

Operation Service Committee Meeting

Wednesday 5th November 2025

**Lower Severn IDB Office/Hybrid
10:30am**

Operational Service Committee Terms of Reference

Approved on 6th November 2024

Here is a detailed TOR (Terms of Reference) for an Operational Service Committee for LSIDB covering engineering, technology development, delivery, health & safety, and environmental:

1. Purpose	The purpose of the Operational Service Committee is to provide strategic direction and oversight for the operational activities of the LSIDB, with a focus on engineering, technology development, delivery, health & safety, and environmental matters.
2. Membership	The committee shall consist of no fewer than three members of the Board, including the Chair. The committee shall appoint a Chair from among its members.
3. Responsibilities	<p>The committee shall have the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Engineering Oversight: The committee shall oversee LSIDB's engineering activities, including the design and construction of drainage systems, flood risk management, and other infrastructure projects. Equipment replacement schedule to be maintained and approved b. Technology Development: The committee shall oversee LSIDB's technology development activities, including the use of GIS and other technologies to support drainage management and flood risk reduction. c. Delivery Oversight: The committee shall oversee LSIDB's delivery activities, including the management of contractors and other service providers, and the delivery of services to the community. d. Health & Safety: The committee shall oversee LSIDB's health and safety activities, including the development and implementation of policies and procedures to ensure the safety of IDB employees, contractors, and the public. e. Environmental Oversight: The committee shall oversee LSIDB's environmental activities, including the development and implementation of policies and procedures to ensure the protection of the

	environment, and the management of LSIDB's impact on the local ecosystem.
4. Meetings	The committee shall meet at least x2 a year or more frequently as required this is dependent on Organisation priorities and any risk management plans. Meetings shall be chaired by the committee Chair, and actions shall be taken and shared following the meeting alongside committee reports.
5. Reporting	The committee shall report to the Board on its activities and recommendations at each Board meeting.

3 Lower Severn IDB

MISSION STATEMENT

We provide land drainage, flood risk management and surface water management to achieve safe, prosperous communities that enjoy the amenity and biodiversity benefits of the water environment.

Operations Service Committee

Members: Mr M Barnes (Chair), Mr R Godwin (Vice Chair), Mr T Cullimore, Mr J Hore, Mr R Hyslop, Mr J Cornock, Cllr S Phelps, Cllr C Wild

NB The quorum for this meeting is 3 Members

Wednesday 5 November 2025 @ 10.30am, Lower Severn IDB Offices/Hybrid

AGENDA

Committees Terms of Reference are included for Members' information

Item		Page No/Doc.	Lead
1.	Apologies/Welcome		Chair
2.	Declaration of Members' Interest		Chair
3.	Comments on SLT Reports	1 - 9	JD/JT/GT
4.	Updated Operations Asset schedule for the next years	10	JD
5.	Land parcel proposed to be zero rated due to moved sea defence at Aylburton Warth.	11 - 13	JD
6.	Strategic plan objectives for Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demaining (Longdon Brook, Tirley Main Drain)• Pump Replacement Program (current) in the short/medium term 2025-2028	14 – 21 22	JD/JT
7.	Other/New/Update Item which the Chair/CEO/HoOS decide is urgent/to mention	Discussion	MB/GT/JD
8.	Confirmation of new Actions	Discussion	JM
9.	Date of Next Meeting: 8 th April 2026		Chair
10.	Close		Chair

- Any other consideration and comments/questions of an urgent nature shall be notified to the office at least 3 working days before the meeting to enable staff to compile the correct information.
- Any Committee Member unable to attend should arrange a deputy and inform the office prior to the relevant Meeting. If the Committee Member chooses, he/she may instead ask the Officers to contact all the other Members, not on the Committee, in order to recruit a deputy for the meeting.

Lower Severn IDB

MISSION STATEMENT

We provide land drainage, flood risk management and surface water management to achieve safe, prosperous communities that enjoy the amenity and biodiversity benefits of the water environment.

Date: 22/10/2025

Report by: James Thomas – Civil Engineer

1. Programme Board Update

1.1 Health and Safety

There have been no reported incidents to date.

1.2 Site Progress

1.2.1 Lapperditch

The site is now attended multiple times a week by the Civil Engineer who liaises with the Contractors Project Manager daily.

The existing pumps have now been removed from Lapperditch and are currently being stored in LSIDB's yard. The fencing has now been removed, and the building is set for demolition w/c 27th of October.

The weed screens have been removed as well as the landings.

Lapperditch Photos



Overpumping is now being carried out entirely by 3 mobile pumps located on the eastern side of the road, and the delivery pipes are fed through the culvert preventing the need for traffic restrictions.

1.2.2 Marshfield

Pumps have been disconnected and are awaiting removal.

The weed screens have been removed as well as the landings and the building is due for demolition w/c the 27th of October.

Marshfield Photograph



1.3 Surveys

Geotechnical reports are now complete for Lapperditch and Marshfield. Over pumping assessments have been carried out at Wicks Green and Oldbury. There have been challenges identified at Wicks Green regarding over pumping as there is no way to cross the road without excavation however, innovative solutions are being examined and priced to initially allow surveys to be undertaken and then the construction phase programmed for 2026. Asbestos surveys will commence soon at Oldbury on Severn and Wicks Green.

