A MEETING OF THE PEVENSEY AND CUCKMERE WLMB WAS HELD IN THE BLUE ROOM AT HELLINGLY COMMUNITY HUB, THE DRIVE, HELLINGLY, EAST SUSSEX BN27 4EP AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026 AT 10.00 AM.

	Elected Members		Appointed Members
	Pevensey District		**Eastbourne BC**
*	B Gower (Chairman)	*v	A Dehdashty
*	M Hole	*	P Di Cara
*	R Miles		J Murray
	D Robinson		T Nevill
*	C Wadman (Vice Chairman)	*v	H Parker
	Cuckmere District	*	R Smart
*v	R Brown		**Hastings BC & Rother DC**
	D McCutchan	*v	R Thomas
	Combe Haven District		**Wealden DC**
	L Gearing		M Fairweather
		*	D White

*Present (65%)

Chris Wadman in the Chair

In Attendance: (vvia MS Teams)

Water Management Alliance (WMA)
Marcus Coleman (Chief Executive)*v, Richard Dann (Operations Manager), Olivia Follen (Business Support Manager), Sallyanne Jeffrey (Chief Financial Officer)*v, Revai Kinsella (Area Manager, East Sussex), Caroline Laburn (Environmental Manager)*v, Gareth Oliver (Flood Risk Engineer) and
Matthew Philpot (Deputy Chief Executive & COO)

Local Authorities (LPAs and LLFA)
Harriet Peacock (Wealden District Council), Shirley Mackinnon (Pevensey Parish Council)

ID	Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB, Minute	Action
26/25	**WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**	
26/26/01	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received on behalf of Nick Claxton, Duncan McCutchan, Mark Fairwhether, Jim Murray and Mark Tiernan (Pevensey Parish Council).	
27/26	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**	
27/26/01	Chris Wadman declared an interest as a member of the Pevensey Cluster Group.	

28/26 GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY REGISTER FOR 2025/26

28/26/01 The Chief Financial Officer asked all Board members to declare any gifts and hospitality over the value of £40.00 which they had received between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 to business.support@wlma.org.uk by 30 June 2026. RESOLVED that this be actioned. **All members**

29/26 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING

29/26/01 The minutes of the last meeting held on 27 January 2026 were confirmed as a true record and would be signed by the Chairman after the meeting. There were no matters arising.

30/26 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE PERFORMANCE REVIEW

30/26/01 The Health, Safety and Welfare Performance Review, (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

Shirley Mackinnon joined the meeting.

31/26 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND CAPITAL WORKS REPORT

31/26/01 The Project Development and Capital Works Report, (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

31/26/02 The Area Manager suggested that a site visit be held for Board Members and Supporting Officers who were interested in seeing the Drockmill Pumping Station Project. The Business Support Manager agreed to circulate potential dates for the visit to Board Members. RESOLVED that this be actioned. **OF**

32/26 OPERATIONS REPORT

32/26/01 The Operations Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

32/26/02 It was proposed by David White, seconded by Penny Di Cara and unanimously agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve a contribution of £2,000.00 annually for a period of 3 years to the Pevensey Farmers Cluster Group, starting from the 2027/28 financial year. This contribution would be added to the Biodiversity Action Plan budget.

33/26 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

33/26/01 The Environmental Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

34/26 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

34/26/01 The Sustainable Development Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

34/26/02 PC_26_0191: Application to discharge surface water at Park Farm East, Hellingly

It was proposed by Robert Smart, seconded by Martin Hole and unanimously agreed and thereby RESOLVED to consent to this application subject to amendments that protect New Road and existing properties to be agreed and payment of surface water development contribution, as calculated using the Board's Charging Policy.

Bill Gower joined the meeting.

34/26/03 Harriet Peacock suggested that the Area Manager submit the Board's comments and position to the Wealden District Council Policy Team in relation to the forthcoming Regulation 19 consultation. Robert Smart suggested that the Area Manager prepare a draft letter on behalf of the Board, requesting that consideration be given to the cumulative impact of the developments proposed under the new Local Plan. RESOLVED that this be actioned. **RK**

35/26 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2025/256

35/26/01 The detailed Internal Audit Report for 2025/26 that forms part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2025/26 as prepared by the Board's Internal Auditor, together with the Management Team's responses and recommended actions, (copies of which are filed in the Report Book), were considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

36/26 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2025/26

36/26/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to reappoint TIAA as the Board's Internal Auditor for 2026/27. In doing so, the Board:

(i) is satisfied that the Internal Auditor is independent (see Practitioners' Guide 2025 Paragraphs 1.35 and 4.11).

(ii) approves the internal audit programme of work for 2026/27 (a copy of which is filed in the report book), having regard to the key risks identified in the Risk Register (see Practitioners' Guide 2025 Paragraphs 1.34 and 4.16); and

(iii) is satisfied with regard to the competence of the Internal Auditor and approves the letter of engagement (see Practitioners' Guide 2025 Paragraphs 1.35, 4.1 and 4.13), including the signed letter of engagement.

37/26 FINANCIAL REPORT

37/26/01 The Financial Report and reconciliation to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31 March 2026, was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

37/26/02 Robert Smart requested that the Chief Financial Officer look into the valuations of Pumping Stations. The Chief Financial Officer advised that this would be reviewed in year. RESOLVED that this be actioned. **SJ**

38/26 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2025/26

38/26/01 The Annual Governance Statement shown in Section 1 of the Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31 March 2026 was considered in detail and approved.

38/26/02 The Accounting Statements shown in Section 2 of the Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31 March 2026 were considered in detail and approved.

39/26 DATE OF COMMENCEMENT PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

39/26/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to publish the notice for the exercise of public rights on the Board's website and in the office reception, that the Accounts, for the year ending 31 March 2026 would be available for inspection for the 30-working day period commencing Friday 19 June 2026 and ending on Thursday 30 July 2026.

40/26 IDB/EA LIAISON UPDATE

40/26/01 The Area Manager informed the Board that they continued to maintain a strong working relationship with the Environment Agency locally. The Environment Agency had offered assistance in relation to the culvert failure, which would help to reduce costs. The Area Manager noted that the organisations were working well together and expressed the hope that this positive relationship would continue.

41/26 RISK REGISTER

41/26/01 The Risk Register showing those risks with a risk assessment matrix score of ≥ 6 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

42/26 REGISTER OF ELECTORS

42/26/01 The Register of Electors as at 01 April 2026, (a redacted copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved, in accordance with Rule 3 (11) of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Board Members) Regulations 1938 (as amended). It was noted that no objections had been received during the inspection period, as advertised. There were no matters arising.

43/26 OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS AND OTHER FEEDBACK

43/26/01 The Official Complaints and Other Feedback Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

44/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

44/26/01 It was agreed that the next scheduled meeting of the Board would take place on Tuesday, 03 November 2026, at 10.00 am, to be held in The Blue Room at Hellingly Community Hub and via Microsoft Teams

45/26 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

45/26/01 Bill Gower noted that a letter was received from Romney Marshes Area IDB who had received technical support from the Board, following the loss of their clerk. The Area Manager noted the Board had also offered the same support to the Environment Agency (EA) on the Arun IDB which had demonstrated the Board's influence and ability to support other organisations, as well as improved the relationship with the EA on the Pevensey Levels.

46/26 OPEN FORUM: TO HEAR FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRMAN

46/26/01 Shirley Mackinnon advised that Wealden District Council had opened a separate funding stream, for projects that provide benefits to communities within the Wealden District. Harriet Peacock agreed to investigate whether an application could be made to this fund to support the Martins Ditch water control structure, should the project prove ineligible for Section 106 funding from the development, or if the available Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding were insufficient to meet the required costs. RESOLVED that this be actioned. **HP**

Shirley Mackinnon, Richard Dann, Gareth Oliver and Caroline Laburn left the meeting.

Bill Gower in the Chair.

47/26 CONSORTIUM MATTERS

47/26/01 Unconfirmed minutes and Report Extracts

The unconfirmed minutes and report extracts taken from the Consortium Management Committee (CMC) meeting held on 24 April 2026 were considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

47/26/02 WMA Group's Development Control Charges and Fees Policy

The WMA Group's Development Control Charges and Fees Policy (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book), was considered in detail, and adopted. There were no matters arising.

47/26/03 WMA Group's Drainage Rates & Hereditaments Policy

A report proposing an amendment to the WMA Group's Drainage Rates & Hereditaments Policy (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail. There were no matters arising.

47/26/04 Items for discussion at the next CMC meeting

There were no items raised by members for discussion at the next CMC meeting on 26 June 2026. Should members wish to raise any item for discussion at the next meeting, they should contact any of the Board's representatives: the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Jim Murray, or the Chief Executive directly.

48/26 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

48/26/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to exclude the public from the next part of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in accordance with Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Board's Standing Orders.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE PERFORMANCE REVIEW
For the period 12 January 2026 to 31 May 2026

1. LEARNING EVENTS

1.1. A culvert failed after a machine tracked over it, on the Crooked Ditch in the Arun Valley. This was on a PSCA contract with the Environment Agency (EA) and was on the designated access route, which had been used previously by the EA.

1.2. On closer inspection, it was found that the culvert was formed from steel Armco pipes, which were corroded. This is a well known issue across most WMA drainage boards, with pipes installed in the 80's and 90's now being at the end of the their life. Most boards have a replacement programme for these (with many already being replaced) although some remain. Learning is to be aware of safe access routes and to flag potential risks to Operations managers.



Figure 1: Collapsed culvert on Crooked Ditch

1.3. Kings Lynn IDB: 14/04/26: Smashed car windscreen from robo-flail. Investigation underway following member of public reporting smashed car windscreen from robo-flail. Initial checks on guards and discussions with operatives have been completed. The WMA is reviewing safe working methods around caravan site where this happened.

2. ACCIDENTS

2.1. None this period

3. TOOLBOX TALKS & TRAINING

3.1. None this period

4. UPDATES TO GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENTS (GRA) & SAFE SYSTEMS OF WORK

4.1. None required this period

5. HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTIONS

5.1. Allianz Engineering Inspection Services Ltd carried out a thorough examination of our equipment at the pumping stations in May 2026, to check compliance with Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 and Provision & Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998.

5.2. No defects, which could cause a danger to persons, were identified during the assessment. There were also no other parts identified that require rectification.

REVAI KINSELLA
AREA MANAGER – PEVENSEY AND CUCKMERE
June 2026

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT
For the period 12 January 2026 to 31 May 2026

1. Pevensey Water Management Improvement Scheme and modelling programme

1.1 The government's new Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management funding policy commenced in April 2026. In this new funding policy, there is no specific fund to protected sites. Therefore, it is not clear at this time whether the original Pevensey Water Management Improvement Scheme, which included all pumping stations and twenty water control structures can be continued in its original form.

1.2 The local Environment Agency officers are currently reviewing the new policy and consulting with colleagues at the national level to gain a better understanding on how the new policy can be used on designated sites. Once they have received some clarity on this, we will review options on continuing with the scheme as a single project or split it into several projects covering each pumping station and a cluster of related water control structures.

1.3 In the meantime, we plan to continue the feasibility study for moving Manxey Pumping Station, which had been put on hold while the team concentrated on securing funding and delivering the replacement of Drockmill Pumping Station. The feasibility study for Manxey Pumping Station was previously discussed at the November 2024 Board meeting.

1.4 The hydraulic modelling covering the area west of Bexhill, Pevensey Haven, and Wallers Haven is ongoing. Jacobs are finalising the model which will be used to understand the following:

- Impact of development in that part of the drainage district.
- Optimum pump sizes, taking into account climate change and development impacts
- Climate change impacts on outfalls at Pevensey and Normans Bay.

1.5 The model findings around Pevensey and Westham are currently being used by officers to negotiate funding from a development through the planning authority of the replacement of a water control structures on Martins Ditch which affects water levels and flood risk south of the A27.

1.6 The table below summarises the spend on the hydraulic modelling project. The total grant for this project, which includes detailed design of the Drockmill Pumping Station and Feasibility Study for Manxey Pumping Station, is £593,096.

ITEM	SPEND TO DATE
Channel Survey	£151,625.75
Hydraulic modelling	£82,186.75
TOTAL	**£233,812.50**

1.7 The hydraulic modelling was originally programmed to be completed by February 2026, but now it is forecasted to be completed in August 2026. The delay is due to a section of the Wrenham Bill Gut drain which had been missed in both the survey and the hydraulic original model due to the complicated arrangement around the Salt Haven.

2 Tranche 2B Projects

2.1 The Board received funding from the IDB Storm Recovery Fund – Asset Improvement Tranche 2B for the following projects:

- Hankham Gut Structures, Pevensey Levels
- Spaghetti Junction, Pevensey Levels
- Drockmill Pumping Station

2.2 The summary for each project is below.

HANKHAM GUT STRUCTURES

2.3 In mid-February the EA confirmed £375,500 additional funding for the Hankham Gut to incorporate a water control structure (P10) and culvert on Martins Ditch, just before its outfall into the Pevensey Haven.

2.4 The enabling work such as assessments, environmental surveys, and most of the design had been undertaken, allowing work on the Martins Ditch structure to start on site as soon as the EA had issued the grant funding agreement in early March.

2.5 The Hankham Gut water control structure, which comprises of a penstock mount into a purpose built pre-cast headwall, was completed by 31st March 2026. See below photos of the completed structure.



Figure 1: Completed Structure at Hankham Gut

2.6 However, following its commissioning of the water control structure, it was observed that the structure was leaking some water resulting in lower water levels than those desired upstream. Investigations were undertaken by the contractor, CJ Thornes, the manufacturer and supplier of the headwall units and double leaf penstock, a partnership of Aquatic Control Engineering (ACE) and JKH, and the designer, Ardent Consulting Engineers.

2.7 The findings of the investigations by all contractors on the project, supported by the Board's officers allowed lessons to be learned. These resulted in:

- improved installation instructions from the manufacturer, especially around the correct sealant to be applied on the panels making up the headwalls to allow for water tightness
- amendments in the design, to provide secondary water tightness in the event of sealant failure

- ensuring satisfactory water permeability tests are carried out on the headwalls and penstock/weir prior to removing temporary works controlling water levels during construction

2.8 Figure 2 below shows the completed structure at Martins Ditch.



Figure 2: Completed Structure at Martins Ditch

2.9 The table below summarises the spend on the project to date. This shows an overspend on the project, which is due to the water leakage issues needing to be resolved and at Hankham it involved removing and rebuilding the retaining wall around the headwall and penstock.

2.10 These costs include costs associated with staff time while working on the project.

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	GRANT RECEIVED	OVERSPEND	% OVERSPEND
£846,319.13	£799,440.00	£46,879.13	6%

SPAGHETTI JUNCTION STRUCTURES

2.11 In mid-February 2026, the EA confirmed additional funding to the project to cover some of the extra costs associated with the additional work required on the site access due to extreme rainfall.

2.12 The same leakage issues that were identified at Hankham Gut would have affected the structures at Spaghetti Junction too due to similar design and same supplier of the headwall units and weirs. Therefore, the design was amended and some aspects of the construction re-done.

2.13 This had the impact of delaying the completion of the project and also increasing construction costs. These cost increases could not be identified before the final cost report to the EA was due in early March 2026. Consequently, additional funding to cover the overspend could not be negotiated with the EA.



Figure 3: Spaghetti Junction Structures Under Construction

2.14 The table below summarises the total costs of the project. These costs include costs associated with staff time while working on the project.

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	GRANT RECEIVED	OVERSPEND	% OVERSPEND
£1,215,751.45	£1,183,360.00	£32,391.45	3%

2.15 The project was selected by the EA for both a desk based and site audit. The site visit for the audit is planned for Wednesday 22nd July 2026.

DROCKMILL PUMPING STATION

2.16 In mid-February the EA confirmed additional £300,000 funding for the Drockmill Pumping Station, taking the total grant award for this project to £3,300,000.

2.17 A large portion of the work at the pumping station has been completed. The following items are still outstanding and are expected to be completed by mid-July:

- Completion on land purchases and deeds of easements
- Filling in of the old channel of Drockmill Hill
- Commissioning of the new pumping station
- De-commissioning of the old pumps



Figure 4: Aerial photo during construction and the new pumps and control building

2.18 Figure 4 above shows the aerial photo of the pumping during construction and a photo of the new pumping station with the pumps and inlet channel and control building installed.



Figure 5: Wetland feeder channel, including location where pipe to the channel will connect

2.19 Figure 5 above the new channel which facilitates the creation of a wetland, together with the location where the pipe to feed the channel from the pumps is installed.



Figure 6: Lifting pump into place and view inside control building

2.20 Figure 6 above shows one of the pumps being lifted into place by a crane and the inside of the control building viewed from its entrance.

