



Annual Report for the year ended

31 March 2017

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

No later than 18 September 2017 a copy must be provided to:

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Flood Management Division, Area 3C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR via floodreports@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- National Flood and Coastal Risk Manager (Strategic Delivery), The Environment Agency, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH via rachael.hill@environment-agency.gov.uk
- The Chief Executives of:
 - all local authorities that pay special levies to the Board;
 - all County Councils or London Boroughs within which the Board is situated.

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

Please round all cash figures down to nearest whole £.

RIVER STOUR (KENT)

Internal Drainage Board

Section A – Financial information

Preliminary information on special levies issued by the Board for 2017- 18

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

Special levies information for financial year 2017-18 (forecast)	
Name of local authority	2017-18 forecast £
1. ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL	238,053
2. CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL	115,759
3. DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL	69,506
4. SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL	506
5. THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL	82,779
6.	
7.	
8.	
Total	506,603

Section A – Financial information (continued)

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2017

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

	Notes	Year ending 31 March 2017 £
INCOME		
Drainage Rates		X 57,403
Special Levies		X 496,719
Contributions from the Environment Agency		X 48,512
Contributions applied from developers/other beneficiaries		X Nil
Government Grants		X Nil
Rechargeable Works		X 213,758
Interest and Investment Income		X 677
Rents and Acknowledgements		X 8,700
Other Income		X 30,023
Total income		X 855,792
EXPENDITURE		
New Works and Improvement Works		Y Nil
Contributions to the Environment Agency		Y 129,047
Drains Maintenance		Y 249,525
Pumping Stations, Sluices and Water level control structures		Y 47,728
Administration		Y 115,708
Rechargeable Works		Y 193,132
Finance Charges		Y 8,376
SSSIs		Y 16,732
IDB Biodiversity Action Plan actions or other biodiversity activities		Y 6,231
Other Expenditure		Y 18,962
Total expenditure		Y 785,441
EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS		
Profits/(losses) arising from the disposal of fixed assets		Z Nil
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		X-Y+Z 70,351

Notes:

1. Include all other Income, such as absorption account surpluses (for example plant and labour absorption accounts).
2. State the gross cost of undertaking minor capital works that have not been capitalised and the annual depreciation charges of all major schemes that have been capitalised. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the schemes.
3. State the total precept demanded for the year as properly issued by the Environment Agency, in accordance with section 141 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Providing that the precept has been properly issued as before stated it should always be included here, even when the Board has appealed against the amount of contribution, in accordance with section 140 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Where the Board knows with certainty the outcome of any such appeal, it should also include the appropriate accrual/prepayment.
4. State all costs associated with the maintenance of watercourses, meaning work associated with open channels, pipelines, culverts, bridges, etc. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the maintenance programme.
5. State all costs associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures.
6. Include the cost of non-technical staff only, office accommodation, annual depreciation of office equipment that has been capitalised, minor office equipment that has not been capitalised, postages, telecoms', stationery, printing, advertising, auditing of accounts, general insurances and all other costs associated with supporting the organisation. Please note that this does not include support costs, which are directly associated with the delivery of front line services.
7. State all costs associated with undertaking work for third parties. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with undertaking the rechargeable work.
8. Include the cost of servicing any borrowing, in terms of bank/loan/hire purchase Interest payable.
9. State all costs associated with undertaking works – capital or maintenance – specifically for helping to achieve favourable condition on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). In most cases, these costs will be incurred in implementing actions set out in SSSI Water Level Management Plans or SSSI River Restoration Plans.
10. State all costs associated with undertaking works – capital or maintenance – that are intended to help conserve biodiversity (other than works on SSSIs). These costs are likely to be incurred in implementing actions set out in an IDB's Biodiversity Action Plan, but may include other activities.
11. Include all other expenditure, such as a provision for bad/doubtful debts, write-offs, and absorption account deficits (for example plant and labour absorption accounts).

Section B –IDB Reporting

Policy Delivery Statement

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

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

If 'NO', please say why not and when the statement will be produced/revised?:

Please note that the Board's Policy Delivery Statement was due to be reviewed in June 2017. However, an updated Policy template is under development by ADA and Defra, and further guidance is expected shortly. The Board was advised by ADA to reaffirm its existing Policy Statement until the new updated document is made available. Therefore, this Policy Statement was reaffirmed at the Board Meeting on 25 May 2017 with a view to review when further guidance is received.

Information on the National Flood and Coastal Defence Database

The IDB Review Project Board and the Environment Agency have agreed the means to allow data to be stored on the National Flood and Coastal Defence Database or equivalent systems. Boards are required to report on their asset holding and asset condition at the end of 2007/08.

Biodiversity

Please indicate whether your Board has a Biodiversity Action Plan Yes No

If "yes" is the report available to the public..... Yes No

Has your Biodiversity Action Plan been updated in the last five years?..... Yes No

Have you taken all the BAP actions for the financial year, including reporting?..... Yes No

Access to environmental expertise

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

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

The Board has co-opted a Conservation Advisor from Natural England onto the Board, continues to engage an ecological consultant to provide independent specialist advice on IDB activities and also works closely with the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership.

Asset Management

What system/database does your Board use to manage the assets it is responsible for?
(A) ADIS (B) NFCDD (C) Paper Records (D) Other Electronic System (please describe)

Details and conditions of IDB assets were input into ADA's asset management system ADIS, which was compatible with the EA's NFCDD. However, due to the EA moving to AIMS it is understood that ADA is seeking to develop a new system which can interact with the EA's. At present IDB asset conditions are recorded in excel.

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

Guidance and Best Practice

How many Board members (in total – elected and appointed) do you have on your IDB?

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

Has your IDB provided training for members in the last year?

Considered: Yes No

Implemented: Yes No

Please detail:

Half day briefings are provided to all new Members. A Members' Annual Inspection is carried out, to visit and discuss sites within the district (covering a range of relevant interests: flood risk, SuDS, wastewater, biodiversity). A Local Authority Members' Seminar is also provided by the Association of Drainage Authorities.

Immediate Action

Has your IDB adopted minimum website requirements as specified in the IDB Review Implementation Plan? Yes No

Is your Board's website information current for 2015? (Board membership, audited accounts, programmes of works, WLMPS, etc) Yes No

Has your IDB adopted computerised accounting and rating systems, as specified in the IDB Review Implementation Plan? Yes No

Has your Board adopted the following governance documents?

Standing Orders Yes No

Have the Standing Orders been approved by Ministers Yes No

Byelaws Yes No

If you have Byelaws are they Flood and Water Management Act compliant i.e. Written for the purposes of environmental protection?..... Yes No

Have the Byelaws been approved by Ministers Yes No

Code of Conduct for Board Members Yes No

Financial Regulations Yes No

Register of Member's Interests Yes No

Board membership and attendance

Seats available to elected members under the Land Drainage Act 1991.	9
Seats available to appointed members under the Land Drainage Act 1991.	10
Number of elected members on the board at year end.	9
Number of appointed members on the board at year end.	10
Mean average number of elected members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	5.50
Mean average number of appointed members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	7.25

Have you held elections within the last three years?..... Yes No

Did elections comply with the requirements specified by the Secretary of State under Regulation 28 of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938?..... Yes No

Complaints procedure

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

Section C – Declaration

River Stour (Kent)

Internal Drainage Board

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

Signature



Date

10 August 2017

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

P N DOWLING

Designation

Clerk & Engineer to the Board

Email address

pete.dowling@riverstouridb.org.uk