1.4 Design

Nothing to report

1.5 Eel Regulations Compliance

Nothing to report

1.6 Variances

There are no new variances to report this month however, the following table is a list of all variances that have been reported in previous reports.

No	Variance	Cost (£)	Reason	Date	Reported
1	LD Surveys	6558	Bad Weather caused delay	25-Sep	yes
2	MF Surveys	6558	Bad Weather caused delay	25-Sep	yes
3	WG Land	25000	Increase in land price/compensation	25-Sep	yes
4	Elmore MEICA	38764	Original estimate understated	25-Oct	yes
5	WG Survey	18628	Double visit of contractors	25-Oct	yes

2. Consents

See below the consents that have been issued in the last 3 months

Date	Company Name	Works Applied For	Site Address	Action	Reference	
7/24/2025	James Smith	Discharge rainwater from a newbuild single dwelling into existing ditch within property boundary.	Prospect House, Bristol Road, Cambridge, GL2 7BG	Appl Form, Location Plan, Construction details, payment of £50	300725	JT
9/1/2025	Pete Andrews	Culvert a 10m section of Lords Rhyne on the boundary of Malt House and Malthouse Orchard adjacent to a collapsing outbuilding.	Malt House, Longney, Gloucestershire, GL2 SN	Appl Form, Location Plan, Construction Details, Payment of £50	30925	JT
9/18/2025	Julian Edmondson-Canal and Water Trust	Undertake a culvert clean and full inspection of the culvert barrel and the upstream/downstream headwalls	Culvert 10, Spring Ditch	Appl Form, Location Plan, Construction Details, payment of £50	151025	JT
9/18/2025	Julian Edmondson-Canal and Water Trust	Undertake a culvert clean and full inspection of the culvert barrel and the upstream/downstream headwalls	Culvert 13, Parkend	Appl Form, Location Plan, Construction Details, payment of £50	151025	JT
9/25/2025	Vicky Newell-National Grid Electricity Distribution	Installation of new steel pole on edge of rhine	The Common, Olveston, BS35 4DQ	Appl Form, Location Plan, Construction Details, payment of £50	101025	JT

10/3/2025	Sarah Macaulay-Lowe (Public Right of Way)	Proposed new timber bridge	Lapperditch	Appl Form, Location Plan, Construction Details, Await payment of £50	JD happy but await PO to be able to create invoice	JD
10/1/2025	Simon Hames-Bowmer + Kirkland	Connection of new rhine into existing rhine/pond network at Axis, Avonmouth	Rhine at Axis, Avonmouth	Appl Form, Location Plan, Construction Details, Await payment of £50		JT
10/10/2025	Richard Stevens-Balfour Beatty	Install 123m of steel mesh stockproof fencing in accordance with our water vole licence. This installation aims to improve the habitat by preventing the livestock, which regularly use the field, from trampling the banks.	LD127, Avonmouth	Appl Form, Location Plan, Construction Details, Await payment of £50		JT

3. Avonmouth Works

The Civil Engineer and Business Co-Ordinator are currently working with National Grid to review a Development Consent Order for a raft of Land Drainage Consent reviews that were originally consented several years ago. New legislation will permit reasonable costs in terms of staff time to be recovered.

4. Demaining

The Civil Engineer has compiled a report to be discussed at the Operations Services Committee and presented to the Full Board at the AGM.

The report aims to set out the case for de-maining and highlight how the Board could approach it. It sets out some of the financial implications and discusses where in the LSIDB this project would sit from a governance perspective.

5. Heritage Open Day

Following on from the successful event in September two mop up sessions were run in October. Over 30 people attended the sessions and, to the credit of the Communications and Public relations officer four written compliments were received.

Recommendation: That the report be noted.

Lower Severn IDB

MISSION STATEMENT

We provide land drainage, flood risk management and surface water management to achieve safe, prosperous communities that enjoy the amenity and biodiversity benefits of the water environment.

Date: 23/10/2025

Report by: James Druett, Head of Operational Service.

Health and Safety

No near misses or accidents to report.

Mowing and weed cutting programme 2025

Annual maintenance works continue and is progressing well due to the dry ground conditions at many areas across the Boards district and some operators are continuing to take advantage of the additional summer overtime.

Areas where maintenance has been undertaken or continuing are as follows -

- Oldbury
- Shepperdine
- Nupdown
- Avonmouth/Severnside
- Awkley
- Hill
- Epney
- Saul
- Hardwicke
- Whitminster
- Ryalls Lane, Slimbridge
- Gossington
- Westbury on Severn
- Awre

Additional tasks undertaken October 2025:

- Land condition survey at Stroat. Rating query. **Complete**
- Drainage investigations Tockington. **Complete**
- New Excavator delivery workshop mods. **Complete**
- Footpath bridge consent. Epney (ongoing)

Additional tasks to undertake November 2025:

- Continuing working with Jacksons and project board on pump design. Ongoing
- Obtain quotation for aggregate bunker concrete slabs. Ongoing
- Residential development (2750 homes) at Berkeley outline planning consultation with developer. Ongoing
- Works at Wicks green to future IDB land/hedge ditch maintenance.
- Hempsted Drainage investigations (ongoing)
- Land owner possible enforcement action Tockington (ongoing)
- Mobile pump testing/set up
- Generator test/run

Recommendations: That the report be noted.

