

Livermead Sea Wall and the Future of Sea Defences in Torbay



Scope of the review

In terms of the collapse at Livermead in April 2013:

- To understand the decision making process up to the start of the contract to carry out works to the sea defences at Livermead.
- To review how the public were kept informed during the period of the collapse and subsequent discharge of sewage from Hope's Nose.

In relation to the sea defences generally:

- To consider the prioritisation of future works to Torbay's sea defences and the associated the budget position.

Current Position

The Overview and Scrutiny Board have been considering a range of issues arising from the breach of Livermead Sea Wall during Easter 2013.

A briefing note setting out responses from Torbay Council and South West Water was circulated to members of the Board in August 2013. Following their consideration of the note, members will be considering this issue at its meeting on 18 September 2013.

Focus of the Meeting

1. Communications

Whilst the information provided by Torbay Council and South West Water states that both organisations are clear about their respective roles and responsibilities in relation to water quality in Torbay, councillors still have concerns about whether the public get the information they requires in the best possible way.

Is there a written protocol between the two organisations and, if so, can a copy be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for review?

2. Involvement of South West Water in tendering process

The information provided shows that South West Water were not involved in the tender process until a contractor had been appointed. There then appears to have been a delay whilst approval for the method of working was sought.

The Board would like to hear from South West Water about what is best practice in other parts of the South West for such projects. Would South West Water normally be involved in setting the terms of reference for the tender process to help avoid later problems?

3. Future sea defence issues

A number of schemes have been submitted to the Environment Agency for inclusion on their Medium Term Financial Plan. Two other schemes are included in the current Capital Investment Plan.

What is the current position with each of these schemes?

What are the funding implications for Torbay Council of the schemes submitted to the Environment Agency? Are these implications included in the Council's Medium Term Resources Plan?

Invitees

Torbay Council – Residents and Visitor Services, Finance, Communications
South West Water