APPENDIX A

MEMBERSHIP OF INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

To: Resources and Finance Committee

Date: 29 March 2018

Author: Chief Executive and Democratic Services Officer (JM)

[S271]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 Representation on Internal Drainage Boards.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Council are requested to:-

(i) appoint members to the existing vacancies on the Internal Drainage Boards as detailed in Appendix 1 specifically;

Cawdle Fen	Councillor Hobbs
Middle Fen and Mere	Councillor Goldsack Councillor Sennitt
Swaffham	Councillor Sharp Councillor Brown

(ii) appoint 'lead' members to the Internal Drainage Boards as detailed in Appendix 1.

(iii) (in the event of any vacancies unfilled), instruct the Chief Executive to write to the relevant Parish Councils to seek nominations to the Internal Drainage Boards and report back to the Committee.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Internal Drainage Boards (IDB) are public bodies that manage water levels in the some areas where there is a special need for drainage. IDB's undertake works to reduce flood risk to people and property and manage levels for agricultural and environmental needs.

3.2 IDB's are funded in two main ways: drainage rates levied on farmland owners and special levies in District and Unitary councils. The latter is a district cost to the Council and is funded from the general income of the Council i.e. Government Grant (including NNDR) income and/or Council Tax.

3.3 The Council currently appoints representatives to each of the IDB's within or part of an area. The current representation and vacancies are listed in Appendix 1.

4.0 ARGUMENT/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Representation from local authorities is important not only in terms of representing and protecting interests of their local constituents and communities, but having an oversight of the efficiency and spending plans of each IDB. Most local authorities find it challenging to find councillors to sit on IDB's with the commitment and time and the necessary expertise.

4.2 Council appointed members on IDB's are not restricted to elected councillors and the Council has the right to appoint anyone of its choice to sit on the board of an IDB.

4.3 It is proposed to invite nominations from Council to serve on IDB's with an existing vacancy and in the case of outstanding vacancies, seek nominations from Parish Councils (where relevant).

4.4 In addition, given the importance of IDB's as outlined in para 4.1 and the Council's agreed motion (ref Council 22 February Agenda Item 7), it would be appropriate to appoint a lead member for each IDB to ensure effective representation and report back to the Committee and the wider membership.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The financial importance of IDB's are outlined in paragraph 3.2.

6.0 APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Membership of Internal Drainage Boards

Background Documents	**Location**	**Contact Officer**
Council 22 February 2018 Agenda Item 7	Room No 103 The Grange Ely	John Hill Chief Executive (01353) 616274 E-mail: john.hill@eastcambs.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1 – MEMBERSHIP OF INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

BURNT FEN	Councillor Beckett Councillor Huffer
CAWDLE FEN	Councillor Rouse Vacancy Councillor Richard Hobbs (TBC) Vacancy Vacancy Vacancy Vacancy Vacancy
LITTLEPORT AND DOWNHAM	Councillor Christine Ambrose-Smith Councillor David Ambrose-Smith Councillor Bradley Councillor Cox Councillor Rouse Councillor Webber
MIDDLE FEN AND MERE	Councillor Beckett Councillor Bovingdon Councillor Morris Vacancy Councillor Goldsack (TBC) Vacancy Councillor Sennitt (TBC)
PADNAL AND WATERDEN	Councillor David Ambrose-Smith Councillor Cox Councillor Edwards Councillor Every Vacancy Vacancy Vacancy
SWAFFHAM	Councillor Edwards Vacancy Councillor Sharp (TBC) Vacancy Councillor Brown (TBC) Vacancy
WATERBEACH LEVEL	Councillor Chaplin
HADDENHAM LEVEL	Councillor Cheetham Councillor Smith