Lower Severn IDB

MISSION STATEMENT

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Glenn Taute, CEO/RFO

Outcomes to mention October 2025

- Construction work on the Lapperditch pump station renewal has seen the removal of the old pumps and electrical components.
- The new Hitachi excavator has been delivered; this replaces the written off flood damaged machine.
- The second day of the open event at the Oldbury Pump station took place with a lot of interest from the local community.

Financial summary for the September 2025 period

Income Statement:

The income statement for the year to date: -

Lower Severn IDB					
Income Statement	Year to Date	Year to Date			
Sep-25	Actual	Budget	Variance	Variance	Comment
Income	Sep-25	Sep-25	£	%	
Rates and Levies	1,025,276	1,025,329	-53		Land transfers and erosions.
Grant and Fund Income	1,372,566	92,378	1,280,189		Grant 2B; & Foreign Water in - EA, see counter levy cost below
Fees & Recharges	37,681	1,800	35,881		Works recharges, includes Avonmouth development consultation
Other Income	130,573	40,171	90,403		Actuals = Interest(£91k), Ins. Claims/net disposal(£40k)
Total Income	2,566,097	1,159,678	1,406,419		
Expenditure					
Payroll	439,167	452,379	13,212	2.9%	Net of programme allocations. Overtime phasing.
Maintenance	158,093	177,366	19,273	10.9%	A vehicle breakdown repair is pending in the next months
EA Levies	115,762	118,082	2,320	2.0%	Foreign Water out - EA, revenue in Grants above
Travel	14,681	15,450	769	5.0%	Timing re meetings/events/conferences. Board & ADA coming up
Administration	31,924	29,355	-2,569	-8.8%	Insurance and IT licences
Professional Fees	22,728	15,450	-7,278	-47.1%	Includes cost of sales re Avonmouth consultation recharges above
Depreciation	241,197	228,002	-13,196	-5.8%	Forecast reworked
Loan Interest	51,909	51,909	0	0.0%	PWD Loan Interest
Bank Charges	7,381	6,600	-781	-11.8%	
Total Costs	1,082,842	1,094,593	11,751	1.1%	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	1,483,255	65,085			

Balance Sheet:

The balance sheet as at the 30 September 2025: -

Lower Severn IDB				
Balance Sheet	At End	At End	YTD	YTD
Sep-25	March 2025	Sep-25	Change	Comment
Fixed Assets	1,567,854	1,390,392	-177,462	Depreciation and timing of capex
Assets under Construction	2,666,592	2,777,682	111,091	Pump programme WIP, see programme cost report
Total Fixed Assets	4,234,446	4,168,075	-66,371	Net of Additions less Depreciation
Stock +WIP	28,363	39,887	11,524	Stock build to prior year levels
Debtors	-1,016,154	455,661	1,471,815	March 2025 balance includes prepaid rates for 2025/26
Prepaid Expenses	53,214	146,432	93,219	Includes EA foreign water prepayment
VAT	262,664	3,248	-259,416	VAT on Programme expenditure included
Cash at Bank	2,589,773	2,219,758	-370,015	Current Acc balance at month end = £247k, plus deposit reserve
Short Term Deposits	2,676,888	4,245,595	1,568,707	Deposits for pump programme ex grant funding, money mkt, call, treasu
Current Assets	4,594,749	7,110,581	2,515,833	
Creditors	919,726	821,305	-98,422	Expenses on account with vendors. Pump programme vendor balances
Accrued Expenses	75,463	164,761	89,299	Includes EA foreign water accrual
Prepaid Revenue Rates	0	1,025,329	1,025,329	Revenue recognition phasing adjustment, will be zero at year end
Current Liabilities	995,189	2,011,395	1,016,206	
Net Current Assets	3,599,560	5,099,186	1,499,626	
Long Term Liabilities	2,000,000	1,950,000	-50,000	Public Works Loan, first repayment made in June 2025
Long Term Assets - Pension	2,616,000	2,616,000	0	LGPF actuarial valuation at 31 March 2025, counter entry below.
	8,450,006	9,933,261	1,483,255	
Capital & Accumulated Reserve	3,219,918	5,641,923		Brought Forward from prior year
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)	2,422,004	1,483,255		Surplus in the year from grants received.
Pension Reserve	2,616,000	2,616,000		See counter above.
Revaluation Reserve	192,083	192,083		As per property valuation March 2024.
	8,450,006	9,933,261		

Pump Station Investment Programme Cost Report

The following pump replacement programme report to the end of September 2025 illustrates the actual cost breakdown for the life of the programme so far, from its beginning of 2023; and compared to the programme budget with a spend to date %.

