

## WITHAM AND HUMBER DRAINAGE BOARDS

*Four independent statutory Land Drainage and Flood Risk Management Authorities working in partnership.*

*Witham House, J1 The Point, Weaver Road, Lincoln LN6 3QN Tel: 01522 697123*



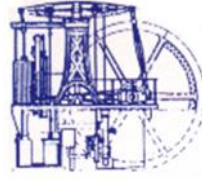
Witham First District IDB

[www.witham-1st-idb.gov.uk](http://www.witham-1st-idb.gov.uk)



Upper Witham IDB

[www.upperwitham-idb.gov.uk](http://www.upperwitham-idb.gov.uk)



Witham Third District

[www.witham3idb.gov.uk](http://www.witham3idb.gov.uk)



North East Lindsey

[www.northeastlindsey-idb.org.uk](http://www.northeastlindsey-idb.org.uk)

## RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

- 1 In all types of undertaking, there is the potential for events and consequences that may either be opportunities for benefit or threats to success. Internal Drainage Boards are no different and risk management is increasingly recognised as being central to their strategic management. It is a process whereby Internal Drainage Boards methodically address the risks associated with what they do and the services which they provide. The focus of good risk management is to identify what can go wrong and take steps to avoid this, or successfully manage the consequences.
- 2 Risk management is not just about financial management; it is about achieving the objectives of the organisation to deliver high quality public services.
- 3 The failure to manage risks effectively can be expensive in terms of litigation and reputation, the ability to achieve desired targets, and, eventually, impact on the level of the Drainage Rates and Special Levies charged.
- 4 Internal Drainage Boards need to keep under review and, if need be, strengthen their own corporate governance arrangements, thereby improving their stewardship of public funds and providing positive and continuing assurance to ratepayers and Councils paying Special Levies. The Boards already look at risk as part of their day to day activities but there is now a need to look at, adapt, improve where necessary and document existing processes.
- 5 The current practice to carry out maintenance works on the Environment Agency's main rivers via the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA) introduces increased risks to the Boards but will also bring ongoing benefits. It is this benefit that has to be assessed against the likely additional risks.
- 6 The Board is ultimately responsible for risk management because risks threaten the achievement of policy objectives. As a minimum, the Board should, at least once each year:
  - 6.1 take steps to identify and update key risks facing the Board;
  - 6.2 evaluate the potential consequences to the Board if an event identified as a risk takes place; and
  - 6.3 decide upon appropriate measures to avoid, reduce or control the risk or its consequences.

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- 7 This Risk Management Policy is designed to be a living document which will be continually updated when new risks are identified or when existing risks change. The assessment of potential impact will be classified as high, medium or low. At the same time it will assess how likely a risk is to occur and this will enable the individual Board to decide which risks it should pay most attention to when considering what measures to take to manage the risks. After identifying and evaluating risks the responsible officer will need to decide upon appropriate measures to take in order to avoid, reduce or control the risks or their consequence.