2.21 The table below shows the total commitment on the project to date. This includes staff costs and estimated compensation events, some of which we are yet to agree with the

contractors. One of the compensation events is associated with increase in costs due to extreme rainfall which we are still discussing.

TOTAL COMMITMENT	GRANT RECEIVED	PROJECTED OVERSPEND	% OVERSPEND
£3,533,419.23	£3,300,000.00	£233,419.23	7%

2.22 The committed costs currently show an overspend of £233,419.23 when compared to grant received. However, the Board agreed to allocate £300,000 to the project from the development reserves at the October 2025 meeting.

2.23 It is likely that once all the compensation events have been agreed and all the work is completed, the total costs are likely to be less than those committed. The final costs will be presented to the Board at the October 2026 meeting.

2.24 Although the project is currently forecasted to overspend, each contract agreed a 2.5% retention which will be paid to the contractor in two years if there are no issues observed on the new pumping station requiring the contractors to rectify. The table below gives the details of the retention for each contract.

CONTRACT	AMOUNT RETAINED
Civils	£37,500
MEICA	£17,000
EICA	£8,000
TOTAL	£62,500

2.25 The project was selected by the EA for both a desk based and site audit. The site visit for the audit is planned for Wednesday 22nd July 2026.

3 Cuckmere Adaptation Strategy

3.1 The Board received the total contribution of £70,000 to this project by Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council by 31st March 2026.

3.2 An agreement is yet to be signed with Southern Water to allow the Board to receive its £50,000 contribution towards the project. Nevertheless, Southern Water previously advised that the funds it plans to contribute towards the project will be available from July 2026.

3.3 The project has now also under gone all the required EA approvals to allow us to drawdown on the £189,000 contribution from Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee's (RFCC) Local Levy. The claims to drawdown the will be submitted by 5th June 2026.

3.4 Maltby Land Surveys Ltd were appointed to carry out the channel survey of the River Cuckmere and relevant tributaries. The channel survey commenced 18th May 2026 and is expected to be completed by mid-September 2026.

REVAI KINSELLA - AREA MANAGER
JUNE 2026

OPERATIONS REPORT
For the period 12 January 2026 to 31 May 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The following information pertains to works carried out for the Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB involving:

- Area Manager (Revai Kinsella)
- Operations Manager (Richard Dann)
- Flood Risk Engineer (Gareth Oliver)

2. MAINTENANCE

2.1. Machine based work was undertaken on the following systems by the contractors:

System	Work Undertaken
Tower Ditch	De-silting
Waterlot Stream	Tree and brush management, and de-silting
Cheney Stream	Tree and brush management, and de-silting
Pinnock Stream	Tree and brush management
Wrenham and Bill Gut Stream	Tree and brush management

2.2. The team continues to work on, and improving, our current systems. The following works were undertaken by the team on the systems:

- Sluice keeping, managing water levels
- Brush management at pumps
- Clearing grills of reeds and debris

2.3. Our agreed process of operating Environment Agency (EA) structures continues and is working well. However, we are now working less on the EA structures as they are operating them for the benefit of both organisations.

3. PUMPS AND TILTING WEIRS

3.1. Five pumping stations, wind pump, Milton Lock gate and five tilting weirs were serviced in April 2026.

3.2. Only two pumps are working at Barnhorn Pumping Station since the third one failed and we could not source parts for its repair. We are waiting for the results of the hydraulic modelling, being undertaken by Jacobs, to better understand the hydraulic capacity needs for this station while taking into account development in the area and climate change. Once we have these results, we will explore different options for the future of the station taking into account any funding pots available.

3.3. The kiosk and plinth were leaning at Barnhorn Pumping Station and these are currently being underpinned with expected completion on 5th June 2026.

3.4. The wind pump had its gearbox oil changed and its auto greasers were replaced.

3.5. The tilting weirs are all in good operating condition, with no issues. Lee Dickens, our telemetry provider, has now set up the telemetry to allow the tilting weirs to be operated automatically. The cameras have also now been installed to allow any remote operation to be based on observation of the system. We will test the automatic control on the White Dyke weir while on

site to gain confidence that the system is working well before we start automatic control on all sites.

3.6. Milton Lock is also in good operating condition and no issues were identified.

3.7. The damaged roof at Manxey Pumping Station was repaired.

4. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Cuckmere Update

Milton Lock

4.1. We are continuing to work with several EA teams, including the Fisheries and Biodiversity team, on exploring options for improving the fish pass and allow the gate to continue operating until such time as a long term plan can be made.

4.2. Currently, investigations into the design of a new Larinier fish pass with an eel pass beside it, which uses the existing structure are underway. This has not progressed significantly during this reporting period due to lack of capacity within both the EA and Board officers.

Cuckmere Adaptation Strategy

4.3. The report on this has been included in the Project Development and Capital Projects Report.

Dickermans Wall Outfall

4.4. Damage to the Dickermans Wall outfall on the Cuckmere side was discovered early March and the EA were notified. The EA replaced the flap valve in May 2026.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS

5.1. Two penstocks at the water control structure (P35) on Wrenham Bill Gut immediately upstream of the Salt Haven were repaired by replacing the leaky, damaged penstocks with new ones shown below.



Figure 1: New penstocks installed on Wrenham Bill Gut

5.2. At the beginning of May 2026 we were notified of a hole that had appeared in the culvert that is on one of our drains, Stream Ditch. This culvert is also on the route of a public right of way serving the Bexhill west community.



Figure 2: Failed Culvert on Stream Ditch

5.3. On inspection of the damage, we decided to close the culvert to the public as we deemed it unsafe. East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) Rights of Way team also sent their bridge inspector to assess the condition of the culvert, as they were hoping to keep the footpath open to the members of the public. The bridge inspector also concluded that it was unsafe and should be closed until it has been repaired.

5.4. The replacement or repairs to this culvert had not been included in the annual budget for the Board, therefore funds are not currently available for its repair/replacement.

5.5. The Board's officers have been in discussions with the EA, ESCC's Rights of Way team and Rother District Council (RDC) regarding potential contributions to the replacement/repair of the culvert.

5.6. Both the EA and ESCC's Rights of Way team confirmed that they are willing to contribute financially towards the repairs/replacement of the culvert. The EA has also indicated that its Field Team could carry out the culvert installation works to remove the need of external contractors.

5.7. Meetings held with RDC's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) officers were also quite positive. Therefore, officers plan to submit an expression of interest for CIL funding to RDC by the deadline of 22nd June 2026. The outcome of CIL funding application will not be known until end of September 2026.

Tilting Weir on the Old Haven

5.8. Board officers are currently working with the EA to assess the potential for installing a new tilting weir on the Old Haven in order to improve water retention and water levels in the summer. The Old Haven is a main river, therefore, we are assisting the EA with the planning and coordination

of the project. Funding for construction of the weir is currently unknown, but the EA already has some of the required material at their yard and it is likely that field team will be able to carry out the construction.

6. PEVENSEY FARMERS CLUSTER GROUP

6.1. The funding that the Pevensey Farmers Cluster Group was receiving from South East Water runs out at the end of this year. Therefore, the cluster group is seeking additional sources of funding to allow it to continue.

6.2. The cluster group is useful to the Board in that it allows a platform for collaboration with the farmers in our district in matters that are of mutual interest. It also allows for joined-up environmental management across property boundaries. It benefits the Board by improving land management for flood risk reduction.

6.3. The farmers cluster group has approached the Board for an annual contribution towards its work.

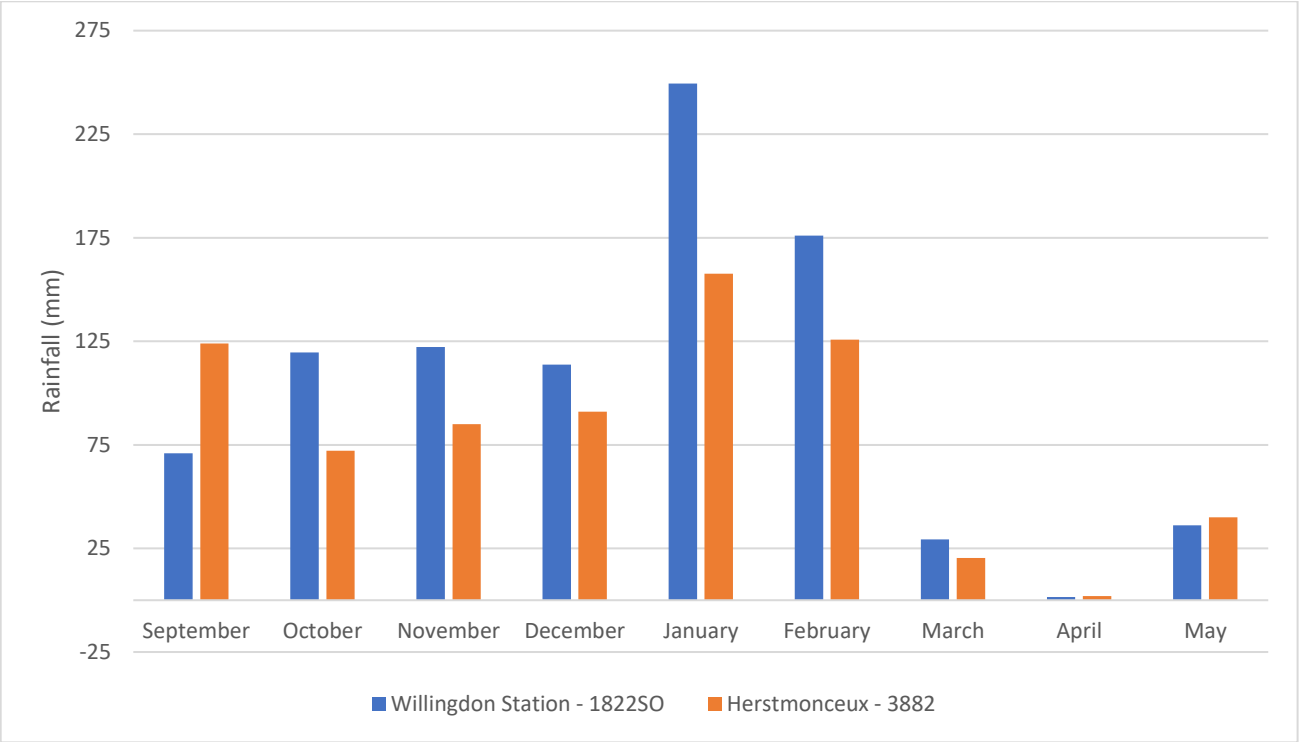
6.4. **Officer Recommendation**: It is recommended that Members approve an annual contribution of **£2,000** to the Pevensey Farmers Cluster Group, starting from the 2027/28 financial year. This will be added to the Biodiversity Action Plan budget.

7. HYDROLOGY

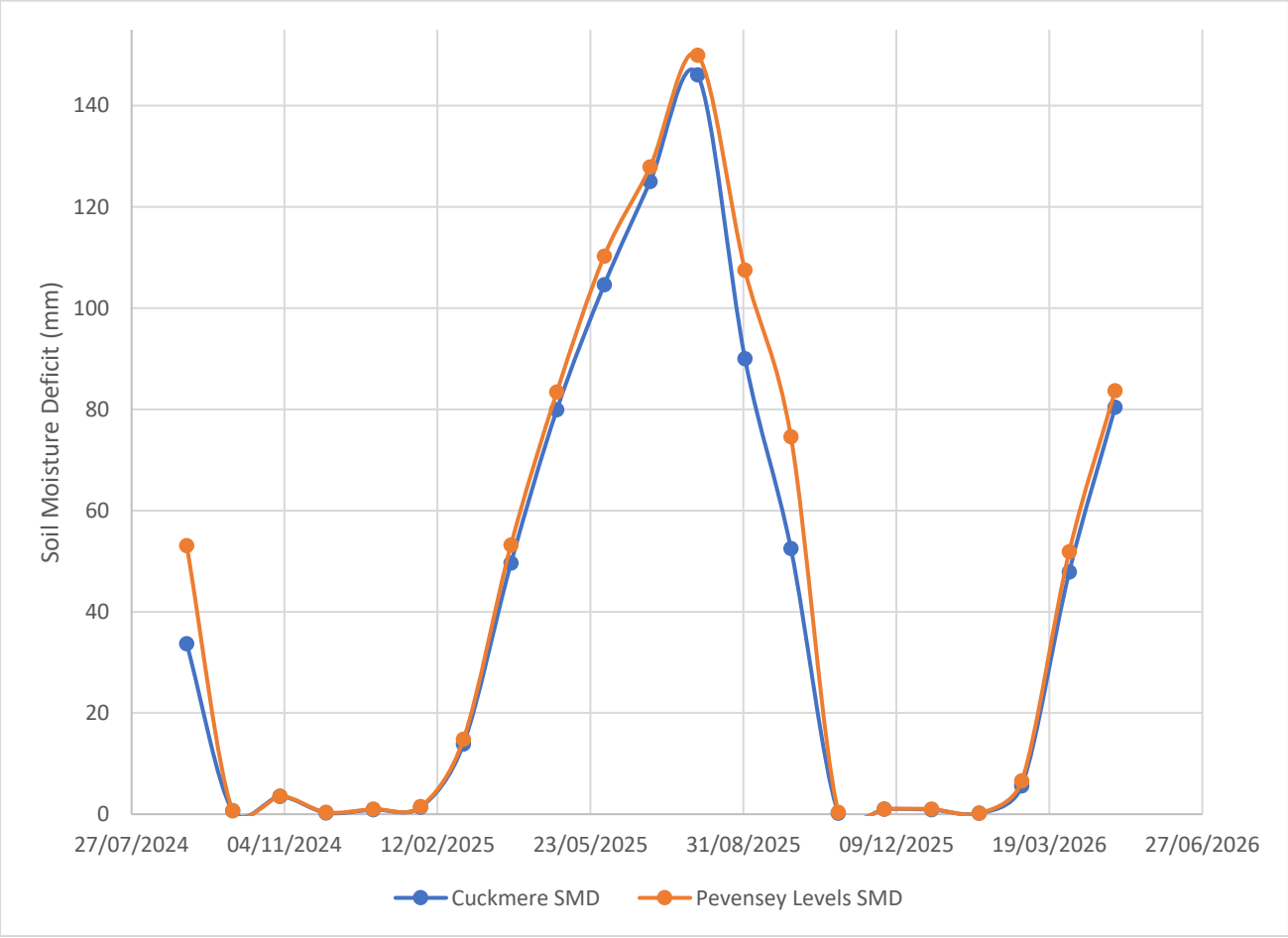
7.1. The table below gives the monthly total rainfall recorded in the district between September 2025 and May 2026. This shows that January and February 2026 were very wet while April 2026 was very dry.

LOCATION	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 26	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Willingdon – Station 1822SO	70.9 mm	119.6 mm	122.3 mm	113.7 mm	249.42 mm	176.05 mm	29.4 mm	1.6 mm	36.2 mm
Herstmonceux – Station 3882	124 mm	72.2 mm	85 mm	91 mm	157.60 mm	125.80 mm	25 mm	22.4 mm	61.2 mm

7.2. The graph below gives a graphical representation of the monthly total rainfall recorded in the district between September 2025 and May 2026. This was recorded at the Environment Agency's rainfall station in Willingdon and at Herstmonceux.



7.3. The soil moisture deficit within the Cuckmere and Pevensey catchments between September 2024 and May 2026 is shown in the graph below.



REVAI KINSELLA
AREA MANAGER
June 2026

Fuel Costs

Purpose of this Paper:
This paper describes the risk arising due to rising fuel costs and how officers are mitigating this situation.

WMA officers remain aware of the risks associated with increased fuel costs and fuel availability.

Since the start of the Iran war red diesel costs have increased significantly and some shortages have been seen in particular areas of the county.

Red diesel prices have risen from 67p/litre this time last year to circa 0.9 - 124p/litre today. White diesel costs for fleet or construction works from circa £1.35 to £1.80+.

Although the boards of the WMA vary, with some wholly reliant on contractors as opposed to running fleet, this will represent a risk to budgets, especially if the higher prices extend for a period of time.

Framework contractors have typically increased hourly rates temporarily by £5/hr, while the red the diesel price remains between £0.80-£1.23/litre.