Lower Severn IDB							
Programme Financial Report		Sep-25					
Project Life to date £							
Investment Description	Lapperditch	Marshfield	Wicks Green	Oldbury	Elmore Back	Total	Comment
Pre-contract	110,221	110,221	57,975	57,975	0	336,393	Pre contract costs to 11/24, Feas./Bus. Case/Prep.
Contractor : Construction	435,982	424,130	0	0	0	860,111	Contract costs with Jacksons from 12/24
- Design and Professional Services	228,720	218,031	0	0	0	446,750	First main step pre construction
- Preliminaries and Site Set Up	67,027	66,921	0	0	0	133,948	Site set up and management over construction phase
- Civils Works	11,174	9,500	0	0	0	20,674	Demolish old, concrete work, landscaping
- Weed Screen & Other Steelwork	0	0	0	0	0	0	Weedscreen purchase and installation, training/manuals
- Eel Pass	27,962	25,462	0	0	0	53,424	Eel pass supply and installation, building work and peripherals
- Pump Installation	7,892	11,010	0	0	0	18,902	ACE pump planning and installation support
- Mech., Elect., Instru., Control, Auto.	83,981	83,981	0	0	0	167,962	Kiosk, electrical controls, telemetry, training/manuals
- Contractor Sundries	9,225	9,225	0	0	0	18,450	
Contract Management	19,557	19,557	0	0	0	39,115	project mgmt/designated engineer/contract admin. Motion
LSIDB Cost Allocation	181,298	181,298	67,857	39,436	0	469,889	Programme team time allocated to project investment
Pumps	95,275	247,295	301,020	428,940	0	1,072,530	ACE pumps
Laydown Site	402	402	0	0	0	805	Contractor offices and storage for the works of LD/MF/WG
Totals	842,736	982,904	426,852	526,351	0	2,778,843	
Approved Budget						9,910,000	
% spent life to date vs budget						28%	
Current Pump Construction Costs vs Budget							
	Lapperditch	Lapperditch	Lapperditch	Marshfield	Marshfield	Marshfield	
	Life Time	Approved	Cost to Date	Life Time	Approved	Cost to Date	Comment
	Cost to Date	Full Budget	vs Full Budget	Cost to Date	Full Budget	vs Full Budget	
	£	£	%	£	£	%	
Pre-contract	110,221	102,799	107%	110,221	102,799	107%	Pre contract costs to 11/24, Feas./Bus. Case/Prep.
Contractor : Construction	435,982	1,442,000	30%	424,130	1,468,000	29%	Contract costs with Jacksons from 12/24
- Design and Professional Services	228,720	295,270	77%	218,031	282,384	77%	First main step pre construction
- Preliminaries and Site Set Up	67,027	284,459	24%	66,921	283,063	24%	Site set up and management over construction phase
- Civils Works	11,174	278,710	4%	9,500	241,370	4%	Demolish old, concrete work, landscaping
- Weed Screen & Other Steelwork	0	192,513	0%	0	191,506	0%	Weedscreen purchase and installation, training/manuals
- Eel Pass	27,962	84,202	33%	25,462	88,234	29%	Eel pass supply and installation, building work and peripherals
- Pump Installation	7,892	55,384	14%	11,010	77,265	14%	ACE pump planning and installation support
- Mech., Elect., Instru., Control, Auto.	83,981	223,293	38%	83,981	223,293	38%	Kiosk, electrical controls, telemetry, training/manuals
- Contractor Sundries	9,225	28,170	33%	9,225	80,887	11%	Surveys and NI addition, MF has more surveys
Contract Management	19,557	33,673	58%	19,557	33,673	58%	project mgmt/designated engineer/contract admin. Motion
LSIDB Cost Allocation	181,298	230,798	79%	181,298	230,798	79%	Programme team time allocated to project investment
Pumps	95,275	95,275	100%	247,295	247,295	100%	ACE pumps
Sheet Piling	0	76,000		0	76,000		Sheet piling reinforcement
Laydown Site	402	8,132	5%	402	8,132	5%	Contractor offices and storage for the works of LD/MF/WG
Totals	842,736	1,988,678	42%	982,904	2,166,698	45%	

Recommendation: That the report be noted.

