (for example plant and labour absorption accounts).

23. For the disposal of assets, state the difference between any proceeds from the sale/disposal of the asset and the cost of the asset less accumulated depreciation.

24. Total balance of developer fund year end.

25. Unspent grant at year end.

Section B –IDB Reporting

Policy Delivery Statement

Boards are required to produce a publicly available policy statement setting out their plans for delivering the Government's policy aims and objectives. It is recommended that these statements be published on Boards' websites where they have them and reviewed every three years.

Is an up to date statement in place and copy (or weblink) provided to Defra, and EA? ..... Yes ☒ No ☐

Biodiversity

Please indicate whether your Board has a Biodiversity Action Plan ..... ……..Yes ☒ No ☐

If "yes" is the Biodiversity Action Plan available on your website?……Yes ☒ No ☐

What year was your Biodiversity Action Plan last updated?)……. 2020

Have you reported progress on BAP implementation on your web site?.....Yes ☒ No ☐

When was biodiversity last discussed at a Board meeting (date)?…… June 2023

Do you have a biosecurity process?.....Yes ☒ No ☐

SSSI water level management plans

Please indicate whether your Board is responsible for any SSSI water level management plans?..... ……Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, which ones:

Area of SSSI with IDB water level management plans…….

Area of SSSI where IDB water level management activities are contributing to recovering or favourable condition?

Area of SSSI where IDB water level management actions are required to achieve recovering or favourable condition?

Access to environmental expertise

Does your IDB have access to environmental expertise? If so please tick all those options below through which environmental expertise is regularly provided to your IDB:

Appropriately skilled Board Members (e.g. Board member from an Environmental Body/Authority)	☐
Co-opted members	☐
Directly employed staff	☐
Contracted persons or consultants	☒
Environmental Partners/NGOs	☐
Other (please describe)	☐

Asset Management

What system/database does your Board use to manage the assets it is responsible for?

ADIS	☐
Paper Records	☐
Other Electronic System	☒

Has your Board continued to undertake visual inspections and update asset databases on an annual basis? Yes ☒ No ☐

What is the cumulative total of identified watercourse (in km) that the Board periodically maintains?

40KM

How many pumping stations does the Board operate?

0

What is the cumulative design capacity of the Board's pumping station(s) (enter zero if no stations are operated)?

0

Health and Safety

Does the Board have a current Health and Safety policy in place? Yes ☒ No ☐

Does the Board have a responsible officer for Health and Safety? Yes ☒ No ☐

Have there been any reportable incidents in the past year? Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, please summarise in the box below:

Guidance and Best Practice

Has your IDB adopted a formal Scheme of Delegation? Yes ☒ No ☐

Has your IDB provided training for board members in the last year in the any of the following areas?

Governance ☐
Finance ☐
Environment ☐
Health, safety and welfare ☐
Communications and engagement ☐
Other (please describe) ☐

Is your Board's website information current for this financial year? (Board membership, audited accounts, programmes of works, WLMPS, etc) ..... Yes ☒ No ☐

Has your IDB adopted computerised accounting and rating systems? ..... Yes ☒ No ☐

Has your board published all minutes of meetings on the website?..... Yes ☒ No ☐

Does the Board publish information on its website on its approach to maintenance works and provide contact details to allow for and encourage public engagement? Yes ☒ No ☐

When planning maintenance and capital works are environmental impacts taken into account and wherever possible best practice applied? Yes ☒ No ☐

Has your Board adopted the following governance documents?

Standing Orders ..... Yes ☒ No ☐

Have the Standing Orders been approved by Ministers ..... Yes ☒ No ☐

Byelaws ..... Yes ☒ No ☐

If you have Byelaws, have you adopted the latest model byelaws published in 2012..... Yes ☒ No ☐

Have the Byelaws been approved by Ministers……..Yes ☒ No ☐

Code of Conduct for Board Members..... Yes ☒ No ☐

Financial Regulations……Yes ☒ No ☐

Register of Member's Interests……..Yes ☒ No ☐

Anti-fraud and corruption policy…… Yes ☒ No ☐

Board membership and attendance

How many Board members (in total – elected and appointed) do you have on your IDB?	13
Seats available to appointed members under the Land Drainage Act 1991.	7
Number of elected members on the board at year end.	6
Number of appointed members on the board at year end.	7
Mean average number of elected members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	5
Mean average number of appointed members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	5

Have you held elections within the last three years?.....Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐
Did elections comply with the requirements specified by the Secretary of State under Regulation 28 of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938?..... Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Complaints procedure

Is the procedure for a member of the public to make a complaint about the IDB accessible from the front page of its website?.....Yes ☒ No ☐

Number of complaints received in the financial year?	0
Number of complaints outstanding in the financial year?	0
Number of complaints referred to the Local Government Ombudsman?	0
Number of complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman?	0

Public Engagement

Set out what your Board has done in this financial year to engage with the public (tick relevant box(es) below):

Press releases	☐
Newsletters	☒
Web site	☒
Meetings	☒
Shows/events (including open days/inspections)	☐
Consultations	☒
Notices	☒

Percentage (in value) of drainage rates outstanding at year end?

3.6%

Section B: NOTES

Guidance and Best Practice

Has your Board published **all** minutes of meetings on the web site? In answering this question, this should apply to all the main Board meetings held in the year and any appropriate meetings the Board has held with external stakeholders.

Board membership and attendance

When referring to **elected members** of the Board, this relates to the number of landowners/drainage rate payers that are elected to the Board.

When referring to **appointed members** of the Board, this relates to the number of members appointed by the local authorities to represent the local council taxpayers.

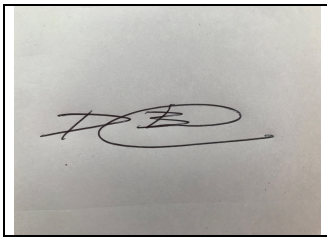
When referring to mean average number of elected and appointed members in attendance at meetings at each board meeting – **this should be expressed as a number of attendees** and not as a percentage attendance.

With regard to elections, under Schedule 1 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, elected members should hold office for three years, at which point a further election is held. When elections are held, they should comply with the requirements under Regulation 28 of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938 – to advertise and notify local stakeholders accordingly.

Section C – Declaration

SOW & PENK IDB	Internal Drainage Board

I confirm that the information provided in sections A-C or with this form is correct.

Signature	
Date	30/10/2023
Name in BLOCK LETTERS	DAVID BLAKE
Designation	SENIOR FINANCIAL OFFICER
Email address	DAVID.BLAKE@SHIREGROUP-IDBS.GOV.UK