To manage this risk the boards staff have taken a number of actions, namely;

- At the start of the crisis all depot fuel tanks were topped up
- We use a buying group for our Diesel orders to minimise cost and maximise security of delivery. We are also discussing the costs of priority supply agreements.
- We have notified clients that where we are undertaking PSCA work already priced for, we will seek to claim any additional costs back if required.
- When costing any new projects the higher fuel price will be used and we are developing fuel price fluctuation clause in new contracts, shorter validity periods on quotes.
- For all depots we are undertaking a bulk storage capacity review to establish if increased market volatility now makes an increase worthwhile.
- We will monitor spend and remain ready to critically review our programme for any reduced working that may be possible.
- We will review operating costs and assess the hourly charge out rates
- Each board has financial reserves which are available to offset some in year overspend if required.
- The WMA have spoken with ADA regarding raising fuel price and availability risk at a national level.

The Board's risk registers have also been updated to highlight the risk and we hope that the conflict will be short lived, however should diesel rates of over £0.80/litre extend for 3 months from 1st April, then a more formal action plan will be developed, with findings brought to each board.

The crisis does raise the potential benefits of looking at electrifying parts of the fleet in the future or looking again at HVO options, although no decisions will be made on this without full board approval.

Recommendation:
This paper is for noting only.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
For the period 13 January 2026 to 02 June 2026

1. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

1.1. FLOATING PENNYWORT BIOCONTROL ON THE PEVENSEY LEVELS

Since 2025, the Board have worked alongside the CABI UK Invasive Species Management Group on the biocontrol of floating pennywort on the Pevensey Levels, using the floating pennywort weevil as a part of a national programme of trials. The aim of the trial is to release weevils on watercourses with abundant floating pennywort within the Pevensey Levels. Ideally, the weevils should be allowed to proliferate during the key hot summer months and a boom in weevil population will allow for faster control of pennywort, wider spread and better overwintering – also allowing for earlier impacts on floating pennywort year on year. In turn, this should lead to reduced management costs and carbon emissions by having an abundant biocontrol agent in the wider landscape, which manages the invasive.

CABI provided an update on the weevils in February 2026:



Adult weevil Listronotus elongatus *on Floating Pennywort in the Pevensey levels February 2026*

CABI scientists found the weevils on the White Dyke to be doing well, with lots of feeding and adults seen on leaves along a large stretch of the release site, as early as February 2026. It is thought that weevils will have also likely been distributed into Horse eye Sewer; though this will be confirmed by a summer survey.

To extend the release site area, a further riparian site was found in the Rickney catchment, with help from a local landowner. Releases are scheduled in either one or two sites within this catchment for the summer months.

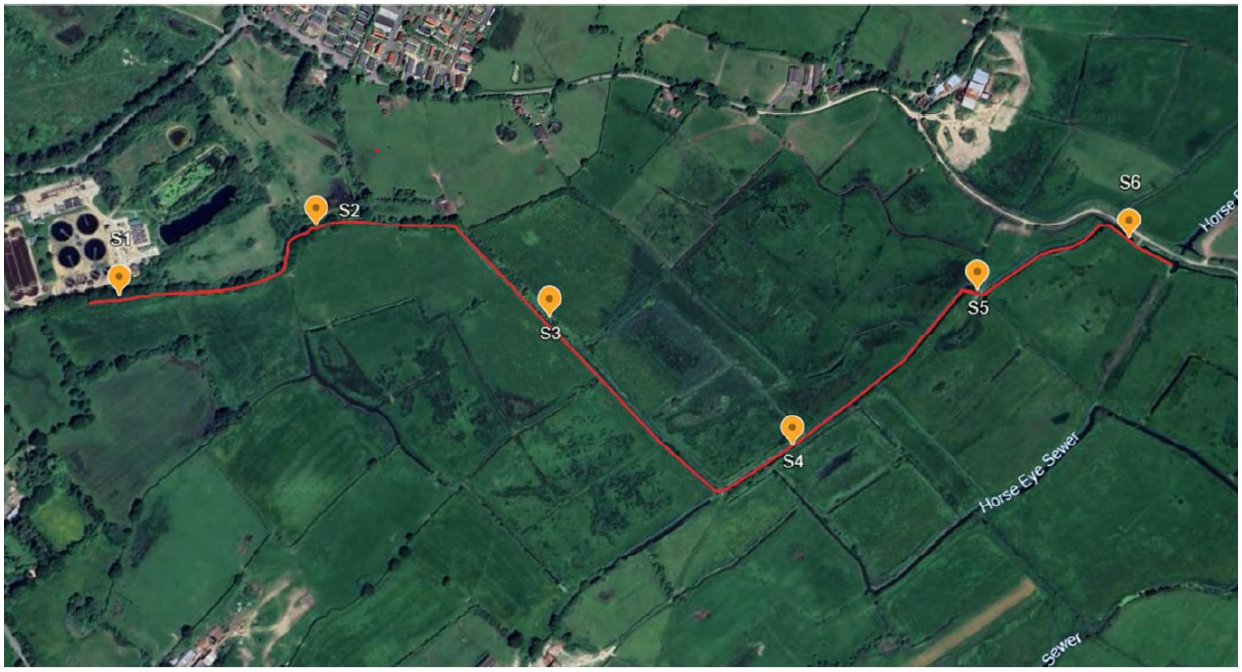
At other sites the pennywort was found to be very tiny, with most of the underwater biomass decayed. The adult weevils appeared more prevalent /obvious where the pennywort was larger. Weevil activity was less conclusive where they were released in noticeably shaded or cooler parts of the marsh.

The Board continues to work closely to aid and support this locally and nationally important research work by CABI, where and when it can.

1.2. SILT TESTING ON IN THE HORSEY SEWER

Silt testing, by means of chemical analysis, for the presence of hazardous waste products was undertaken by Southern testing at 6 locations along the Horseye Sewer in April, downstream of the sewage works.

The locations for testing are shown below:



Silt testing locations along the Horseye Sewer

The objective of this testing was to provide information to determine if silts removed from the drain, could be spread on agricultural land adjacent to the watercourses, without causing environmental harm.

The results determined that the removed silts could be spread next to the place from where is had been removed, for the benefit agricultural land. The material is classed as Non-Hazardous and is also suitable for disposal in a Non-Hazardous landfill site, if necessary.

1.3. MARTIN'S DITCH – SURVEYS AND WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT (P38)

Ecological surveys on Martin's Ditch have taken place this spring. A mollusc survey has been carried out and a wider invertebrate survey will follow in the summer. A botanical desk study has been undertaken and this will be followed up in the summer by a botanical survey. These surveys are required to provide the Planning Authority with evidence of the ecological sensitivity of Martin's Ditch whilst considering a planning application for a large new development on the outskirts of the SSSI, which will discharge into this IDB watercourse. The surveys will help determine the appropriate water management strategy and mitigation that is required to prevent deterioration of the site.

The Area Manager is currently seeking Community Infrastructure Levey funding for the replacement of an existing water control structure on Martin's Ditch (P38). The new structure is required to allow the management of high volumes of water from the catchment during winter and extreme rainfall. The gardens of existing homes and land currently flood during high flow events. A new development is proposed upstream of the current structure, which will exacerbate the current flood risk scenario. The new WCS will balance flood risk management and water level management for the benefit of the SSSI and the wider environment.

2. BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN – UPDATE

2.1. MINK

2.1.1 WATERLIFE RECOVERY TRUST (WRT) - UPDATE

The aim of the WRT charity is to eradicate mink throughout Great Britian via a partnership approach from many organisations. The WRT today sees partner organisations and volunteers trapping mink and seeing native wildlife rebound from Yorkshire through to Sussex, with more counties to likely sign up. The Environmental Manager continues to sit on this steering group to represent WMA interests.

The latest WRT steering group meeting was held and attended on 24 April 2026 and a WRSE steering group meeting was also held on 23 February 2026 and was attended by the Environmental Manager. Editions 13 & 14 of the WRT newsletter produced for January and April 2026, respectively, provides some interesting information, updates on the project and its progress and can be found here.

2.2. PARROTS FEATHER - FRESHWATER STREAM

The non-native invasive parrots feather was sprayed in May 2026 on the Freshwater Stream as a part of its annual spraying programme to eradicate the plant. It will receive a further spray in July 2026.

Starting at the downstream end of the Freshwater stream, no parrots feather was found until approximately 1/3 of the way upstream in the lower field. This shows the expected retreat of the infestation towards the point of origin and that fragments are being contained to the working area. The plant remains in the in patches in a riparian ditch and in the open channel. Cattle poaching remains a problem from the point of view of potentially spreading the plant to other areas.

However, in general summary, the contractor noted a noticeable reduction in plant material this year, with the riparian stream still the 'ground zero' difficult area due to cattle poaching.

2.3. NATURAL ENGLAND FEN RAFT SPIDER SURVEYS – A SUMMARY OF 2025 SURVEY AND GENETIC ANALYSIS

The Pevensey Levels wetland in East Sussex is one of only three known locations in Britain where a residual natural population of the globally and nationally threatened Fen Raft Spider *Dolomedes plantarius* persists. A broad-scale survey of the Levels in 1990 showed this to be much the largest of the three remnant populations in the UK although it appeared to be very fragmented, and absent or very sparse in areas of arable conversion.

Despite some major drivers of habitat change to the levels since this time, little attention has been given to their impacts on the area's Fen Raft Spider population. This omission was addressed in 2025 with funding from Natural England's (NE) Species Recovery Programme together with a matched funding contribution from the Cuckmere and Pevensey Water Level Management Board, working in partnership with the British Arachnological Society. This project used a field survey of the spiders and their habitat, together with genetic analyses, to address:

- Reassessment of the extent of the Fen Raft Spider population after 35 years.
- The extent of likely physical connectivity between different sub-populations of the spiders, particularly in the light of sightings in recent years around and just beyond the periphery of the Levels.
- The extent of genetic connectivity between sub-populations and the conservation implications of restricted gene flow.
- Whether the spiders in outlying areas, and particularly at Combe Haven SSSI in the adjoining catchment, represent long-isolated populations or more recent arrivals arising from natural or anthropogenic dispersal.

- The need for future monitoring and management to maintain and increase the Fen Raft Spider population in East Sussex.

A brief summary of the reports produced, indicated the following:

- The survey showed that the spiders remain very widely distributed across the Levels, including in some areas where they were not recorded in 1990 and in several areas around and beyond the periphery of the SSSI.

- Abundance varied substantially between ditches and between years. However, the presence of Water Soldier *Stratiotes aloides* was a particularly strong predictor of high population density; in 2025, Fen Raft Spiders were recorded on 43% of ditches with Water Soldier, irrespective of its abundance, but on only 8% of ditches from which it was absent.

- There was some indication that the abundance, as opposed to the extent of the spider population, was lower in 2025 than in 1990, but this was not regarded as a cause for current concern.

- While the field survey showed substantial variations in abundance of the spiders over a wide area of the Pevensey Levels wetland, there appeared to be relative few areas from which the spiders were entirely absent, and which were likely to constitute complete barriers to dispersal between sub-populations.

- The genetics study running in parallel to the survey work, provided some support for suggested historical connectivity, consistent with a landscape in which hydrological continuity and habitat adjacency formerly facilitated dispersal among sites that are now more fragmented. It is possible that improvements to the hydrology and water quality of the water courses in recent years may be reversing past fragmentation; the 2025 genetics data will provide a baseline for monitoring this in the future.

- The genetic evidence from Combe Haven suggested a more intermediate situation between this site and the main expanse of the Pevensey Levels. It is consistent with historical connectivity followed by increasing spatial separation. The results do not offer support for the Combe Haven population being a long-isolated remnant population.

- During 2026, whole-genome sequencing of the Pevensey samples is expected to help resolve whether the outlying sites (on the Combe Haven, at Hammer Ponds and at an area apparently isolated by the A271 north of Hailsham. represent recent colonisation events, persistent sub-populations or emerging independent genetic units.

The full findings of the 2025 work are presented in written reports and in an interactive online report created specifically for ease of use by local landowners and managers and successfully demonstrated at a meeting of the Pevensey Levels Farm Cluster meeting in April 2026. This innovative resource allows users to view 14 data layers, including 1990 and 2025 nursery web records and habitat data, superimposed on a map of the area. Every surveyed ditch and nursery web record is interactive, with clickable popups providing survey outcomes, habitat scores, and georeferenced photographic evidence.

The genetic studies in combination with the 2025 field survey results, will help to refine landscape-scale planning for the future conservation of Fen Raft Spiders throughout East Sussex.

The Survey Reports and the Genetic Studies report can be made available to Board members upon request.

3. SCOPING VISITS DURING THE PERIOD:

No scoping visits were undertaken during this period.

4. ASSENTS/LICENCES GRANTED AND/OR APPLIED FOR DURING THE PERIOD:

Licence / WFD Assessment / Assent / Habitat Regulations Assessment	Applied	Granted
Drockmill Pumping Station Replacement – Assent Extension	11/03/2026	25/03/2026
Tower Ditch (EA1328) – SSSI Assessment and HRA (Undertaken by Ward Ecology)	N/A	N/A

5. TRAINING ATTENDED:

Date	Officer	Training Attended	Brief Description
24/03/2026	EB/CH/DP	CIEEM – Reptiles, Ecology, Surveys and Mitigation	This training event held at the Lookout Discovery Centre in Crowthorne covered the ecology of the six native reptile species in England, invasive non-native reptile species, how to survey for reptiles and how to mitigate reptiles for projects/developments. The course involved class-based learning and field surveys – where a common lizard and an adder were found during the heathland survey.
16/04/2026	CL/EB/CH/DP	Field Studies Council Biodiversity – Great Crested Newts: Ecology and Surveys	This training event held at Haddon Hall in Bakewell covered the ecology and survey techniques for great crested newts. The course involved class-based learning including legislation, with an evening/nighttime survey of two dew ponds. Numerous great crested newts were observed on the survey.
28/04/2026	CL	CIEEM – Breeding Birds	This training event held in Tamworth covered survey techniques and legislation surrounding breeding birds during the breeding season.

6. NON-COMPLIANCE

Nothing to report within this period.

7. COMPLAINTS

Nothing to report within this period.

CAROLINE LABURN
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER
JUNE 2026

Sustainable Development Report
For the period 12 January 2026 to 31 May 2026

1. Consent / Agreement Applications

1.1. There are currently nineteen consent / agreement applications being processed. The most common types of consent or agreement that the Board receive and determine in its regulatory capacity are set out in the table below, alongside the current breakdown of cases:

Application Type	*Number*
Byelaw 3 (B3) – Discharge of Treated Foul Water (TFW):	1
Byelaw 3 (B3) – Discharge of Surface Water (SW):	11
Byelaw 4 (B4) / Section 23 (S23), LDA 1991 – Alteration of watercourse	4
Byelaw 10 (B10)– Works within 9m of a Board's maintained watercourse:	3
Total:	**19**

1.2. The current status of these applications is provided in the table below:

Application Type	*B3 - TFW*	*B3 - SW*	*B4/ S23*	*B10*	*Total*
Awaiting further information from the applicant:	1	6	2	3	12
Awaiting applicant acceptance of conditions:	0	2	0	1	3
Being processed by officers:	0	3	0	0	3
To be determined by the Board in this report:	0	1	0	0	1
Total:	**1**	**12**	**2**	**4**	**19**

1.3 As is highlighted by the table above there is an application requiring consideration by the board in this report, which is detailed in Section 3.

