

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Councillor Brewis.

To: South Holland District Council – 27 February 2019

(Author: Councillor Brewis)

Subject North Level District Internal Drainage Board

Purpose: To Provide South Holland District Council with an update following the latest meeting of the North Level District Internal Drainage Board, held on 6 February 2019.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That Full Council notes the contents of the report.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.2 The current position with regard to the Board's expenditure thus far in 2018-2019 financial year, was that it was very slightly more than what had been predicted in budget.

1.3 Rainfall had been as follows:

	November	December	January
Tydd Pump. Stn.	39.5 mm (1.6")	81.0 mm (3.2")	19.0 mm (0.76")
Sutton St Edmund	31.1 mm (1.2")	68.9 mm (2.7")	15.2 mm (0.61")

1.4 Total annual rainfall the last three years was:

	2016	2017	2018
	550mm	568mm	513mm
(Roughly)	22 in.	22.7 in.	20.5 in.

1.5 Soil moisture deficit, which for some times during the autumn had been the lowest 'water table' since 1921, was:

6 Nov	27 Nov	18 Dec	08 Jan	29 Jan
113.7 mm	96.7 mm	64.9mm	48.1mm	39.4mm

That remains rather dry for this time of the year.

1.6 Total pumping station hours for all stations were 130 hours in November and 336 hours in December 2018.

- 1.7 CCTV was being considered as extra security for the Board's main pumping station on Station Road, Tydd Gote.
- 1.8 Estimates for the financial year 2019-2020 showed a very slight 'shift' from agricultural land to non-agricultural land within the South Holland part of the Board's catchment of 0.12%. Members will recall that the single biggest 'shift' in recent years was caused by the construction of the 'new' A16 between Spalding and Eye.
- 1.9 Whilst always agreeing that Drainage Board precepts should *not* be treated as District Council expenditure, but in the same way as other precepts (County, Police and Parish), will rise for the next year for South Holland's portion from £138,369 to £142,003.
- 1.10 As reported in other years, the 'rate' of increase for North Level District IDB has been much lower than for our other IDBs.
- 1.11 Rates were to rise for the coming year by 2.5 per cent.
- 1.12 The meeting concluded with a presentation on proposals for Wisbech Market Town.

2.0 ACRONYMS

- 2.1 IDB – Internal Drainage Board

Background papers:- none

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Key Decision: N

Exempt Decision: N