

Executive Meeting 10 March 2026

Agenda item 5 - Public Questions

Members of the Public may ask questions of the Leader or an Executive Member. A maximum period of 15 minutes will be allowed with a maximum of period of three minutes per questioner.

The following question has been submitted by Ms Nicola Hambin (on behalf of Shaldon Parish Council) to the Executive Member for Environment, Climate and Sustainability.

Question

“At the Shaldon Parish Council meeting on 24 February it was agreed that the Council should ask TDC if it could ask question to the District Councillors with regard to the Beach Management Plan...What can be done about the loss of beach at Shaldon and whether gabion baskets could be used to build a breakwater at the Marine Parade end of Shaldon Beach?”

Response from the Executive Member for Environment, Climate and Sustainability

The eastern end of Shaldon Beach has an underlying trend over the last decade or more of sediment loss and beach lowering (-4m³/m since 2011), whilst the western end of the beach (towards the Clipper Quay) has seen an increase in the amount of sediment, or beach volume (+8-9m³/m in the same period). This process has been exacerbated by the recent easterly driven storm events where the eastern end has lowered further and is close to exposing some of the footings of the Environment Agency's flood defence wall along the eastern end of Marine Parade.

The Agency have been made aware of the situation as this could affect the flood defence function of the wall. If the Agency were concerned about the beach levels (and how this affects the robustness of the current defence) the most likely scenario would be to protect or bolster the tow of the existing wall rather than to artificially raise the level of the beach. The Agency would be unlikely to be able to assist, or fund works primarily for an amenity beach aspect.

A breakwater of gabion baskets or other construction, whilst protecting from marine wave driven energies, could act as a groyne and actually slow down the replenishment of the beach with sand from the east. There is currently a relatively healthy beach profile in-front of the Ness Hotel which in some previous years has migrated westwards towards the effected area.

The recent storms also lengthened and widened the Point Sand Spit (westwards into the estuary behind the Point breakwater/training wall). This amplifies the path of the

ebb tide pushing the peak flows further across the mouth of the river and hence potentially exacerbating scour impacts on the Shaldon side at this same location.

The Teignmouth Harbour Commission has over the last couple of weeks employed a marine dredger to help reduce the size of the southern and western edges of the Point Spit for navigational purposes. This work may also have some benefit in reducing erosional energies in this location.