- *PC_26_0191_C: Application to discharge surface water runoff indirectly into the internal drainage district from an impermeable area of 73,300 m² (7.3 hectares) associated with a 360 dwellings residential development at a maximum rate of 37.3 litres per second at land at Park Farm East, Hellingly, Hailsham.*

2. Consents / Agreements Determined

2.1. During this reporting period, eight agreements / consents have been granted under the Land Drainage Act 1991, Board's Byelaws, and general flood risk management:

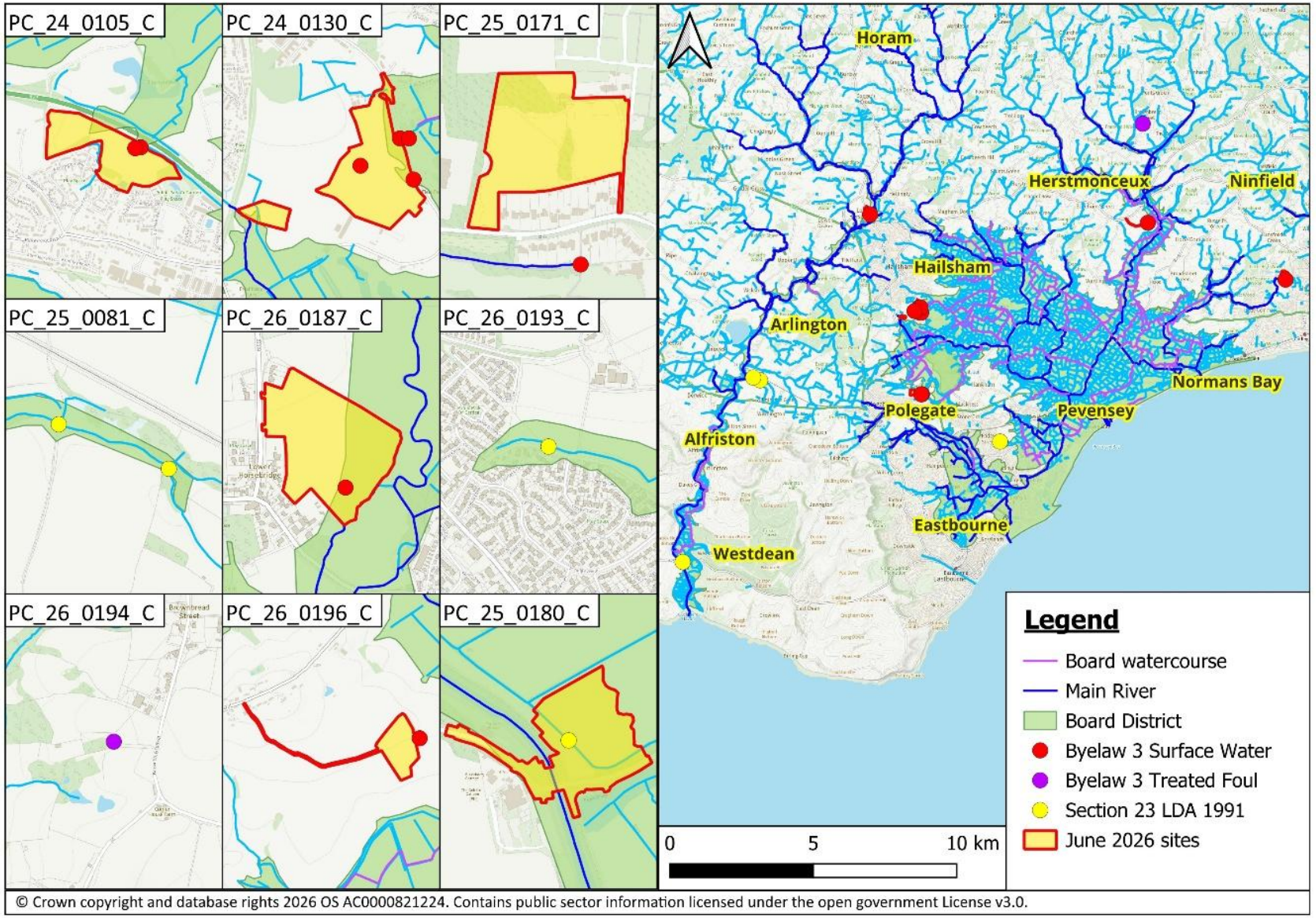
Application Type	*Number*
Byelaw 3 (B3) – Discharge of Treated Foul Water (TFW):	1
Byelaw 3 (B3) – Discharge of Surface Water (SW):	4
Byelaw 4 (B4) / Section 23 (S23), LDA 1991 – Alteration of watercourse	3
Byelaw 10 (B10)– Works within 9 m of a Board's maintained watercourse:	0
Total:	**8**

2.2 The determined agreements are listed in more detail in the table below:

Case Ref.	Case File Sub-type	Location	Description of Proposal	Determination
PC_24_0130_C	Byelaw 3 Surface Water	Land West of Station Road, Hailsham, East Sussex	Surface Water discharge from a development of 200 residential units with an impermeable area of 40,540m^2 discharging at 18.6 l/s. via 4 x 150 dia outfalls.	19/03/2026
PC_25_0181_C	Section 23 LDA 1991	Land off Lewes Road (A27), Polegate, East Sussex	The installation of 20 leaky dams as a natural flood management project to slow movement on water through the site and improve the adjacent SSSI as requested by Natural England	27/01/2026
PC_26_0187_C	Byelaw 3 Surface Water	Land to the East of North Street, Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham	Surface Water Discharge from a development of 124 dwellings with an impermeable area of 25,770m^2 discharging at 5l/s.	14/05/2026
PC_26_0193_C	Section 23 LDA 1991	Pennine Way, Eastbourne	Installation of three culverts for network rail access	27/05/2026
PC_26_0194_C	Byelaw 3 Treated Foul	Brown Bread Horse Rescue Center, Brown Bread Street, Ashburnham	Treated foul water discharge through a reedbed connected to a riparian watercourse that drains into the Waterlot sub-catchment.	27/05/2026
PC_26_0196_C	Byelaw 3 Surface Water	Boreham Hill, Boreham Street	Discharge of surface water from the development of a Battery Storage system with a 5,500m^2 impermeable area. Surface water discharge is restricted to 2l/s discharging to the drainage ditch to the east of the site.	22/04/2026
PC_26_0204_C	Section 23 LDA 1991	A259 Exceat Bridge Cuckmere Valley	Realignment of ordinary watercourse to allow for Exceat Bridge replacement	26/05/2026
PC_24_0105_C	Byelaw 3 Surface Water	Land North of Highgrove	Surface water discharge from new development with an impermeable area	28/05/2026

Case Ref.	Case File Sub-type	Location	Description of Proposal	Determination
		Cresent / Jubilee Drive Polegate	of 27,870m^2 at 28.8l/s via two proposed surface water outfalls.	
PC_25_0171_C	Byelaw 3 Surface Water	Highwoods View, Turkey Road, Bexhill	Discharge of surface water from a new development of 89 dwellings with an impermeable area of 16,179m^2 to an existing ditch at 8.5 l/s	24/4/2026

2.3 The location of the proposed discharge points (surface water outfalls), which have been agreed as part of the determined agreements, together with the boundaries of the associated development and the location of the consent, are shown on the map below:



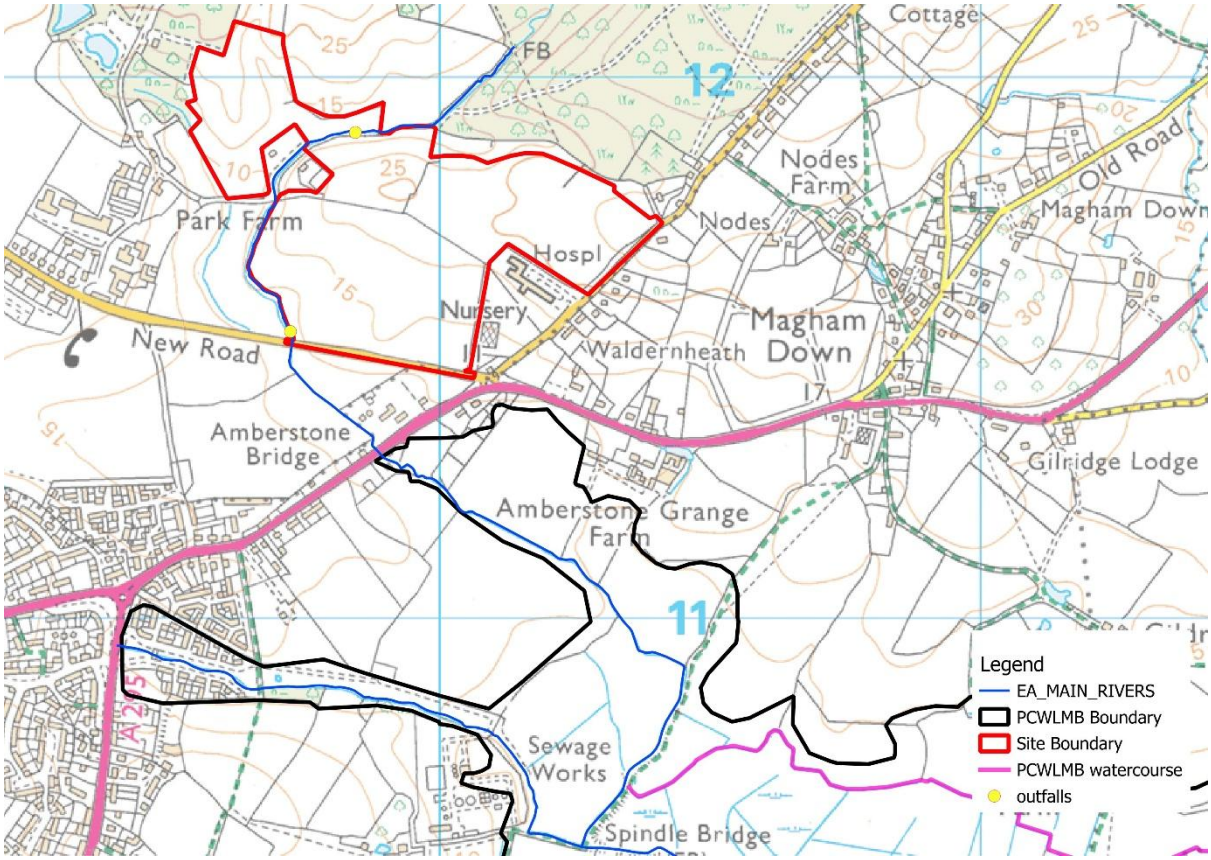
3. Consents to be determined by the Board

3.1 **PC_26_0191_C: Application to discharge surface water runoff indirectly into the internal drainage district from an impermeable area of 73,300 m² (7.3 hectares) associated with a 360 dwellings residential development at a maximum rate of 37.3 litres per second at land at Park Farm East, Hellingly, Hailsham.**

3.2 The application was made in accordance with Byelaw 3, which requires the applicants to agree direct or indirect surface water discharge into the drainage district with the Board. However, the outfalls are outside the district boundary which resulted in the application being an 'agreement to discharge instead of a consent'.

3.3 The discharge of surface water runoff is required to facilitate the construction of 360 dwellings and strategic infrastructure on land Park Farm East, Hellingly. The site location plan is shown in the figure below. The site is approximately 300 meters outside the boards drainage district, surface water will be discharged into the Hurst Haven.

3.4 The application has outline planning approval (WD/2022/0294/MAO) and Wealden District Council's Major Planning Committee approved a reserved matters application (WD/2025/1954/MRM) on 26 March 2026 subject to amended plans to be agreed by officers.

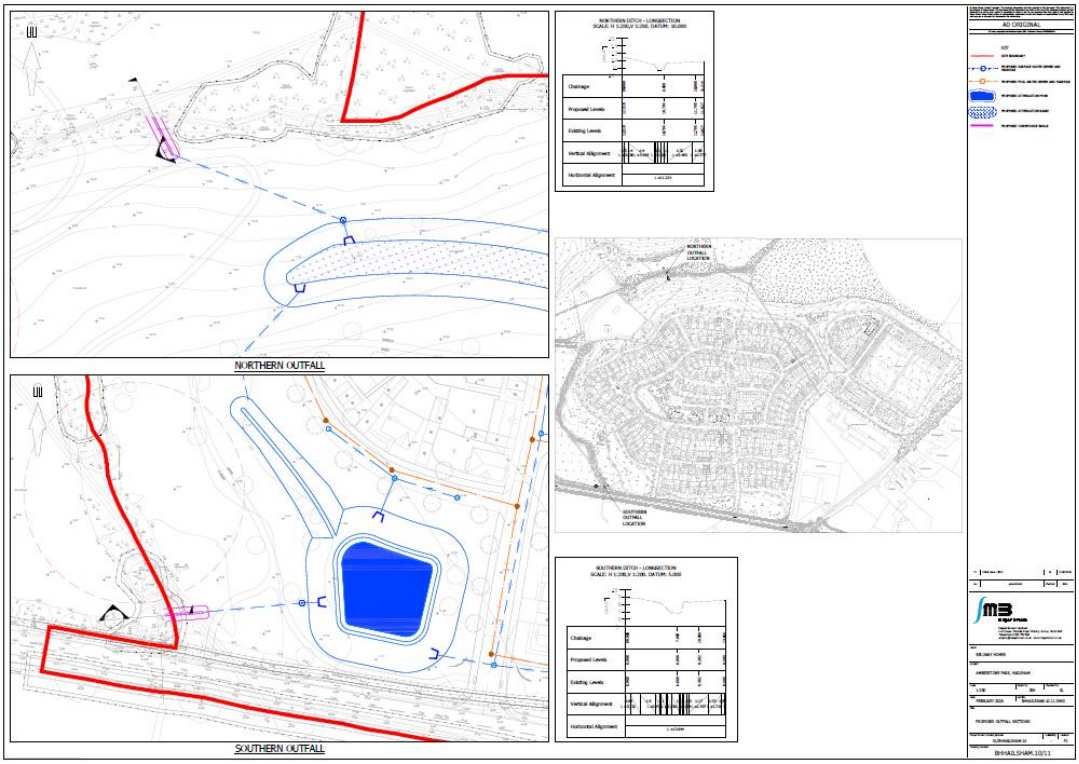


3.5 The surface water discharge agreement is sought for the following:

- Total impermeable area of 73,300 m² (7.3 hectares)
- Total maximum discharge rate of 37.3 litres per second through two outfall pipes (225mm) and headwalls into the Hurst Haven, a designated main river.

3.6 The surface water will be collected from the development using conventional pipes into a series of attenuation basins and swales prior to discharging into the

watercourses. The proposed outfall points are shown on extracts from the submitted drainage drawings below.



3.7 Wealden District Council's planning officer are still in the process of negotiating changes to the current planning layout to allow the inclusion of a swale between New Road and the development and immediately north of the hospital. These negotiations are being held in consultation with the Board's officers and the Lead Local Flood Authority.

3.8 The Board's officers are also seeking similar amendments to the proposals. Consent will only be issued once these amendments have been provided together with future maintenance responsibilities.

3.9 Agreeing the discharge of surface water runoff into the internal drainage district will be subject to the following conditions:

- Payment of surface water development contribution of £201,575 (£2.75/m2 in accordance with the Board's charging policy)
- A maintenance and management plan for the entire drainage system shall be submitted to the Board before construction of the drainage outfall.

3.10 **Officer Recommendation:** It is recommended that the proposed surface water discharge into the district is agreed subject to amendments that protect New Road and existing properties to be agreed and payment of surface water development contribution, as calculated using the Boards charging policy.

4 Enquiries

4.1. Officers have responded to eleven enquiries whose details are outlined below:

Case Reference	*Case File Sub-type*	*Location*	*Description*
PC_26_0188_Q	About Works	Horse Eye Sewer / Spaghetti junction	Concerns about water levels and protection for fish
PC_26_0189_C	Planning	Wealden District Council Area	SFRA review
PC_26_0190_N	Enforcement	Westham Drive, Pevensey Bay	Flytipping along Tower Ditch
PC_26_0192_N	Enforcement	Westham Drive, Pevensey Bay	Encroachment onto PCWLMBs owned land
PC_26_0196_Q	About Works	Drockmill Pumping Station	Complaint regarding Lorry Movements
PC_26_0203_Q	Planning	Peelings Lane, Westham	Site info re: Flora and Fauna on Pevensey Marshes
PC_26_0199_Q	About Works	A27 Martins Ditch	Complaint regarding site security
PC_26_0200_Q	Planning	Cuckoo Fields Phase 2, Hailsham	Query regarding consenting
PC_26_0205	About Infrastructure	Stream Ditch, west of Bexhill	Report of collapsed culvert
PC_26_0206_Q	Planning	Bexhill Road, St.Leonards	Consultation on minor development

5. Planning Comments

5.1 Officers have provided comments on 75 planning applications and pre-application enquiries, which is an 8% decrease on the cases from the previous reporting period, (26th September 2025 – 9th January 2026). This report covers the period from 10th January – 28th May 2026

5.2 These applications are either in, or have a potential impact on, the Boards Internal Drainage District. 85% of the applications were reviewed by the Board's officers, whilst East Sussex County Council officers reviewed the remaining 15% with the support of the Board's officers. The table below summarises the number of consultations by LPA:

Local Planning Authority	Number of consultations
Eastbourne Borough Council	6
East Sussex County Council	1
Hastings Borough Council	6
Rother District Council	13
South Downs National Park Authority	3
Wealden District Council	46

5.3. The table below sets out the current planning stage of these applications. 79% of the planning consultations were addressed within the deadline agreed with the LPA planning officer.

Planning stage	Number of consultations
Outline planning	9
Full planning	10
Reserved matters	4
Discharge of planning conditions	47
Pre-application	5

5.4. Approximately 41% of the planning applications had several re-consultations due to insufficient information submitted with the planning application. These re-consultations can be resource intensive and, in some cases, required several meetings in order to resolve concerns with the surface water management of the proposed developments.

5.5. Providing advice to developers at pre-application stage could help reduce the number of re-consultations. 6% of the planning applications had requested pre-application advice prior to submission of a planning application. This is a decrease on the previous reporting period. We will explore additional incentives to increase uptake of pre-application advice.