Lower Severn IDB

Capital Expenditure - Operations Asset Replacements and Additions

Forecast 2025 plus 7 Years

		Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
		Actual	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	Years ending 31 March	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
<u>Operations - Plant, Vehicles, Buildings</u>										
Water Level Monitoring Equipment										
Excavator Kobelco SK140	Excavator WX73	105,000							190,000	
Isuzu D-Max	4x4 Truck WU73	33,462						48,000		
Energreen SPV3	Energreen VX72 FUW							294,000		
Energreen SPV2	Energreen VX24 HTA		223,967							350,000
Energreen SPV2	Energreen WX20 FGM					317,000				
Isuzu D-Max	4x4 Truck WN24		30,657						50,000	
Loadall/Material Handler	Merlo WX08 OSY									
Claas Tractor/Mower	Claas 650 OU21 BXW						270,000			
New Holland Tractor	Tractor VX05 OGT									
Hitachi Excavator	Excavator NL21 CHG		142,568							210,000
Hyundai Excavator	Excavator WX12 CWL					165,000				
JCB Wheeled Excavator	JCB WV19 FUU						140,000			
OB Pump Rebuild	Oldbury pump		33,310							
Aircon Units in Office	To replaced failed A/C units		3,240	3,000						
Small assets for Operations	Chainsaws, trimmers etc		16,233							
Yard and Bunker surfacing and replacement	At the workshop			25,000	25,000					
Storage area	at Waterside, dry store			25,000						
Generator	To support risk of outages		46,659							
Mobile Pump	Risk of outages & hi water			92,000						
New DRS upgrade	Replace unsupported version			10,000						
Additional Land WG	For pump replacement space			115,000						
Other	Office var. replace/upgrade	13,039	1,915	5,200	5,408	5,624	5,849	6,083	6,327	6,580
Operational - Plant and Vehicles		151,501	498,549	275,200	30,408	487,624	415,849	348,083	246,327	566,580

Aylburton Warth – Managed realignment of E.A flood defences.

1. Introduction

Approximately 22 years ago the Environment Agency upgraded the sea defences from the south of Lydney to Plusterwine to help protect the railway, farmland and some residential/industrial areas to the south of Lydney.

At the time the Board was involved with consenting some of the works due to numerous new outfall structures along the length of the defence.

At the far south of the scheme the Environment Agency moved the flood defences inland away from the original line of defence and tied into higher ground close to Plusterwine level crossing.

(See plan)

2. Environment Agency

The Environment Agency have since purchased the land (Approx 2010) from 2 landowners to create an intertidal habitat and since then the ground conditions have progressively changed due to frequent saltwater inundation.

The landowners are still able to graze the land at certain times of the year and pay a peppercorn rent to the E.A.

3. Drainage Board maintenance.

Over the years during this transformative period the IDB have carried out some maintenance at the request from the landowners however the benefit of any work in the area is limited. Channels soon become heavily silted as the tide has free flow upstream to the new outfalls.

The ground conditions can become very wet and now the constant inundation is causing the water to find its way into the old under drainage system and cause further damage.

4. Conclusion

One of the Landowners has raised the issue several times historically and drainage rates have been reduced.

However, as the land no longer has any protection from the tide and the ground continues to revert to its natural state the HoOs has concluded that continuing to carry out maintenance at this location is not viable.

As no benefit is received then the land should be zero rated.

There are proposals that defences will be removed further north at Awre as the Wildfowl and wetlands trust propose to create additional salt marsh on land that they now own. This will need to be looked at similarly.

5. Recommendations

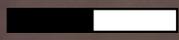
The Committee should zero rate the land (see plan) with a view to zero rating at Awre in the future.

The Board conducts a boundary review every 5 years.

Plusterwine Managed Re-Alignment



0 250 500 m



0 2.5 5 km



Strategic Plan for the LSIDB – DRAFT Outline at September 2025

Mission statement, vision, goals, principles & strategic objectives

Mission

To provide land drainage, flood risk management and surface water management that enables communities to thrive and enjoy the amenity and biodiversity benefits of the water environment.

Vision

LSIDB significantly contributes towards the sustainable management of the Lower Severn IDB's area with special drainage needs. Our vision is to deliver an efficient, cost-effective service and be recognised as key participants of the FCERM (Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management) community providing exemplary water level management within the areas we serve and assisting all our partners.

Strategic Goals

- Reduce the risk to people, property, agricultural and developed infrastructure and the natural environment by providing and maintaining technically, environmentally and economically sustainable flood management and defences within our areas
- Become the preferred local delivery partner of choice for all flood risk management services in our watershed catchment areas, by working closely with other Flood Risk Management Authorities, partners and stakeholders
- Enable and facilitate land use for residential, agricultural, commercial, recreational and environmental purposes in our areas by guiding and regulating activities that would otherwise increase flood risk

Guiding Principles

- Be recognised as a competent FCERM authority
- Play a full part in local partnerships
- Have a distinct role working with other relevant authorities
- As a regulatory body we Strive to become 'The benchmark delivery partner' of choice for Lead Local Flood Authorities and partners
- Build capacity and adjust to deal with new challenges
- Leading example in sustainable service operations and our proactive adaption to climate change impacts

The strategic plan is proposed to include: -

- being in line with our current broad statements in the mission, goals, and principles
- preparing a situational analysis of the board
- establishing goals (broad overarching outcomes)
- setting objectives to support goals
- action plans to realise objectives
- timelines
 - o short term 1-year
 - o medium term 2-5 years
 - o long term 5-10 years

The following draft objectives are put forward for deliberation and approval: -

- Possible additional pump stations in the long term 2030-2035 – e.g. at Frampton. An assessment to be undertaken in the short/medium term to determine the possibilities in the boards area.
- Environment/Biodiversity – ponds, environmental re flora & fauna and expertise development, cooperation with associated parties, long term evolution
- Pump Replacement Program(current) in the short/medium term 2025-2028
- Workshop, yard, office improvements short-medium-long term, storage for generator/mobile pump/other for 2026/27
- The existing schedule of machinery replacement long term
- 50 years very long-term risk analysis for the IDB - internal factors: culture, resources, structure, and capabilities; external factors: political, economic, social, technological, legal, and environmental influences
- Long term Cash Build forecasting and reporting so as to support possible future investments in the plan
- Board member numbers, current proposal and consideration regarding the unitary authority mergers
- Demaining project for the Longdon Brook River within the boards area. The other two possible rivers would be the Tirley Main Drain & the Wicksters and Capehall Brook
- Other developments such as SUDS work being allocated to IDBs, to be considered as and when these may occur
- Other..... ?

