



Representing Drainage
Water Level & Flood Risk
Management Authorities

Rural Innovation Centre, Avenue H,
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
Telephone: +44 (0) 2476 992889
Email: admin@ada.org.uk
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ELECTION OF ADA DIRECTOR REPRESENTING LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS - 2025

CANDIDATE SUPPORTING STATEMENTS & VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Summary

ADA's memorandum & articles of incorporation states that Local Authorities that are full members of ADA can nominate an individual from one of those Authorities to sit on ADA's Board of Directors to represent their membership interests.

The articles also state that the term of office is for a period of three years and that an appointee may serve up to three consecutive terms of three years, subject to a process of re-nomination or election every three years.

The current post holder has completed a three-year period and all Local Authority members have been asked to consider who they wish to hold the post as their representative for the next three year period.

ADA has received notice of three proposed candidates and to establish which one will take up the post, a simple ballot of ADA's Local Authority Members will take place and the candidate with a simple majority vote will become the Local Authority Members' representative Director for the next three years.

Voting Instructions

1. Candidate information can be found on the next two pages. **There are three candidates.**
2. Each Local Authority that is a fully paid-up member of ADA is entitled to one vote per Authority.
3. Votes must be made by sending an e-mail directly to ADA's Chief Executive at **innes.thomson@ada.org.uk** indicating the Local Authority's preference for Candidate 1, 2 or 3.
4. E-mail votes must be received into the ADA Chief Executive's e-mail account no later than 12 noon on Friday, 6th June 2025.
5. Votes received will be reported to and scrutinised by ADA's Advisory Committee which convenes on 10th June 2025.
6. In the case of a draw, ADA's Chairman will have the casting vote.
7. Candidates will be notified of the result immediately after the Advisory Committee meeting.
8. The successful candidate will be invited to attend the next ADA Board meeting which is scheduled to take place on 1st July 2025 in London.
9. Any concerns or complaints about this voting process should be addressed in writing to ADA's Chairman, Robert Caudwell, at ADA, Rural Innovation Centre, Avenue H, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

PLEASE PROCEED TO NEXT PAGES FOR CANDIDATE INFORMATION



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CANDIDATE 1

NAME: COUNCILLOR MIKE STANTON



CURRENT JOB ROLE(S): Chair, Somerset Rivers Authority & elected councillor to Somerset Council

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

IDB I've been a member of the Parrett IDB for the past three years, and I was a member of the Board in 2019-20; I also serve on its Finance & Works Committee.

SOMERSET RIVERS AUTHORITY (SRA): I've been its Chair for the past three years, and a member since mid-2019; it is a partnership between the EA, two IDBs, Natural England, Wessex Water, Wessex RF&CC & Somerset Council which makes grants for flood prevention, alleviation & resilience development.

SOMERSET COUNCIL: I was elected to this newly-created Unitary Authority in May 2022, before which I had been an elected member of South Somerset District Council since May 2019.

EXPERIENCE & KNOWLEDGE: I became interested in hydrology and flooding when living 4 metres below sea level in The Netherlands 2008-2013. Six years of active involvement in water level management, in flood, drought and 'normal' times has provided me with a good level of knowledge, although I still have much to learn. Somerset has both wetlands (The Levels & Moors) & hills (Mendips, Quantocks). My earlier career in Human Resources included industrial relations, leadership development, workforce planning and training for Rolls-Royce Aero Engines then as a management consultant for PwC (Partner) then Hay Group as a Director.

VIEWS, POLITICS & PERSONAL: I support renaming our drainage boards as water management authorities, because optimal water level management is what we really do. I am a member of the Liberal Democrats; I will not be standing for re-election in 2027. I am married, with two children and five grandchildren.



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CANDIDATE 2

NAME: COUNCILLOR PAUL REDGATE



CURRENT JOB ROLE(S): Chair of the LGA Special Interest Group for IDBs and Deputy Leader of South Holland District Council.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Deputy Leader & Finance Portfolio Holder • **South Holland District Council**
Chairman • **Special Interest Group for Internal Drainage Board Levies**
Board Member • **South Holland Internal Drainage Board**
LGA Representative • **Economy & Resource Board, LGA**
Council Representative • **Finance & Investment DCN**

COMMUNICATION

Aspiring to support and lead ADA with strategic vision and unwavering commitment to strengthening local authority partnerships. Passionate about driving positive change, fostering collaboration, and ensuring ADA remains a cornerstone of support for local government. Committed to providing a voice internally and externally for Local Authorities.

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dynamic leader with a passion for the work undertaken by ADA and local Drainage Boards. Proven ability to implement impactful initiatives that enhance local authority effectiveness. Adept at navigating complex challenges, fostering relationships, and delivering sustainable solutions that



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benefit communities. Furthermore, representing local authorities on the Special Interest Group for Internal Drainage Board Levies I have fostered a close relationship with ADA and the unwavering work they undertake given the ever-growing challenges. Also a good in-depth knowledge of IDB's and the challenges they face.

KEY OFFERINGS TO ADA'S LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

- 📌 **Strategic Leadership:** Bringing forward-thinking strategies to strengthen ADA's role as an advocate and resource for local authorities and Drainage Boards.
- 📌 **Policy Innovation:** Identifying key challenges and developing solutions that align with evolving local needs.
- 📌 **Stakeholder Engagement:** Building robust partnerships with local leaders, ensuring ADA serves as a trusted ally in decision-making throughout all its interactions.
- 📌 **Operational Excellence:** Streamlining processes to maximize efficiency, ensuring ADA delivers high-impact services and support.
- 📌 **Advocacy & Representation:** Championing local authorities' interests on a regional and national scale, reinforcing their influence.

KEY SKILLS

Leadership, Policy Development, Public Affairs, Listening

CANDIDATE 3

NAME: COUNCILLOR TOM ASHTON



CURRENT JOB ROLE(S): East Lindsey District Council, Portfolio holder for Planning

ADA – representing drainage, water level and flood risk management authorities

Member of EUWMA- the European Union of Water Management Associations

ADA is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England No 8948603



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SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

I am applying for the role of Local Authority ADA Director with a long-standing and wide-ranging record in flood risk and water management at local, regional, and national levels. I offer a combination of political leadership, technical understanding, and partnership experience, underpinned by long service on the Anglian (Northern) RFCC, four Lincolnshire IDBs, and ten years in local government as both a District and County Councillor specialising in Planning, Built Environment, and Flood Risk and Water Management.

Consequently I have a uniquely comprehensive understanding of the flood risk and water management sector and how this interacts with all levels of local and national government, and a proven ability to work constructively and collaboratively across the Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authorities, IDBs, and other strategic partners.

As Chairman of Lincolnshire County Council's Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee, I led the Council's investigation and report into the impacts of Storms Babet and Henk, and represented on the Special Levies SIG. I have represented East Lindsey District Council at ADA since 2017, and would welcome the opportunity to represent the broader local government family on the ADA board.

Too often from separate organisations we only see our one part of the canvass rather than understanding how the whole picture works, and I would like to fix that. My experience across council tiers, and this sector, gives me the knowledge and skills to be a sound and understanding voice for local authorities at ADA, and within the wider flood and drainage landscape.