6. Fees

6.1. The main activity being regulated is the direct or indirect discharge of surface water runoff into the Board's drainage district. All the discharge consents issued attract payment of a surface water development contribution.

6.2. The table below provides the details of the surface water development contribution received during the reporting period:

Case Ref:	Location	Amount (excl. VAT)	Date Invoiced	Invoice paid	Reason for payment
PC_26_0196_C	Boreham Hill, Boreham Street	£11,165.00	30/4/2026	Yes	Byelaw 3 – Surface Water development contribution
PC_25_0171_C	Highfields, Turkey Road, Bexhill	£42,550.77	30/4/2026	Yes	Byelaw 3 – Surface Water development contribution
PC_26_0187_C	Land to the East of North Street, Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham	£54,632.40	14/5/2026	No	Byelaw 3 – Surface Water development contribution
PC_25_0180_C	Land at Reef Way, Hailsham.	£2,101.05	17/12/2025	Yes	Byelaw 3 – Surface Water development contribution
PC_24_0074_C	Land at Old Orchard House, Horebeech Lane, Horam, East Sussex TN21 9DZ	£10,949.00	23/12/2025	Yes	Byelaw 3 – Surface Water development contribution
PC_24_0105_C	Land North of Highgrove Cresent / Jubilee Drive Polegate	£90,298.80	28/5/2026	No	Byelaw 3 – Surface Water development contribution

7. Partnership and stakeholder engagement

7.1. Board officers continue to attend meetings for the South Wealden and Eastbourne Dynamic Flood Risk Management (Blue Heart) Project, as part the Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP).

7.2. SuDS for Schools received funding from EA Grant in Aid, the Department of Education, and Southern Water for the retrofit of SuDS at 15 schools (up from 14 last reporting period) - 3 in Hastings and 12 in Eastbourne.

7.3 The PCWLMB are still in discussions with East Sussex Highways and their designers with regards to the Exceat Bridge Compensation Site.

7.4 The Exceat Bridge project will provide will a new water level control structure on land being used to compensate for impacts on the SSSI. Once completed, the Board will adopt the water control structure.

Revai Kinsella – Area Manager
Gareth Oliver – Flood Risk Engineer
June 2026

Water Management Alliance

Assurance Review of Annual Governance and Accountability Return

April 2026

Final

Executive Summary

OVERALL ASSESSMENT		ACTION POINTS	HIGH RISK	MEDIUM RISK	LOW RISK	OPERATIONAL
	SUBSTANTIAL ASSURANCE		0	0	3	1

KEY STRATEGIC FINDINGS	
GF	**The Water Management Alliance (WMA) has good accounting practices, and the governance, risk and control framework is working well.**
RM	**The Member Board's Risk Registers do not include residual risk scores to assess the effectiveness of mitigating controls.**
C	**The WMA has complied with the publication requirements as stated by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.**
C	**The WMA use the Sage 200 suite of software to manage their accounts, which supports accurate accounting and good record keeping.**
C	**Sample testing of high value payments validated purchase order, invoice and payment matching and authorisation with no discrepancies.**
PM	**Management accounts, including budget data, are reported at each Board meeting as evidenced by the corresponding minutes.**

SCOPE	ASSURANCE OVER KEY STRATEGIC RISK / OBJECTIVE
The audit covered all areas required by the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and included, where appropriate, the key risks for a drainage board.	The purpose of the review was to undertake sufficient audit work to be able to sign off the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for Internal Audit.

Assurance - Key Findings and Management Action Plan (MAP)

Ref	Root Cause Indicator	Finding	Recommendation	Priority	Management Comments	Implementation Timetable (dd/mm/yy)	Responsible Officer (Job Title)
1	Risk Mitigation	Each Board within the alliance maintains an individual risk register following a consistent format. Risks are assessed using a 3x3 matrix and mitigating actions are in place, alongside designated risk owners and defined review dates. The four Ts risk scoring methodology (transfer, tolerate, treat, take the opportunity) is used, however residual risk scores are not in place to assess the effectiveness of current controls.	Introduce residual risk scores be added to the Board's risk registers to assess the effectiveness of current mitigating controls.	3	*Risk registers are under review and changes will be made within the year.*	*31/03/27*	*COO*
2	Governance Framework	The following Policies and procedures for each Board were reviewed and found to cover the expected areas and key controls: Business Plan (Policy Statement) - All approved within the five-year review cycle except for Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland (WLYL) which was due to be reviewed May 2025; Consortium Management Committee - Terms of Reference dated March 2024; and the Capital Financing and Reserves Policy - approved September 2022 with a five-year review cycle and is adopted by all seven Boards.	The Business Plan for Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland (WLYL) be reviewed and updated in line with the agreed cycle.	3	*This was omitted in the usual cycle and will be taken to the May Board meeting for approval.*	*31/05/26*	*BSM*
3	Governance Framework	The Financial Regulations were recently approved with a three-year review cycle and are adopted by all seven Boards; however, they do not reference the Procurement Act 2023.	The Financial Regulations be updated to reference the Procurement Act 2023 along with any recent changes.	3	*This will be reviewed and amended in year and taken to the CMC and Boards for approval.*	*31/03/27*	*CFO*

PRIORITY GRADINGS

1	**HIGH RISK**	Fundamental control weaknesses or compliance issues that require immediate attention.
2	**MEDIUM RISK**	Control weaknesses that are not critical but require planned action at the earliest opportunity.
3	**LOW RISK**	Minor issues on which action should be taken or monitored as part of continuous improvement.

Operational - Effectiveness Matter (OEM) Action Plan

Ref	Root Cause Indicator	Finding	Suggested Action	Management Comments
1	Risk Mitigation	It was noted that the current 3x3 risk scoring system may not always capture nuanced differences in risk levels, particularly when a risk's likelihood and impact fall between distinct scores. Consideration to a wider map would allow for greater precision in assessing and communicating risk levels, reducing the potential for over- or under-representation. As Drainage Boards' activities may affect environment and infrastructure, it is crucial that risks are scored and assessed effectively.	Consideration be given to using a 4x4 (or higher) risk matrix to ensure risk scores better represent the actual likelihood and potential impact of the risk occurring.	*Risk registers are under review and changes will be made within the year.*

ADVISORY NOTE

Operational Effectiveness Matters need to be considered as part of management review of procedures.

Findings

Ref	Expected Key Risk Mitigation		Effectiveness of arrangements	Cross Reference to MAP	Cross Reference to OEM
GF	**Governance Framework**	There is a documented process instruction which accords with the relevant regulatory guidance, Financial Instructions and Scheme of Delegation.	Partially in place	2 & 3	-
RM	**Risk Mitigation**	The documented process aligns with the mitigating arrangements set out in the corporate risk register.	Partially in place	1	1
C	**Compliance**	Compliance with statutory, regulatory and policy requirements is demonstrated, with action taken in cases of identified non-compliance.	In place	-	-
PM	**Performance Monitoring**	There are agreed KPIs for the process which align with the business plan requirements and are independently monitored, with corrective action taken in a timely manner.	In place	-	-
S	**Sustainability**	The impact on the organisation's sustainability agenda has been considered.	In place	-	-
R	**Resilience**	Good practice to respond to business interruption events and to enhance the economic, effective and efficient delivery is adopted.	In place	-	-

Other Information
The Water Management Alliance (WMA) consists of the following seven Boards: Broad (BIDB); East Suffolk (ESWMB); King's Lynn (KLIDB); Norfolk Rivers (NRIDB); South Holland (SHIDB); Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland (WLYL); Pevensey and Cuckmere (PCWMB).
Three Board meeting agendas, minutes and report packs from throughout 2025 were reviewed for each Board. All were found to be comprehensive and demonstrated good governance. Decisions and actions had been followed through including the approval of drainage rates for each board.

Other Information	
	The WMA has complied with the publication requirements as stated by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including publication of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, Auditor's Certificate/Report and Statement of Accounts.
	The Risk Management Policy was last reviewed in September 2021 and has a five-year review period. The Policy applies to and has been adopted by all seven Boards in the Alliance.
	Each Board reviews its objectives and sets new objectives for the following financial year at their rate setting meetings in January/February. This is confirmed in each Board's minutes which are available on the WMA website.
	The WMA use Sage 200 accounting software for their accounting records which supports the financial transactions of the Boards. The Nominal Ledger Trial Balance and Balance Sheet (dated February 2026) for all seven Boards were reviewed and found to be in balance with a positive net asset that has increased from the previous year. In addition, the Income and Expenditure accounts were reviewed for all seven Boards and found to be in order, noting an increasing trend in profit compared to previous years.
	Accounts payable are managed using Sage 200 Accounting Software. All procurement of goods and services are to be authorised in line with the thresholds stated in the Financial Regulations, by the raising, signing and dating an official purchase order (PO). Quotes/tenders, delivery notes, invoices for payment and credit notes are all matched to the corresponding PO and confirmed as correct prior to payment.
	The five greatest payments of the year were selected across the seven Boards and reviewed in detail. Each Board provided a PO (if applicable), invoice, nominal ledger entry, payment run and bank statement for each payment. All were found to reconcile and had been authorised accordingly demonstrating good accounting practices with adequate controls and approvals in place.
	Drainage rates and special levies are set and sealed by each Board at their January/February meeting annually. Many of the Boards also receive Environment Agency contributions, Grant income and Tranche Funding Grant income.
	Accounts receivable is managed using Sage 200 Accounting Software. The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is responsible to the Chief Executive for raising and collecting sundry debts due and shall ensure that all debts are substantially collected within 30 days from the Debtor Invoice tax point date. The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) shall advise the Chief Executive of any debt that becomes 3 months overdue or whenever a debt becomes doubtful, whichever earlier. Aged Debtor reports dated February 2026 were reviewed for all Boards and no significant aged debts were identified.
	All seven boards use the same write-off procedure as detailed in the Financial Regulations. The Chief Executive has authority to write off debts up to £2,000, surplus goods, damaged/stolen goods and obsolete goods. Budget holders and other staff must inform the Chief Executive of any material item they consider should be written off. The Responsible Financial Officer must ensure appropriate adjustments are made to the accounting records where a write-off constitutes part of a stock account.
	The CFO is responsible to the Chief Executive for the proper compilation of the payroll(s). Each Board operate an individual payroll (excluding ESIDB; PCWMB and WLYL as these Boards have no employees) and the WMA operate a separate payroll for shared staff, such as administration staff.

Other Information	
	Payrolls for the month of December 2025 were examined and found to be in order including both employee and employer deductions. Review of PAYE and NI invoices and the corresponding BACS runs and Bank Statements for all applicable Boards confirmed payments were made as required for December 2025. Review of the pension invoices for each board shows employee and employer pension contributions have been made to the respective pension providers as required for December 2025. Each payment was reconciled to the corresponding BACS run and bank statement.
	The Asset Register for each Board was reviewed and found to be in order, up to date and included details on original purchase, revaluation, depreciation and net book value.
	Accounting Statements have been undertaken and reconciled to the cash book for each Board with no unreconciled sums. Bank reconciliations for period January 2026 were reviewed and it was confirmed all Boards' bank accounts were accurately reconciled to the cash book
	Management accounts, including budget data, are reported at each Board meeting as evidenced by the corresponding minutes.
	The WMA's Capital Financing and Reserves Policy was approved in September 2022 and is to be reviewed every five years. General Reserves should be no less than 20% of net expenditure, therefore, the Boards aim to maintain a general reserve of no less than £200k at the end of every financial year. Due to high inflation, many other Drainage Boards in the East Anglia area have been looking to increase their general reserve capacity to 30% of net expenditure. While the WMA's Boards have not built up their reserves to this capacity during the same time-frame (due to the increase in rates and levies that would be required), the Policy is due for review in September 2027 - presenting a good opportunity to formally consider increasing General Reserve Capacity.
	The Boards maintain an indicative five-year forecast which enables future increases in both the penny rate and precept to be calculated and for such bodies as the precepting authorities to be consulted well in advance of any increases being made. The forecast is presented to each Board at the annual January/February rate setting meeting.
	The Financial Regulations state the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for ensuring that all monies received are properly recorded in the Member Board's accounting records. Cheques are banked daily using Online Banking. Cheques and cash that cannot be banked in this manner are banked at least weekly.
	2024/25 year-end bank reconciliations for all Member Boards for confirmed to have been completed and verified with no unreconciled sums.
	Total expenditure for 2025/26 as at the most recent published Board Meetings was within budget, except for NRIDB and SHIDB due to rechargeable works. This was raised as a routine recommendation during the 2024/25 AGAR where it was noted that these types of works are volatile, making estimates particularly challenging which could result in distorted budgets should the recommendation be actioned. Internal audit is satisfied that the recommendation has been considered, and that the finding presents no material control risk as the expenditure is offset by rechargeable income.

Scope and Limitations of the Review

1. The definition of the type of review, the limitations and the responsibilities of management in regard to this review are set out in the Annual Plan. As set out in the Audit Charter, substantive testing is only carried out where this has been agreed with management and unless explicitly shown in the scope no such work has been performed.

Disclaimer

2. The matters raised in this report are only those that came to the attention of the auditor during the course of the review, and are not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist or all the improvements that might be made. This report has been prepared solely for management's use and must not be recited or referred to in whole or in part to third parties without our prior written consent. No responsibility to any third party is accepted as the report has not been prepared, and is not intended, for any other purpose. TIAA neither owes nor accepts any duty of care to any other party who may receive this report and specifically disclaims any liability for loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature, which is caused by their reliance on our report.

Assignment Engagement Details

3.

TIAA Auditors	Title	Contact Email
William Railton	Auditor	William.railton@tiaa.co.uk
David Robinson	Director of Audit	David.robinson@tiaa.co.uk

Effectiveness of arrangements

4. The definitions of the effectiveness of arrangements are set out below. These are based solely upon the audit work performed, assume business as usual, and do not necessarily cover management override or exceptional circumstances.

In place	The control arrangements in place mitigate the risk from arising.
Partially in place	The control arrangements in place only partially mitigate the risk from arising.
Not in place	The control arrangements in place do not effectively mitigate the risk from arising.

Assurance Assessment

5. The definitions of the assurance assessments are:

Substantial Assurance	There is a robust system of internal controls operating effectively to ensure that risks are managed and process objectives achieved.
Reasonable Assurance	The system of internal controls is generally adequate and operating effectively but some improvements are required to ensure that risks are managed and process objectives achieved.
Limited Assurance	The system of internal controls is generally inadequate or not operating effectively and significant improvements are required to ensure that risks are managed and process objectives achieved.
No Assurance	There is a fundamental breakdown or absence of core internal controls requiring immediate action.

Acknowledgement

6. We would like to thank staff for their co-operation and assistance during the course of our work.

Release of Report

7. The table below sets out the history of this report.

Stage	Issued	Response Received
Audit Planning Memorandum:	10th February 2026	10th February 2026
Draft Report:	22nd April 2026	
Revised Draft Report:	23rd April 2026	24th April 2026
Final Report:	24th April 2026	

Internal Drainage Boards – Remote auditing audit programme
2026/27 Internal Audit Arrangements

Strategic Risks

Governance

1) Review Constitution, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Award of Contracts and other procedures (I will obtain this data from your website)
2) Review Board agendas and minutes for the year (I will require the latest three meetings data – agendas and minutes please. Also include the latest meeting agenda)
3) Review any Committee agendas and minutes for the year (I will require the latest three meetings data – agendas and minutes please. Also include the latest meeting agenda)
4) The drainage board has published information on its website to comply with the Transparency Code for smaller authorities (I will obtain this data from your website)
5) The drainage board for the previous year correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (I will obtain this data from your website, and from sight of your Board minutes approving the dates set)
6) The drainage board has complied with the publication requirements as stated by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (Please provide evidence that these have been complied with)

Risk Management

1) Review risk management policy and procedures (These should be on the website, but please provide if not)
2) Review risk register (If not on the website please provide)
3) Review process and procedures for how risk is managed on a day by day basis (A brief note on this please)
4) Review key objectives for the IDB and the risks associated with achieving these objectives (This should flow from the risk register)
5) Review the controls in place to mitigate these risks and see how effective they are. (These should be contained within the risk register. I may select a sample for review to confirm working as expected)

Operational Risks

Accounting Records

1) Review the accounting records for the IDB
2) Are these up to date and in balance (A current trial balance please and a copy of the profit and loss account and balance sheet at the time of the audit)

Expenditure

1) Review accounts payable (creditors) (An aged creditors list please)
2) Test a sample of payments made to verify they have been correctly paid. Check if possible the receipt of the goods. Check accuracy, procedures (purchase order system) and approval process – was this in accordance with Financial Regulations. (I will select my sample from the expenditure items reported to the Board meetings) (Copies of the supporting documents for the sample selected will be required)
3) Check treatment of VAT (included above)

Budget

1) Review the budgetary arrangements. (This should be available in the Board papers)
2) Review the precept of rates (Please provide the Board agenda and minute approving the penny rate for 25/26 if not already provided above)
3) Review how the budget is monitored (These should be included in the Board papers above)
4) Review reserves and the policy for these (Please provide latest reserves position and 5/10 year forecast that shows how general reserves are expected year on year in the future)

Income

1) Review accounts receivable (debtors) (An aged debtors list please – both general and rates)
2) Review debt collection procedures (Please confirm debt collection arrangements and dates)
3) Review any write off arrangements (Please provide details of any write offs – approval/procedures)
4) Review recording and banking of income (Please confirm banking arrangements particularly cash or cheque)
5) Test a sample of payments received to verify they have been correctly dealt with. Check accuracy and procedures – was this in accordance with Financial Regulations. (Please provide a list of debts raised in the year and I will select a sample for a more detailed review)
6) Check treatment of VAT (included above)

Petty Cash

1) Check the Petty Cash arrangements where held
2) Verify Petty cash is in balance, test a sample of transactions for relevance and accuracy and that a valid receipt is present. (Please provide a short note on petty cash and confirm VAT has been correctly treated)
3) Check treatment of VAT (included above)

Payroll

1) Review the payroll system
2) Test a sample of employees for accuracy of pay and treatment of variations including Tax and NI. (Please provide a summary of payments made to staff which includes all deductions both employee and employer)
3) Verify PAYE and NI requirements have been met (Please confirm and evidence that PAYE, NI and pension payments have been made to HMIC and LCC)

Asset Register

1) Verify the asset register is complete and up to date. (Please provide a copy of the asset register)
2) Verify where possible the asset and investment exists (I will not be confirming that any asset exists for this audit!!)