Lower Severn IDB

MISSION STATEMENT

We provide land drainage, flood risk management and surface water management to achieve safe, prosperous communities that enjoy the amenity and biodiversity benefits of the water environment.

Date: 09/10/2025

Report by: James Thomas – Civil Engineer

De-maining – Maintenance in the Lower Severn IDB Area

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a case for de-maining. De-maining forms part of LSIDB's wider strategy of ongoing review of its maintenance activities and boundaries. The report sets out the legal and procedural framework that the LSIDB will be required to work within. Financing is addressed however; further work will be required for budgetary and future financing to be adequately assessed. The report makes recommendations on which Main Rivers should be assessed and where this project should sit within the Boards governance arrangements.

2. Introduction

De-maining refers to the process of reclassifying a section of a river from a main river to an ordinary watercourse. This change affects which authority is responsible for managing flood risk and maintaining the watercourse. The Environment Agency (EA) oversees main rivers, while Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) and Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) manage ordinary watercourses.

3. Background and Legal Framework

Main rivers are designated by the EA and are typically larger watercourses with significant flood risk. For example, adjacent the Lower Severn IDB (LSIDB) area the River Severn is, along with a few other watercourses classified as main river. Watercourses not designated main rivers are defined as ordinary watercourses.

The Water Resources Act 1991 and the Water Act 2014 provide the legal basis for designation and de-maining. Historically some of the ordinary watercourses within IDB districts were designated main river by the EA in the early 2000's under a programme called COWS (Critical Ordinary Watercourses). Many of these watercourses were then classified by the EA as low-risk systems and as time progressed began to receive limited funding.

In the context of this report low risk means that there is limited risk of property flooding because of the maintenance condition of the watercourse categorised.

4. Rationale for De-maining

The LSIDB should consider an application for de-maining when one or more of the following factors are met.

- A watercourse has low flood risk to people and property.
- LSIDB is better placed to manage the watercourse.
- The EA no longer considers any benefit to managing the main river
- Maintenance by the EA is infrequent or minimal and LSIDB can provide better service.

5. The De-maining Process

In simple terms the process of de-maining would be that LSIDB make a formal application to the EA who then hold a 4-6 week period of consultation. If the EA is satisfied with the competence of LSIDB and consultation comments are generally favourable, then the Main River in question will have its designation removed and will be legally defined as an Ordinary Watercourse.

Whilst LSIDB can undertake informal consultation and interaction with stakeholders the formal, legal process of consultation is ultimately the responsibility of the Environment Agency.

The LSIDB will be required, where appropriate, to assess the area in terms of flood risk and environmental impact of the LSIDB's activities. The LSIDB will also be required to demonstrate its operational and management capacity to undertake works of this nature.

6. Impacts of De-maining

There will be several impacts of de-maining and the increased frequency and quality of maintenance.

These impacts should be aimed at providing positive benefits for all stakeholders.

There may be competing desires for different stakeholders and the aim of the LSIDB should be to improve the conditions for all users of the catchments. This does not mean draining the water levels of the area to the detriment of people trying to achieve higher water levels but also does not mean flooding areas for prolonged periods of time and at inappropriate periods.

There will clearly be a financial impact to the LSIDB. The plan for this will be detailed further in the report under financing.

The LSIDB needs to be acutely aware of the environmental impacts of its activities if it wishes to be successful in its aim to de-main the suggested main rivers.

Whilst the LSIDB generally has a good reputation locally in terms of its activities an awareness is needed of the impacts of the nature of the work undertaken. In short, whilst we value our work, others may take a different view.

7. Lower Severn IDB Main Rivers

There are multiple main rivers with the IDB district totalling 137km in length. The River Severn is not included within this figure as the Board's area abuts but does include it.

These watercourses which are legally defined as main rivers are currently under the jurisdiction of the EA. This report is intended as a course of action to describe which watercourses could, in a practice, be transferred to the jurisdiction of the LISDB.

8. Financing

There are several aspects to the financing of a de-maining application. These are detailed below:

8.1 Ongoing Maintenance

One option is to expand the boards operational capacity and to examine opportunities to expand the boards operations in other areas. This can be financed in several ways and can be the subject of further reports should the LSIDB wish to explore this option.

8.2 Initial Application Expenses

Surveys will be required in a variety of disciplines. A consultation to engage with stakeholders will also be needed to gain the views and hopefully support of all interested parties.

