Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs)
Are independent local public bodies

As a Fenland District Councillor, I and many other FDC Councillors, are invited to sit/attend local IDB's. In my case I only attend the Whittlesey District IDB along with 3 other Whittlesey Councillors (Cllr's Laws, Miscandlon and Branton).



There are 58 Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) operating across the wider **Fens** region

Because drainage boundaries follow natural water catchments rather than local council borders, the exact count varies depending on whether you mean the broader geographical Fens or the local **Fenland District** council area:

Fenland District Council Area. Most of the district falls under the Middle Level Commissioners and their constituent boards, while the northern parts around Wisbech and Whittlesey border or overlap with boards like the North Level District Internal Drainage Board and the Hundreds of Wisbech IDB. According to Fenland District Council, the local authority makes well over 100 statutory councillor nominations across the numerous IDBs intersecting its boundaries.

Independent Public Bodies. Each IDB is an independent, locally funded statutory authority governed by elected agricultural ratepayers and council-appointed members.

At this weeks meeting at the Falcon in Whittlesey myself and Cllr Laws attended.

I have attached for information the agenda, and it can be seen that there is a serious amount of income and expenditure involved in keeping our drains and waterways safe and flood free along with other agencies.

One question I asked under 'any other business' – To what effect will the new proposed Chatteris Reservoir have on local farmers and local IDB's.. the answer was alarming….
The reservoir will have serious implications to farming communities, as the management of the reservoir will prioritise water available…. farmers will be at the bottom of the list…..this in turn will have effects on when and how irrigation will be prioritised.