Bank

1) Verify and confirm bank reconciliations have been regularly undertaken. (Please provide a latest bank reconciliation)
2) Confirm end of year bank reconciliation (Year end follow up audit)

Accounting Statements

1) Verify accounting statements have been undertaken and reconciled to the cash book. (Please confirm and year end follow up audit)
2) Review and verify the audit trail of sums feeding into the accounting statements. (Year end follow up audit)

Pevensey and Cuckmere
Water Level Management Board

From: 01 April 2025 **Period To:** 12
To: 31 March 2026 **Year Ending:** 31 March 2026

NOTE	INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	£ BUDGET 2025/26	£ ACTUAL 2025/26	£ VARIANCE 2025/26	£ BUDGET 2025/26	£ ACTUAL 2025/26	£ VARIANCE 2025/26	£ BUDGET 2025/26	£ ACTUAL 2025/26	£ VARIANCE 2025/26
	INCOME									
	Drainage Rates	17,359	17,359	0	31,969	31,969	0	49,328	49,328	0
1	Special Levies:	379,006	379,006	0	21,063	21,063	0	400,069	400,069	0
		396,365	396,365	0	53,031	53,031	0	449,396	449,396	0
	Other Income:									
	Surface Water Development Contributions	150,000	287,718	137,718	0	18,127	18,127	150,000	305,845	155,845
2	Highland Water Contributions	84,809	84,809	0	1,521	1,521	0	86,330	86,330	0
	Grants Applied	350,000	100,058	-249,942	0	0	0	350,000	100,058	-249,942
	Tranche Funding Income Applied	0	5,282,800	5,282,800	0	0	0	0	5,282,800	5,282,800
	Bank and Investment Interest	59,556	139,133	79,577	6,910	10,361	3,451	66,466	149,495	83,029
3	Income from Rechargeable Works	0	78,508	78,508	0	0	0	0	78,508	78,508
4	Other Income	3,826	39,759	35,933	425	4,418	3,993	4,251	44,177	39,926
		648,191	6,012,786	5,364,594	8,856	34,427	25,571	657,047	6,047,212	5,390,165
		1,044,557	**6,409,150**	**5,364,594**	**61,887**	**87,458**	**25,571**	**1,106,443**	**6,496,609**	**5,390,165**
	(-) EXPENDITURE									
	Directly Allocated Expenditure									
5	Capital Works	350,000	100,058	249,942	0	0	0	350,000	100,058	249,942
	Tranche Funding Expenditure	0	5,645,832	-5,645,832	0	0	0	0	5,645,832	-5,645,832
6	Environment Agency Precept	9,858	-59,146	69,004	142	-854	996	10,000	-60,000	70,000
7	Maintenance Works	337,820	251,528	86,292	14,700	19,359	-4,659	352,520	270,887	81,633
	Cuckmere Deshingle & Targeted Desilting	0	0	0	25,000	12,503	12,497	25,000	12,503	12,497
	Cost of Rechargeable Works	0	78,508	-78,508	0	0	0	0	78,508	-78,508
		697,678	**6,016,779**	**-5,319,101**	**39,842**	**31,007**	**8,835**	**737,520**	**6,047,787**	**-5,310,267**
	Apportioned Expenditure									
8	WMA Technical Services Consortium	109,494	107,426	0	12,166	18,185	-6,019	121,660	125,611	-3,951
8	WMA Admin Costs Consortium	72,483	76,676	0	8,054	8,520	-466	80,537	85,196	-4,659
8	Employment and Hosting Costs	139,003	129,894	0	0	8,184	-8,184	139,003	138,077	926
	Drainage Rates Increases/Decreases/Write Offs	50	148	-98	50	1	49	100	149	-49
	Vehicle Depreciation + Running Costs	14,851	12,391	2,461	1,775	1,377	398	16,626	13,767	2,859
		335,881	**326,535**	**2,362**	**22,045**	**36,266**	**-14,221**	**357,926**	**362,801**	**-4,875**
		1,033,559	**6,343,315**	**-5,316,739**	**61,887**	**67,273**	**-5,387**	**1,095,446**	**6,410,588**	**-5,315,142**
	Profit/(Loss) on Disposal of Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(=) Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period	**£10,997**	**£65,836**	**£47,855**	**£0**	**£20,185**	**£20,185**	**£10,997**	**£86,021**	**£75,023**

Pevensey and Cuckmere
Water Level Management Board

From: **01 April 2025** **Period To:** **12**
To: **31 March 2026** **Year Ending:** **31 March 2026**

NOTE	BALANCE SHEET, AS AT 31-3-2026	£ 01/04/2025	£ MOVEMENT	£ 31/03/2026
9	**Fixed Assets:**			
(i)	Vehicles and Trailers	34,219	-9,969	24,250
(ii)	Lockup and Equipment	0	0	0
(iii)	Pumping Stations	6	0	6
		34,225	**-9,969**	**24,256**
	Current Assets:			
10	Bank Account	563,078	-153,765	409,313
11	Short-Term Investments	2,700,000	2,200,000	4,900,000
12	Trade Debtors	1,156	106,436	107,592
13	Work In Progress	0	0	0
15	Rates and Special Levies Due	688	-413	275
16	Prepayment WMA	0	73,406	73,406
	Grant Due	0	0	0
	Vat Due from HMRC	128,178	503,303	631,480
		3,393,099	**2,728,968**	**6,122,067**
	Current Liabilities:			
	Trade Creditors	429,305	2,103,794	2,533,099
	Accruals	765,526	542,234	1,307,759
	Payments Received in Advance	1,434	17,008	18,441
		1,196,264	**2,663,036**	**3,859,300**
	Net Current Assets	**2,196,835**	**65,932**	**2,262,767**
	Net Assets	**£2,231,060**	**£55,962**	**£2,287,023**
	Financed by:			
17	Grant Reserve	307,340	-30,058	277,282
18	Tranche Funding Grant Reserve	0	0	0
19	General Reserves	448,134	-89,244	358,889
20	Development Reserve	1,464,685	162,768	1,627,452
21	Cuckmere Targeted Improvements Works Reserve	10,896	12,497	23,393
22	Revaluation Reserve	6	0	6
		£2,231,060	**£55,962**	**£2,287,023**

S JEFFREY BSc (Hons) FCCA CPFA
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board

From:	**01 April 2025**	**Period To:**	**12**
To:	**31 March 2026**	**Year Ended:**	**31 March 2026**

Note **Notes to the Accounts**

1 Special Levies due from constituent Billing Authorities are as follows:

	Y-T-D BUDGET	Y-T-D 2025/26
Eastbourne Borough Council	298,412	298,412
Hastings Borough Council	15,105	15,105
Rother District Council	5,536	5,536
Wealden District Council	81,017	81,017
	400,069	**400,069**

2 The EA Highland Water Claim for 2025/26 has been submitted to the Environment Agency. This was been paid in full on 15 December 2025.

3 These are rechargable works completed for other Risk Management Authorities.

4 Other income is made up as follows:

	Y-T-D BUDGET	Y-T-D 2025/26
Shared Income from WMA	4,249	43,795
Sundry Income	0	382
Summons Costs	0	0
	4,249	**44,177**

5 The gross cost of each capital scheme is approved by the Board annually and detailed on the schedule of capital works as managed by the Area Manager and/or Project Delivery Manager, which can be made available to members on request. The Grants Due/(Unapplied) also correspond with the figures shown on the Balance Sheet.

6 The EA Precept due for 2025/26 is payable to the EA on 31 May and the other half is payable to them on 31 December.

7 Detailed maintenance operations are approved by the Board annually and shown on the Operations map, together with the schedule of maintenance works for each catchment, which can be made available to members on request. Expenditure is analysed as follows:

	Y-T-D BUDGET	Y-T-D 2025/26
Drains Maintenance	195,020	171,030
Pumping Stations	146,150	88,095
Water Level Control Structure	0	0
Small Tools and Consumables	1,280	1,262
Direct Works	**342,450**	**260,387**
Technical Support Staff Costs	230,791	232,950
Other Technical Support Costs	24,123	19,968
Biodiversity Action Plan Costs	10,500	10,500
Maintenance Works	**607,864**	**523,805**

8 Administration charges reflect the Board's share of consortium expenditure (excluding technical support costs). Detailed expenditure is monitored by the Consortium Management Committee and the Board every four months:

	Y-T-D BUDGET	Y-T-D 2025/26
Administration Staff Costs	4,028	4,218
Other Administration Costs	76,509	81,486
Drainage Rates AV Increases/(Decreases)	100	149
External Audit Fees	0	-420
Sundry Debtors written off	0	0
Sundry Expenses	0	-88
Settlement Discount	0	0
	80,637	**85,345**

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board

From:	**01 April 2025**	**Period To:**	**12**
To:	**31 March 2026**	**Year Ended:**	**31 March 2026**

Note **Notes to the Accounts**

8(ii). **Consortium Charges**

	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Actual
Expenses		
Technical Support Staff (note 8)	230,791	232,950
Other Technical Support (note 8)	24,123	19,968
Administration Staff Costs (note 9i)	4,028	4,218
Other Administration Costs (Note 9i)	76,509	81,486
Shared Income from the WMA (note 5)	-4,249	-43,795
Net Consortium Charge	**331,202**	**294,827**

9

Cost	Pumping Stations	Plant and Equipment	Lock Up and Small Tools	Total
Opening Balance as at 1-4-2025 b/fwd	6	45,824	10,268	56,098
(+) Additions	0	0	0	0
(-) Disposals	0	0	0	0
(=) Closing Balance as at 31-3-2026 c/fwd	**6**	**45,824**	**10,268**	**56,098**
Depreciation				
Opening Balance as at 1-4-2025 b/fwd	0	11,605	10,268	21,873
(+) Depreciation Charge for year	0	9,969	0	9,969
(-) Accumulated Depreciation written out on disposal	0	0	0	0
(=) Closing Balance as at 31-3-2026 c/fwd	**0**	**21,574**	**10,268**	**31,842**
Net Book Value as at 31-3-2025	**6**	**34,219**	**0**	**34,225**
Net Book Value as at 31-3-2026	**6**	**24,250**	**0**	**24,256**

10 Additional sums are now being invested on the short term money market to maximise the return on the working balances, in accordance with the Board's Investment Policy. The Bank Account is reconciled as follows:

	2024/25	2025/26
Opening Balance as at 1-4-2024 b/fwd	75,175	563,078
(+) Receipts	4,489,388	8,581,976
(-) Payments	-4,001,485	-8,735,741
(=) Closing Balance as at 31-3-2026 c/fwd	**563,078**	**409,313**
Balance on Statement as at 31-3-2026	563,078	409,313
Less: Unpresented payments	0	0
Add: Unpresented receipts	0	0
Closing Balance as at 31-3-2026 c/fwd	**563,078**	**409,313**

11 Term Deposits are currently as follows:

Financial Institution	Capital	Investment Date	Maturity Date	Variable Interest Rate
Newbury Building Society	500,000	27/11/2025	14/04/2026	3.80%
West Bromwich Building Society	250,000	18/12/2025	14/04/2026	3.67%
National Counties Building Society	200,000	13/01/2026	29/04/2026	3.76%
Progressive Building Society	250,000	12/02/2026	29/04/2026	3.75%
Nottingham Buiding Society	500,000	31/03/2026	29/04/2026	3.75%
Furness Building Socity	500,000	06/05/2025	06/05/2026	4.25%
Cambridge Busiling Society	500,000	31/03/2026	14/05/2026	3.75%
Vernon Building Society	500,000	26/02/2026	28/05/2026	3.60%
Progressive Building Society	200,000	26/03/2026	28/05/2026	3.85%
Progressive Building Society	500,000	31/03/2026	12/06/2026	3.80%
Saffron Building Society	500,000	13/01/2026	12/01/2027	3.77%
Furness Building Society	500,000	30/03/2026	25/02/2027	4.20%
	4,900,000			

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board

From:	**01 April 2025**	**Period To:**	**12**
To:	**31 March 2026**	**Year Ended:**	**31 March 2026**

Note **Notes to the Accounts**

12 Aged Debtor profile is currently as follows:

Debt period	**Pevensey £**	**Cuckmere £**	**Number of Debtors**
<=30 days	107,592	0	4
>30 days and <=60 days	0	0	0
>60 days and <=90 days	0	0	0
>90 days	0	0	0
	107,592	**0**	**4**

13 Work in Progress is currently made up of the following jobs:

Customer	**Amount**	**Comp. Date**	**Originator**
	0		
	0		

14 Special Levies are due to be paid by Constituent Councils in two halves on 1 May and 1 November every year.

15 There are currently 22 Ratepayers that have not paid their Drainage Rates for 2025/26 as compared to 37 Ratepayers this time last year. Summarised transactions for Drainage Rates and Special Levies during the year are as follows:

	2024/25	**2025/26**
Arrears b/fwd	268	688
Drainage Rates for the year	41,805	49,328
Special Levies for the year	280,270	400,082
Payments Received	-323,371	-449,660
Settlement Discount	0	0
Returned/(Represented) amounts	613	0
Paid Refund	446	0
Annual Value Decreases	-885	-732
Annual Value Increases	0	12
New Assessments	885	720
Irrecoverables and write offs	-231	-314
Creditors Control Contra	0	0
Summons collection costs	900	0
Special Levy Adjustment	-12	0
Drainage Rate Adjustment	0	150
Arrears c/fwd	**688**	**275**

16 Prepayments represent the amount that has been paid to the WMA in advance, which will be used by the WMA to pay the Board's share of consortium expenditure during the next reporting period.