8.3 Future Capital Expenditure

To progress with an application, the LSIDB may need to commit to capital expenditure to meet the obligations of any agreements entered.

Financing will be sought from the EA in all forms from maintenance to capital requirements for structures. A potential option which may be acceptable to LSIDB and the EA would be to amend the precept.

There will be opportunities for grant funding through both the Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGIA) for capital expenditure and Local Levy (LL) for both capital expenditure and the initial application expenses.

If the LSIDB can demonstrate benefits to other stakeholders such as wildlife trusts and Natural England, they may wish to contribute to schemes which in turn will assist with any FDGIA and LL applications through the partnership funding process.

9. Governance

It is recommended that the Board use the existing governance structure developed in the Programme Board (PB). The PB have demonstrated its ability to deliver projects on behalf of the Board and the systems developed by the PB will naturally lend themselves to an activity such as de-maining.

10. The Future

Should any application be successful then the IDB needs to implement a balanced plan that meets the needs of all stakeholders within the area while prioritising the need for flood protection to property. Water Level Management Plans should be developed and implemented that will receive support from all interested parties. These plans will have specific goals that can be achieved within a defined timescale.

11. Conclusion

De-maining is possible within the LSIDB existing financial and operational framework and, there may be benefits to large areas of the LSIDB area. If the LSIDB wishes to proceed with this process a more detailed analysis would be required of the areas listed in the recommendations.

Usually, it would be prudent to apply a selection criteria to all the main Rivers within the Board's district however, this is unnecessary in this instance given the local knowledge of the practicalities. Realistically there are only 2 Main Rivers that could be considered for de-maining. The River Leadon has been considered previously by the Board and rejected, and the remaining rivers would require boundary changes to the Boards district.

12. Recommendations

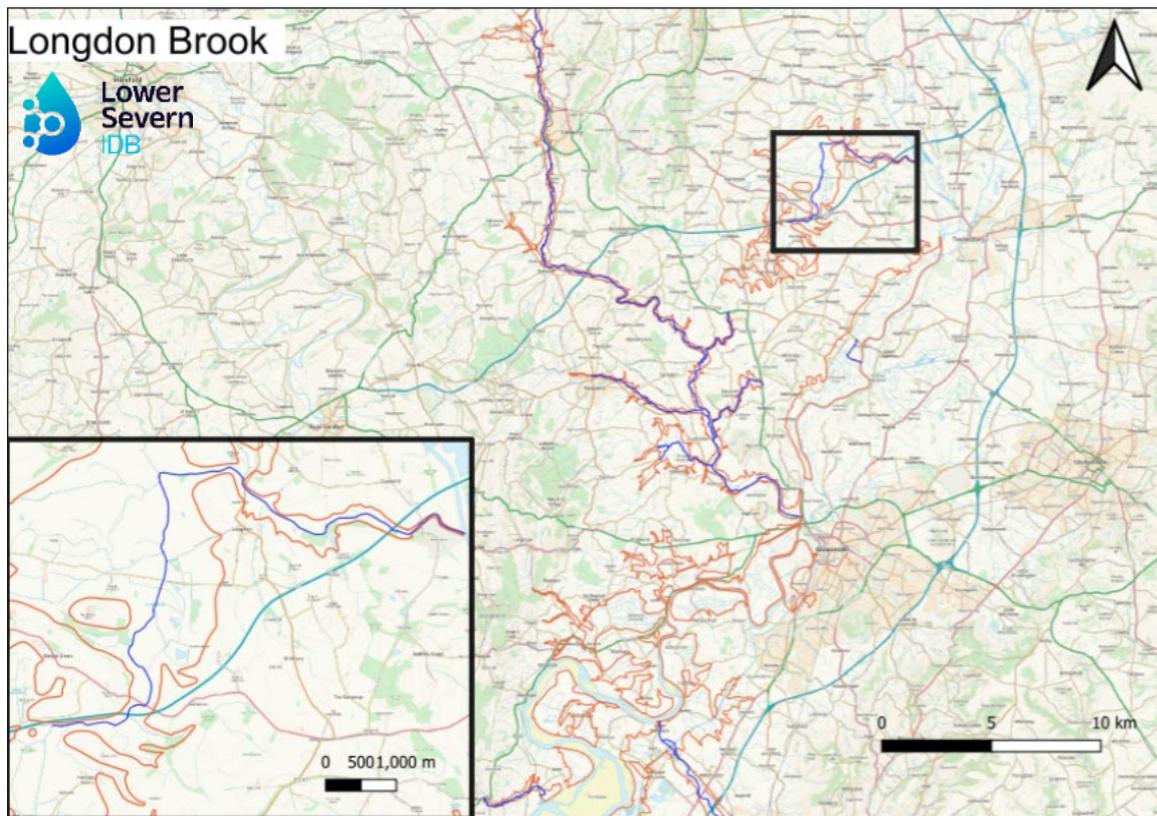
Should the LSIDB wish to progress with potential de-maining it is the recommendation of the Civil Engineer that the following table of main rivers be investigated to see if it is feasible.