17 **Grant Reserve**

	Pevensey	**Cuckmere**	**2025/26**
Opening Balance, as at 1-4-2025 b/fwd	307,340	0	307,340
(+) Grants Received	70,000	0	70,000
(+) Grants Due	0	0	0
(-) Grants Applied to Income & Expenditure Account (SCH01)	-100,058	0	-100,058
Closing Balance, as at 31-3-2026 c/fwd	**277,282**	**0**	**277,282**

Grant Due	**Pevensey**	**Cuckmere**	**2025/26**
	0	0	0
	0	**0**	**0**

18 **Tranche Funding Grant Reserve**

	Pevensey	**Cuckmere**	**2025/26**
Opening Balance, as at 1-4-2025 b/fwd	0	0	0
(+) Grants Received	5,282,800	0	5,282,800
(-) Grants Applied to Income & Expenditure Account	-5,282,800	0	-5,282,800
Closing Balance, as at 31-3-2026 c/fwd	**0**	**0**	**0**

Pevensey and Cuckmere
Water Level Management Board

From:	**01 April 2025**	**Period To:**	**12**
To:	**31 March 2026**	**Year Ended:**	**31 March 2026**

Note **Notes to the Accounts**

19 **General Reserve**

		Pevensey	Cuckmere	2025/26
	Opening Balance, as at 1-4-2025 b/fwd	361,057	87,077	448,134
	(+) Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period	65,836	20,185	86,021
*	(-) Transferred to Earmarked Development Reserve	-153,121	-9,647	-162,768
	(-) Transferred (to)/from Capital Works Reserve	0	0	0
	(-) Transferred (to)/from Cuckmere Targeted Improvement Reserve	0	-12,497	-12,497
	Closing Balance, as at 31-3-2026 c/fwd	**273,772**	**85,117**	**358,889**
*	Surface Water Development Contributions Invoiced during the year	287,718	18,127	305,845
	(-) Collection Costs:			
	Gross cost of employing Sustainable Development Officer	129,894	8,184	138,077
	Hydromodelling/DEF	4,704	296	5,000
		134,597	8,480	143,077
*	(=) Transferred to/(from) Earmarked Development Reserve	**153,121**	**9,647**	**162,768**

20 **Development Reserve**

		Pevensey	Cuckmere	2025/26
	Opening Balance, as at 1-4-2025 b/fwd	1,296,851	167,834	1,464,685
*	Transferred (to)/from General Reserve, as detailed in Note 19 above	153,121	9,647	162,768
	Closing Balance, as at 31-3-2026 c/fwd	**1,449,971**	**177,481**	**1,627,452**

21 **Cuckmere Targeted Improvements Reserve**

	Pevensey	Cuckmere	2025/26
Opening Balance, as at 1-4-2025 b/fwd	0	10,896	10,896
Transferred (to)/from General Reserve, as detailed in Note 35 above	0	12,497	12,497
Closing Balance, as at 31-3-2026 c/fwd	**0**	**23,393**	**23,393**

22 **Revaluation Reserve**

	2024/25	Movement	2025/26
Star Inn Pumping Station	1	0	1
Barnhorn Pumping Station	1	0	1
Drockmill Pumping Station	1	0	1
Horsebridge Pumping Station	1	0	1
Rickney Pumping Station	1	0	1
Manxey Pumping Station	1	0	1
	6	**0**	**6**

23 The Board is a member of the Water Management Alliance Consortium and as such also has a proportion of the pension liability for the shared staff that are employed by King's Lynn IDB, t/a the Water Management Alliance. The Fund Actuary for Norfolk County Council has prepared a separate Report for the Water Management Alliance, which identifies a notional net pension asset of £3,345,000 as at 31 March 2026 that is shared by all 7 Member Boards. The Board's share of this pension liability/asset is set out every year in the WMAs Basis of Apportionment, which was approved by the Board on 21st January 2025.

24 The Reserves are managed in accordance with the Capital Financing and Reserves Policy, as approved by the Board on 03 November 2022. This policy is available for viewing on the Board's website.

25 The purpose of the Development Reserve is to reduce the impact on drainage rates and special levies from development that takes place in the area. The Board charges developers a standard rate per impermeable hectare for agricultural land which is developed and becomes a hard standing area, such as housing, roadways etc. The money is credited to this Reserve and then used to reduce the gross cost of capital work needed to cater for the additional flows arising from such development. The income for this Reserve therefore comes exclusively from developers and is used to fund in part improvement works that are necessary because of development.

26 **Related Party Transactions**

(i) All elected members of the Board pay drainage rates either as individuals, Partners in Partnerships, or as Directors of limited companies; the exact nature of which can be found in the Rate Book as at 1 April 2025.

(ii) The Board is a member of the Water Management Alliance Consortium, who provide administrative services to the Board. The Board has 2 representatives and a substitute member, who serve on the Consortium Management Committee, this includes the Chairman of the Board. The Chairman receives £3,500.00 Chairmans Allowance for his duties annually. This allowance is paid monthly via WMA payroll.

Recommended Actions:

1. To approve the Financial Report for the period ending 31-3-2026.

S JEFFREY BSc (Hons) FCCA CPFA
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board

From:	**01 April 2025**	**Period To:**	**12**
To:	**31 March 2026**	**Year Ending:**	**31 March 2026**

BOX NO.	ANNUAL RETURN, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026	ACTUAL 2024/25 £	ACTUAL 2025/26 £
1	**Balances brought forward**		
	Grant Reserve	0	307,340
	General Reserve	295,491	448,134
	Development Reserve	1,022,267	1,464,685
	Cuckmere Targeted Improvements Works Reserve	0	10,896
	Revaluation Reserve	6	6
	As per Statement of Accounts	**1,317,764**	**2,231,060**
	(-) Fixed Assets, Long Term Liabilities and Loans		
	Net Book Value of Tangible Fixed Assets	15,462	34,225
		15,462	**34,225**
	(=) Adjusted Balances brought forward	**1,302,303**	**2,196,835**
2	**(+) Rates and Special Levies**		
	Drainage Rates	41,888	49,328
	Special Levies	372,752	400,069
	As per Statement of Accounts	**414,640**	**449,396**
3	**(+) All Other Income**		
	Profit/(Loss) on Disposal of Fixed Assets	11,031	0
	Surface Water Development Contributions	483,208	305,845
	Highland Water Contributions from the Environment Agency	86,330	86,330
	Bank and Investment Interest	73,731	149,495
	Grants Applied	207,410	100,058
	Tranche 1 + 2 Grant Income Applied	1,345,316	5,282,800
	Grant Due	-90,221	0
	P&C Staff Costs (Tranche Funded)	149,055	0
	Other Income	4,381	44,177
	Income from Rechargable Works	0	78,508
	Consent Fees	1,850	0
	As per Statement of Accounts	**2,272,091**	**6,047,212**
	(+) Income from Sale of Fixed Assets (above profit/(loss)		
	Capital Cost of disposals	23,860	0
	Less: Accumulated depreciation written out	-19,386	0
		4,474	**0**
	(+) Grants Applied to Grants Received Conversion		
	(-) Grants Applied	-207,410	-100,058
	(+) Grants Received	604,971	70,000
	(-) Grants Applied Tranche	-1,345,316	-5,282,800
	(+) Grants Received Tranche	1,345,316	5,282,800
		397,561	**-30,058**
	(=) Adjusted Other Income	**2,674,126**	**6,017,154**

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board

From:	**01 April 2025**	**Period To:**	**12**
To:	**31 March 2026**	**Year Ending:**	**31 March 2026**

BOX NO.	ANNUAL RETURN, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026	ACTUAL 2024/25 £	ACTUAL 2025/26 £
4	**(-) Staff Costs**		
	Operations Delivery Staff Costs	60,163	0
	WMA Technical Support Staff Costs	0	232,950
	Other Technical Support Staf Costs	153,956	0
	WMA Administration Staff Costs	0	4,218
		214,120	**237,168**
5	**(-) Loan Interest/Capital Repayments**		
	Loan Interest	0	0
	Capital Repayments	0	0
	As per Statement of Accounts	**0**	**0**
6	**(-) All Other Expenditure**		
	New and Improvement Works (Hydromodelling)	5,496	0
	New and Improvement Works (Water Levels Mgmt Project)	207,410	100,058
	Cuckmere Deshingle and Desilting Works	9,104	12,503
	Environment Agency Precept	10,000	-60,000
	Maintenance Works	318,842	270,887
	WMA Technical Support Costs	17,081	0
	WMA Admin Costs	33,440	80,978
	Development Expenditure	0	0
	Other Operational Staff Costs	15,659	0
	Employment and Hosting Costs	0	10,771
	Other Technical Support Costs	12,199	19,968
	Cost of Rechargeable Works	963	78,508
	Tranche 1 + 2 Expenditure	1,293,356	5,645,832
	Drainage Rate Write Off	89	149
	Audit Fees	3,581	0
	Depreciation	9,096	13,767
	General Insurances	6,600	0
	Accommodation and Meeting Room Hire	942	0
	Postages and Stationery	775	0
	ADA Subscriptions and Other Expenses	12,244	0
	As per Statement of Accounts	**1,956,876**	**6,173,420**
	(-) Depreciation Charged (Non Cash)		
	Vehicles and Trailers	9,096	9,969
	Lockup and Equipment	0	0
	Pumping Stations	0	0
		9,096	**9,969**

Pevensey and Cuckmere
Water Level Management Board

From:	**01 April 2025**	**Period To:**	**12**
To:	**31 March 2026**	**Year Ending:**	**31 March 2026**

BOX NO.	ANNUAL RETURN, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026	ACTUAL 2024/25 £	ACTUAL 2025/26 £
	(+) Capitalised Additions		
	Vehicles and Trailers	32,333	0
	Lockup and Equipment	0	0
	Pumping Stations	0	0
		32,333	**0**
	(=) Adjusted Other Expenditure	**1,980,114**	**6,163,450**
7	**(=) Balances carried forward**		
	Grant Reserve	307,340	277,282
	Tranche Funding Grant Reserve	0	0
	General Reserve	448,134	358,889
	Development Reserve	1,464,685	1,627,452
	Cuckmere Targeted Improvements Works Reserve	10,896	23,393
	Revaluation Reserve	6	6
	As per Statement of Accounts	**2,231,060**	**2,287,023**
	(-) Fixed Assets, Long Term Liabilities and Loans		
	Net Book Value of Tangible Fixed Assets	34,225	24,256
		34,225	**24,256**
	(=) Adjusted Balances carried forward	**2,196,835**	**2,262,767**
8	**Total Cash and Short Term Investments**		
	Bank Account	563,078	409,313
	Short-Term Investments	2,700,000	4,900,000
	As per Statement of Accounts	**3,263,078**	**5,309,313**
9	**Total Fixed Assets and Long Term Assets**		
	Vehicles and Trailers (valued at Purchase Cost)	45,824	45,824
	Lockup and Equipment (valued at Purchase Cost)	10,268	10,268
	Pumping Stations (Revalued)	6	6
	As per Statement of Accounts	**56,098**	**56,098**
10	**Total Borrowings**		
	Loans Due (<= 1 Year)	0	0
	Loans Due (> 1 Year)	0	0
	As per Statement of Accounts	**0**	**0**

Pevensey and Cuckmere
Water Level Management Board

From:	**01 April 2025**	**Period To:**	**12**
To:	**31 March 2026**	**Year Ending:**	**31 March 2026**

BOX NO.	ANNUAL RETURN, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026	ACTUAL 2024/25 £	ACTUAL 2025/26 £

7, 8	RECONCILIATION BETWEEN BOXES 7 AND 8	ACTUAL 2024/25 £	ACTUAL 2025/26 £
7	**Balances carried forward (adjusted)**	**2,196,835**	**2,262,767**
	(-) Deduct: Debtors and Prepayments		
	Trade Debtors and Ratepayers Due	1,843	107,867
	Vat Due from HMRC	128,178	631,480
	Prepayments WMA		73,406
	Grants Due	0	0
	Work in Progress	0	0
		130,021	**812,754**
	(+) Add: Creditors and Payments Received in Advance		
	Trade Creditors	429,305	2,533,099
	Accruals	765,526	1,307,759
	Payments Received in Advance	1,434	18,441
		1,196,264	**3,859,300**
	(=) Box 8	**3,263,078**	**5,309,313**
8	**(=) Total Cash and Short Term Investments**		
	Bank Account	563,078	409,313
	Short-Term Investments	2,700,000	4,900,000
		3,263,078	**5,309,313**

S JEFFREY BSc (Hons) FCCA CPFA
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

16 JUNE 2026

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 Form 3

To be completed by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities*:

- **where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £15 million; or**
- **where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less but that:**
  - **are unable to certify themselves as exempt (fee payable); or**
  - **have requested a limited assurance review (fee payable)**

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26

1. Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 **must** complete Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with *Proper Practices.*

2. **The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:**
   - The **Annual Internal Audit Report must** be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
   - **Sections 1 and 2 must** be completed and approved by the authority.
   - **Section 3** is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.
3. The authority **must** approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, before approving Section 2, Accounting Statements, and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2026.**
4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or is requesting a limited assurance review, **must** return to the external auditor by email or post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2026** Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT:
   - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1 and 2, together with
   - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2026
   - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
   - notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
   - Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Unless requested, do not send any additional documents to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed the limited assurance review and is able to give an opinion, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return **Section 1, Section 2 and Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate** will be returned to the authority by email or post.

Publication Requirements

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, authorities **must** publish the following information on the authority website/webpage:

Before 1 July 2026 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited;
- **Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26** approved and signed, page 4
- **Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2025/26** approved and signed, page 5

Not later than 30 September 2026 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of conclusion of audit
- **Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate**
- **Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR** including any amendments as a result of the limited assurance review. It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

**for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.*

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26

- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR. *Proper Practices* are found in the *Practitioners' Guide** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty) and is properly signed and dated. Any amendments **must** be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2026
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) **must** be approved before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references, even where approved on the same day.
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) **must** certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority **must** in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period which **must** be a single period of 30 working days for inspection (this excludes weekends and public holidays) which **must** include the first 10 working days of July.
- **You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chair, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the AGAR covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor **must** be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements **(Section 2, page 5)**. An explanation **must** be provided of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 5**. Do not just send a copy of the detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the full variance.
- Additional costs may be incurred if additional audit work is required.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2025) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2026).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights which **must** be a single period of 30 working days for inspection (this excludes weekends and public holidays) which **must** include the first 10 working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish on the authority website/webpage the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2026**

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?		
	Has all additional information requested, including **the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights**, been provided for the external auditor?		
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?		
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published?		
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?		
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?		
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?		
	Has the bank reconciliation as at **31 March 2026** been reconciled to Box 8?		
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?		
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? **NB:** do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.		

******Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices***, can be downloaded from **www.nalc.gov.uk** or from **www.ada.org.uk**

Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

PEVENSEY AND CUCKMERE WLMB

WWW.WLMA.ORG.UK/PEVENSEY-CUCKMERE/HOME

During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2025/26 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. *(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick "not covered")*			✓
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations *(during the 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).*	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR *(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).*	✓		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.			✓

P. **(For local councils only)** Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken: 16/3/26 - 20/3/26 (DD/MM/YYYY)

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: DAVID ROBINSON (ENTER AUDITOR)

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: [signature] (SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

Date: 22/4/2026

***If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).**

****Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).**

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

PEVENSEY AND CUCKMERE WLMB

ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	No*	*'Yes' means that this authority:*
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✔		*prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.*
2. We 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 assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✔		*has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.*
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✔		*during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.*
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✔		*considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.*
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✔		*arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.*
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✔		*responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.*
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✔		*disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.*
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A — *has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.*
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.	✔		*has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.*

***Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.**

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

16/06/2026

DD/MM/YY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk SIGNATURE REQUIRED

WWW.WLMA.ORG.UK/PEVENSEY-CUCKMERE/HOME

ENTER PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

PEVENSEY AND CUCKMERE WLMB

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	*Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures **must** agree to underlying financial records.*
1. Balances brought forward	1,302,303	2,196,835	*Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value **must** agree to Box 7 of previous year.*
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	414,640	449,396	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	2,674,126	6,017,154	*Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.*
4. (-) Staff costs	214,120	237,168	*Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.*
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	*Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).*
6. (-) All other payments	1,980,114	6,163,450	*Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).*
7. (=) Balances carried forward	2,196,835	2,262,767	*Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. **must** equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).*
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	3,263,078	5,309,313	*The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – **To agree with bank reconciliation.***
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	56,098	56,098	*The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.*
10. Total borrowings	0	0	*The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).*

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	
11 Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?			*For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.*

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date 09/06/2026

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

16/06/2026

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of PEVENSEY AND CUCKMERE WLMB

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit,** it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/ .

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2026 and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/26

(Except for the matters reported below)* on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. (*delete as appropriate).

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

We certify/do not certify* that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2026

*We do not certify completion because:

External Auditor Name

ENTER NAME OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

External Auditor Signature SIGNATURE REQUIRED Date DD/MM/YYYY

Pevensey & Cuckmere Water Level Management Board Risk Register

As a Risk Management Authority the Pevensey & Cuckmere Water Level Management Board are required to have a risk register in order to systematically identify, assess and manage any potential risks to our business. It will also be used to ensure accountability, compliance with regulations, and the effective use of resources to safeguard public interests. The risk Register is a live document and should be reviewed regularly. With regard to the Risk Register below:

◦ A Consequence of 3 relates to repercussions which would have a serious effect on the operation/service delivery, which may result in major financial loss (over £100,000) and/or major service disruption (+5 days) or impact on the public. Death of an individual or several people. Complete failure of project or extreme delay (over 2 months). Many individual personal details compromised/revealed. Adverse publicity in national press.

◦ A Consequence of 2 relates to repercussions which would have a noticeable effect on the operation/service delivery. May result in significant financial loss (over £25,000). Would cause a degree of disruption (2 – 5 days) or impact on the public. Severe injury to an individual or several people. Adverse effect on project/significant slippage. Some individual personal details compromised/revealed. Adverse publicity in local press.