Main River	Length (km)	Boards area of benefit (ha)
Longdon Brook	10.36	1661
Tirley Main Drain	1.62	335

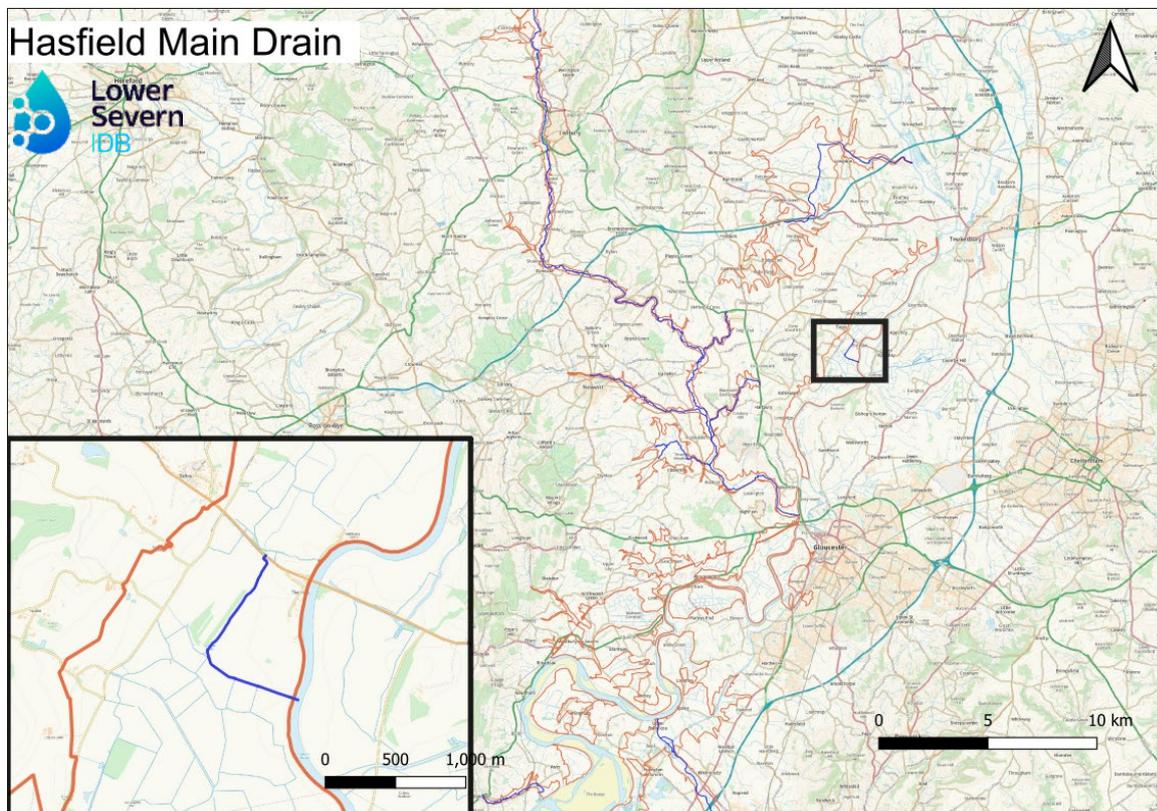
The Board empowers the Programme Board to undertake the investigation and produce a plan to facilitate the de-maining of the Main Rivers above.

Appendix 1 Map of Proposed Main Rivers

Longdon Brook



Hasfield Main Drain



L S I D B Machinery Replacement Programme

7000hrs/7 years Machinery
6 year 4x4

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35		
Tractor / mowers																							
P Robbins	Class Arion 650 WX14 LGO							Class Arion 650															
	Bomford Eagle							Bomford Eagle															
M Grey		Spearhead SPV2 VX65 HTA									Spearhead SPV2										SPV 2		
M Lacey		sold TSA 115 via Ebay					Spearhead SPV2								SPV 2								
Yard		MF loader 398	Merlo Loadall WX08 OSY												Merlo Loadall WX08								
SPARE Energreen	New Holland TM 120 VX05	Claas Ares 697						Claas Arion 650 WX14 LGO	Sold WX14		Spearhead SPV2				SPV 2								
	Bomford B81	Noremat 83 MAGISTRA						Bomford Eagle															
SPARE Tractor																							
Excavators																							
N Gardner				Kobelco WU16 T2M							Kobelco											Kobelco	
S Watkins	Kobelco 135 WO14 OEY							Hitachi ZX135							Hitachi ZX135 due to Insurance							Hitachi ZX135	
Damian Smith				Wheeled New Holland WX09 FYF		Defer year. 1	Wheeled JCB Hydradig															Wheeled JCB Hydradig	
I Waine											Spearhead SPV3 VX72 FUW											SPV 3	
Damian Smith				Hyundai WX12 CWL				Hyundai WX12 CWL														Hyundai WX12 CWL	
Landrovers																							
Foreman				Isuzu wu17							Isuzu WU73												
Mechanic					Ford wp18																		
Spare							WN03 NVK																
Spare				OV57 FPK			VN62 RPY				Isuzu WU17												
							sold OV57				sold WN03												
											sold VN62												