◦ A Consequence of 1 relates to repercussions which would not be severe and any associated losses and or financial implications will be low (up to £10,000). Negligible effect on service delivery (1 day). Minor injury or discomfort to an individual or several people. Isolated individual personal detail compromised/revealed. NB A number of low incidents may have a significant cumulative effect and require attention.

◦ A Likelihood of 1 relates to an unlikely, outside risk of occurrence.

◦ A likelihood of 2 relates to this being a foreseeably realistic risk, which could happen infrequently.

◦ A likelihood of 3 relates to this being a high likelihood of occurrence.

Using the risk matrix shown below a risk rating score is determined, which enables risks to be prioritised using one or more of the "four T's":

◦ Tolerate - score 1-2 - Accept the risk

◦ Treat - score 3–4 - Take cost effective in-house actions to reduce the risk

◦ Transfer – score 6 - Dedicate major resources to managing the risk. If possible transfer the risk to someone else (e.g: by insurance or passing responsibility for the risk to another)

◦ Terminate – score 9 - Agree that the risk is too high and do not proceed with the project or activity

	Consequence (1-3)		
Likelihood (1 – 3)	1	2	3
1	**1**	**2**	**3**
2	**2**	**4**	**6**
3	**3**	**6**	**9**

Officers Responsible for actions:

MC - Marcus Coleman, Chief Executive, MP - Matthew Philpot, Chief Operating Officer & Deputy CEO, SJ - Sallyanne Jeffrey, Chief Financial Officer,
KN - Kari Nash, Project Delivery Manager, RK - Revai Kinsella, Area Manager, RD – Richard Dann, Operations Manager,
CL - Caroline Laburn, Environmental Manager, CB - Cathryn Brady, Head of Catchment Services

THIS IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE FULL RISK REGISTER SHOWING RISKS WITH A SCORE OF 6 OR MORE. THE FULL RISK REGISTER IS BROUGHT TO THE BOARD AT THE FINAL MEETING OF THE YEAR

Purpose: The purpose of this Risk Register is to proactively identify, assess, and manage potential threats to the PCWLMBs statutory duties, such as flood risk management, environmental obligations, and financial stability. It acts as a central repository for monitoring risks ranging from infrastructure failure (e.g., pumping stations) to regulatory non-compliance, enabling informed decision-making and ensuring accountability to ratepayers

Objective	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood of risk identified occurring	Consequence of risk identified occurring	Risk Level	Action	Details of how risk will be managed	Review Date	Officer responsible
(1) To reduce the flood risk to people, property, public infrastructure and the natural environment by providing and maintaining technically, environmentally and economically sustainable flood defences within the Internal Drainage District (IDD).	(1a) Reduction in, or insufficient finance, grant and income.	Erosion of Board's capital and general reserves. Unable to replace assets as scheduled in the Board's asset plan and EA MTP, resulting in future housing development being unsustainable, whilst also leaving the Board unable to meet its statutory obligations.	2	3	6	Transfer	Use knowledge and skills of the projects team to fully utilize all funding streams available to projects, thus transferring the risk across a more diverse funding landscape. Explore alternative funding streams including partnership working with other RMAs and access to local levy funding: 1) Partnership working with ESCC on planning matters 2) Precept works programme with EA to benefit the Board's infrastructure. 3) Sharing access to technical support staff through the WMA Consortium. Continue to lobby Defra to update the Land Drainage Act 1991 to refer to current rating lists used by billing authorities for levying agricultural drainage rates and special levies, as this would support the extension of the Board's area to its watershed catchment. This would provide additional rates to the Board from the upland area (and negate the need for HWCs). The Environment Act 2021 has been enacted, and the Statutory Instrument to update rating calculations has also been consulted on. We now wait for the relevant procedure to be followed for the law to be updated, after which further processes can commence.	08.06.2026	MC/MP/RK
	(1b) EA may cease to pay highland water contribution to WLMBs	Reduction in FCREM service the Board is able to provide.	2	3	6	Transfer	Ensure highland water claims are clear, transparent, discussed with the EA in good time and submitted on time. Ensure the importance of the HWC is recognized and supported by the EA, RFCC and constituent councils. Continue with the district expansion plans such that HWC would no longer be needed.	08.06.2026	SJ/MP

	(1c) EA's operation of the water control structures has an adverse impact on water levels in the IDD	Impacts on the WLMB's ability to carry out its statutory function	2	3	6	Transfer	Liaison between WLMB and EA officers has resulted in the EA permitting WLMB to operate on its behalf, the EA water control structures that affect the IDD. A protocol for this has been produced by EA/WLMB officers and maintaining it is a priority.	08.06.2026	RK/RD
	(1d) EA no longer undertakes de-shingling works in the Cuckmere Estuary	WLMB is unable to fulfil its statutory function in the Cuckmere River Sub District during periods of high rainfall on a saturated catchment and constituent ratepayers push for an Exemption from Rating order, as a result.	2	3	6	Transfer	The EA have agreed to undertake de-shingling works when required, further to an assessment of the impact, which the WLMB will be included in and funds being available. WLMB hydraulic modelling can be used to support decision making.	08.06.2026	RK/MP
	(1q) The increasing number of water management initiatives being developed and promoted across the region could lead to a duplication of effort and emerging strategies which have conflicting objectives that could adversely impact on the Board's operations and/or increase flood risk.	Increase pressure on management time as the Board attempts to keep a handle on the growing number of plans and initiatives in the catchment.	2	3	6	Transfer	WLMB consenting team to receive training on the possible impacts of water level management schemes. Management to carefully assess whether or not to directly engage with each water management initiative being developed by other RMAs in the catchment, could adversely impact on the Board's operations and/or increase flood risk.	08.06.2026	CB
	(1r) HMRC have confirmed via Excise Notice 75, that as of 1 April 2022, WLMBs can continue to use red diesel for works benefitting agriculture. It is highly likely that this is a temporary decision and that at some point in the future, the use of rebated fuel will not be possible for WLMB works.	An annual fuel increase in cost of approximately £70,000, meaning an increase of 3% in drainage rates and special levies.	2	3	6	Transfer	Continue to support lobbying through ADA for the law not to be widened out to WLMBs.	08.06.2026	RK/MP
	(1s) Significant increases in wages, fuel and energy costs and difficulty of passing on the associated increases to drainage ratepayers and councils.	Cuts to service delivery would have to be made which could significantly increase flood risk.	2	3	6	Transfer	Additional costs passed on in rates and special levies Assess where cuts could be made without increasing flood risk to an unacceptable level. Support the Council and ADA in actively lobbying Central Government for funding support due to concerns of rising special levies. Numerous Fuel Actions, as per specific paper to the board June 2026	08.06.2026	SJ/RK

3 To enable and facilitate land use for residential, commercial, recreational, and environmental purposes by guiding and regulating activities, which have the potential to increase flood risk.	(3a) Planning Authorities ignore advice provided by Board, which leads to increased flood risk.	Increased flood risk. Potential for lost income for SWDCs and commuted sums.	2	3	6	Transfer	Planning/Enforcement to build close relationships with local planning officers, such that our role, input and comments are considered and valued. Officers' comments on planning applications are available on Local Authority website.	08.06.2026	CB/RK
	(3b) SUDs managed by private management companies who allow them to fall into disrepair through lack of long-term maintenance.	Inadequate or lack of maintenance of SUDs could have an adverse impact on the WLMB infrastructure & subsequently increase the risk of flooding.	2	3	6	Transfer	A SUDs adoption and charging policy has been approved by the Board as has the Updated Planning and Byelaw Strategy Document	08.06.2026	CB/RK
4 To nurture, enhance and maintain the natural habitats and species, which exist in and alongside WLMB watercourses, wherever practical to ensure there is no net loss of biodiversity.	(4d) Future funding to manage/remove Floating Pennywort not secured, resulting in more spread and more material, finding its way into more WLMB watercourses.	Increased costs for removal, resulting in increased drainage rates and levees.	2	3	6	Transfer	Officers to keep the pressure on the EA and NE to work together to fund 3rd party works and a bigger solution to landscape scale management. Officers to investigate sources of potential future funding to control floating pennywort in third party infrastructure (Main Rivers controlled by the EA and private watercourses controlled by Landowner).	08.06.2026	CL/RK

Review Date	Risk changed	Likelihood rating	Likelihood Rating previous	Consequence Rating	Consequence Rating previous	Reason for Change	Changes to Details
Jun-26	(1s) Significant increases in wages, fuel and energy costs and difficulty of passing on the associated increases to drainage ratepayers and councils.	2	2	3	3	Increasing Diesel costs	Numerous Fuel Actions, as per specific paper to the board June 2026

APPROVAL OF THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS 2026
- Pevensey & Cuckmere Water Level Management Board -

PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

1. The purpose of this paper is to present the redacted Register of Electors for Board approval in accordance with Rule 3 of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Board Members) Regulations 1938 (as amended). To view the redacted register click here.

BACKGROUND

2. The Board's Elected Members serve a three-year term; the current election period expires on 31 October 2026 and the next three-year election period will commence on 1 November 2026.

3. The Register of Electors is the statutory register of occupiers of agricultural land and hereditaments within the Internal Drainage District, who are entitled to vote in the election of elected Members of the Board. The register is maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Land Drainage Act and associated election rules.

4. In accordance with Rule 3 of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Board Members) Regulations 1938 (as amended), a notice was published on the Board's website on 13 April 2026 inviting inspection of the proposed Register of Electors and providing a 14-day period for any objections, corrections, or omissions to be submitted.

5. The official Register of Electors is maintained at the Board's registered office in King's Lynn. A redacted version has been provided with the meeting papers as linked above, for data protection purposes

6. No objections, corrections, or omissions to the proposed register were received during the inspection period.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Board Members approve the Register of Electors as presented.

OLIVIA FOLLEN, BUSINESS SUPPORT MANAGER
June 2026

COMPLAINTS & FEEDBACK REVIEW
For the period 1st January – 31st May 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the paper is to receive an update regarding the official complaints and feedback received in the period 1st January to 31st May.

To meet the strategic aims, the vision, mission and values of the board, it is important to monitor feedback from the public, organisations and other relevant stakeholders. Whether it is positive or negative, all feedback can be used to improve our performance and services.

2. HOW WE COLLATE FEEDBACK

We collate feedback through our website, emails and telephone calls. Links to Feedback and Customer Complaint forms are located in all email footers.

3. OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS

Date of complaint	Location	Nature of complaint	Allocated to	Status	Action taken

There have been no official complaints received or addressed during this reporting period, nor are there any outstanding complaints carried over from previous periods. This trend of zero complaints is consistent with the same reporting period last year.

4. OTHER FEEDBACK

Date of feedback	Location	Nature of feedback	Allocated to	Status	Action taken
22/01/2026	Polegate	Thanked for a quick response and positive outcome.	R. Kinsella	N/A	Relayed to Staff
23/01/2026	Polegate	Thanks for constructive engagement & support in relation to an application.	R. Kinsella	N/A	Relayed to Staff
24/02/2026	Drockmill	Concerns regarding works site at Drockmill.	R. Kinsella	Closed	Site visit & emailed a response
20/04/2026	Martins Ditch A27	Site access & ensuring local animals were secure.	G. Oliver	Closed	We liaised with the respondent & Site security was immediately improved.

In the same reporting period last year, we received one positive and one negative feedback reviews.

5. RECOMMENDATION

To approve the official Complaints and Feedback Review.

FRANCES BLIGH
ICT MANAGER
31st May 2026

WMA Policy Review Summary – CMC Meeting, 24 April 2026

	Policy	Owner	Comments
1	WMA Development Control Charges and Fees Click here	CB	In addition to inflationary increases in development contributions, the document has been reviewed and updated. Key changes include clarification of retrospective application fees (Section 2), the inclusion of standardised inspection charges (Section 3), and revisions to the refund policy (Section 10).
2	WMA Drainage Rates & Hereditaments Policy Click here	SJ	Minor amendments have been made to ensure accuracy and consistency, such as updating East Suffolk IDB to East Suffolk WMB, the revision to job titles and the replacement of legacy software DRS ® with the updated software DRS ® 365. These changes are administrative in nature and do not alter the content or intent of the policy.

Acronyms

Letters	Definition
ACE	Action Community Project
ADA	Association of Drainage Authorities
AOEP	Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BCP	Broadland Catchment Partnership
BFI	Broadland Futures Initiative
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International
CDF	Collaborative Delivery Framework
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CIEEM	Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
COMAH	Control of Major Accident Hazards
CROW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act
CRT	Canal & Rivers Trust
CWS	County Wildlife Sites
DCO	Development Consent Order
DEP	Deben Estuary Partnership
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EACG	East Anglian Coastal Group
ECMCIC	East Coast Management Community Interest Company
EM	Environment Manager
EMF	Elected Members Forum
ERFP	Emergency Flood Response Plan
ESA	Environmental Statutory Allowance
EUWMA	European Union of Water Management Associations
FCERM	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management
FDGiA	Flood Defence Grant in Aid (from DEFRA)
FFC	Flood Forecasting Centre
FOI Act	Freedom of Information Act
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
FRAP	Flood Risk Activity Permit
FWMA	Flood and Water Management Act 2010
GIS	Geographical Information Systems

Acronyms

Letters	Definition
GLNP	Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
HRA	Habitat Regulation Assessment
HAWM	Holistic Approach to Water Management
HWC	Highland Water Contribution
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
IDD	Internal Drainage District
JPAG	Joint Practitioners' Advisory Group
LA	Local Authority(ies)
LDA	Land Drainage Act 1991
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authorities
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
LPRG	Large Projects Review Group
MEICA	Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation, Control & Automation
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MTP	Mid Term Plan
NBIS	Norfolk Biodiversity Information System
NCC	Norfolk County Council
NE	Natural England
NERC	Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006
NFM	Natural Flood Management
NFU	National Farmers Union
NNNIS	Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative
NT	National Trust
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NRT	Norfolk Rivers Trust
NWNCP	North West Norfolk Catchment Partnership
NWT	Norfolk Wildlife Trust
OBC	Outline Business Case
ODN	Ordnance Datum Newlyn
OJEU	Official Journal of the European Union
PAR	Project Appraisal Report
PS	Pumping Station
PSCA	Public Sector Cooperation Agreement

Acronyms

Letters	Definition
PTO	Power Take Off (refers to changing flails, etc, and isolating machines)
RAMSAR	A wetland of global importance
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RDDOR	Reporting of Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences
RFCC	Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
RMAs	Risk Management Authorities
RMS	Rate Management System
RRC	River Restoration Centre
SAAA	Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCSP	Silver Control Support Plan
SMO	Standard Maintenance Operations
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPA	Schedule Paid Accounts
SSOW	Safe System of Working
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
RSuDS	Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems
SWDC	Surface Water Development Contribution
TEO	Technical and Environmental Officer
The Crow Act	The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)
The NERC Act	The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
UKPN	UK Power Networks
VOA	Valuation Office Agency
WCP	Wildlife Conservation Partnership
WCS	Water Control Structures
WEG	Water Environment Grant
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WLMI	Water Level Management Improvements
WLMP	Water Level Management Plan
WRA	Water Resources Act

Distributed to:

Pevensey & Cuckmere WLMB Members	**Hard Copy Requested**
Richard Brown	
Ali Dehdashty	
Penny Di Cara	
Mark Fairweather	
Lance Gearing	✓
Bill Gower **(Chairman)**	✓
Martin Hole	
Duncan McCutchan	
Robert Miles	✓ (Post copy, no email address filed)
Jim Murray	✓
Tom Nevill	
Hugh Parker	
David Robinson	
Robert Smart	✓
Richard Thomas	
Chris Wadman **(Vice Chair)**	
David White	

Key Partners & Supporting Officers
(General Business Papers)

Luke Ball	EA
Samuel Batchelor	Wealden DC
Catherine Beaumont	Rother DC
Nick Claxton	E. Sussex CC- LLFA
Matthew Hitchen	Lewes-Eastbourne
Russell Long	EA
Shirley MacKinnon	PPC
Ellen Miller	Lewes-Eastbourne
Harriet Peacock	Wealden DC
Stacey Robins	Wealden DC
Dan Sargent	EA

WMA & WLMB Officers

Marcus Coleman	Chief Executive
Richard Dann	Operations Manager (PCWLMB)
Olivia Follen	Business Support Manager
Sallyanne Jeffrey	Chief Financial Officer
Revai Kinsella	Area Manager (PCWLMB)
Caroline Laburn	Environmental Manager
Kari Nash	Project Delivery Manager
Gareth Oliver	Flood Risk Engineer (PCWLMB)
Matthew Philpot	Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Chief Executive

Pevensey & Cuckmere WLMB
16 June 2026