



Agenda for Cabinet
Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026, 6.00 pm

Members of Cabinet

Councillors: P Arnott (Chair), S Hawkins, P Hayward,
N Hookway, S Jackson, G Jung, D Ledger, J Loudoun (Vice-
Chair), T Olive and R Jefferies

Venue: Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton

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Tuesday, 26 May 2026

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This meeting is being recorded for subsequent publication on the Council's website and will be streamed live to the [East Devon District Council Youtube Channel](#)

- 1 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 3 - 7)
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of interest
Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)
- 4 Public speaking
Information on [public speaking is available online](#)
- 5 Matters of urgency
Information on [matters of urgency](#) is available online
- 6 Confidential/exempt item(s)
To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the Press) have been excluded. There are five items which officers recommend should be dealt with in this way. Two exempt reports at items 10 and 12 and three confidential reports at items 12 to 14.
- 7 Minutes of Housing Review Board held on 30 April 2026 (Pages 8 - 15)
- 8 Minutes of Arts and Culture Forum held on 29 April 2026 (Pages 16 - 20)
- 9 Minutes of Leisure Strategy Delivery Forum held on 28 April 2026 (Pages 21 - 23)

Key Matters for Decision

- 10 Sidmouth Connaught Cliffs Emergency works, request for additional in year funding up to £500k (Pages 24 - 35)

Matters for Decision

- 11 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Vice-Chair to move the following:

that under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, of the description set out in the agenda is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing these items in private session (Part B).

Part B Key Matters for Decision

- 12 Recycling and Waste Contract (Pages 36 - 45)
13 Housing Contract & Procurement Approvals (Pages 46 - 55)

Part B Matters for Decision

- 14 Dangerous structure - Axminster (Pages 56 - 65)

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[Decision making and equalities](#)

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EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 6 May 2026

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.30 pm

194 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting from Cabinet held on 1 April 2026 were agreed.

195 **Declarations of interest**

Min 199: Cllr Nick Hookway declared an ANRI as a Devon County Councillor and Exmouth Town Councillor.

Min 199: Cllr Steve Gazzard declared an ANRI as an Exmouth Town Councillor.

Min 206: Cllr Steve Gazzard declared an ANRI as an Exmouth Town Councillor.

196 **Public speaking**

There were no public speakers.

197 **Matters of urgency**

There were none.

198 **Confidential/exempt item(s)**

There were two confidential items recorded at minutes 210 and 211.

199 **Minutes of Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group held on 17 March 2026**

Members noted the minutes of Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group held on 17 March 2026.

200 **Minutes of Overview Committee 26 March 2026**

Members noted the minutes of Overview Committee held on 26 March 2026.

201 **Minutes of Scrutiny Committee held on 2 April 2026**

Members noted the minutes of Scrutiny Committee held on 2 April 2026.

202 **Minutes of the meeting of Community Grant Panel held on 15 April 2026**

Members noted the minutes and recommendation of Community Grant Panel held on 15 April 2026.

Minute 16 - Community Grant Funding Awards 2025/26

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

Make the following change to the Community Grant Fund policy:

That applications which meet the policy criteria, but Members are unable to approve due to funding limits, can be rolled over to the next grant window.

203 **Minutes of Recycling and Waste Partnership Board held on 22 April 2026**

Members noted the minutes of Recycling and Waste Partnership Board held on 22 April 2026.

204 **Economic Development Strategy - Year 3 Priorities**

Good progress had been made against the Economic Development Strategy's (EDS) five policy areas since the last update to Cabinet in April 2025. The Strategy made a clear commitment to keeping track of progress and reviewing the policy priorities on an annual basis. Officers had undertaken this review and proposed changes to the EDS priorities for the third year of the Strategy. The report provided an update on the current composition of the Economic Development team as it adjusted to the new funding landscape.

The Portfolio Holder for Assets and Economy wished to thank Tom Winters and his team for their hard work, saying that despite financial challenges the news was positive.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

1. Notes the progress made in the latest six-months of the 2024-29 Economic Development Strategy.
2. Endorse the proposed amendments to the EDS priorities for the third year of the Strategy and note the indicative workplan for July'25 - July'26

REASON:

The Economic Development Strategy committed officers to producing an 'annual report' to measure the progress made against each of the policy priorities. The purpose of this was to keep members aware and engaged. Tracking and, where necessary, updating policy priorities ensures that the EDS remained relevant and avoided becoming outdated.

205 **Local Government Reorganisation: Implementation Planning**

The report updated Cabinet on implementation planning for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the move away from the current two-tier county/district arrangements. Following the publication of the English Devolution White Paper (December 2024), Devon councils submitted proposals for unitary local government (November 2025) and subsequently responded to MHCLG's consultation on the five structural options (March 2026). A Secretary of State decision was expected in respect of the preferred option during July 2026.

To enable implementation to proceed based on this decision, Parliament would be asked to approve a Structural Changes Order (SCO). The SCO must set key legal foundations including a vesting day, creation of unitary areas and councils, abolition and winding-up

of predecessor authorities, transitional vehicles and arrangements for future elections. Current Councils would be invited to submit views on the SCO.

The report explained the role of a Section 24 Direction, which was likely shortly after an SCO comes into force. This would restrict significant transactions without consent, including land disposals over £100,000, capital contracts over £1 million, revenue contracts over £100,000, and major reserve decisions. Consent was typically delegated to the Shadow Executive/new council arrangements, often supported by general consents to enable business as usual.

Transition is planned through to vesting day in April 2028, with phases culminating in inaugural elections (May 2027) and operation of a Shadow Council. Preparatory work was currently being progressed, focusing on consistent data collection and housekeeping activities, while building internal capacity and participating in joint governance forums.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

1. Note the current position in relation to proposals for Local Government Reorganisation
2. Delegates continuing authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Council, Corporate and External Engagement to provide input to the development of the Structural Change Order in conjunction with the other District and Borough Councils, and to make such arrangements that are necessary so as to support successful transition through to Vesting Day.
3. Receives a further report once the Secretary of State's decision is known.

REASON:

To ensure that Cabinet was aware of the current position in relation to Local Government Reorganisation. To support implementation planning and a successful transition to future Council structures.

206 **Playpark Renewal 2026 - Contract above £100k**

The report sought delegated authority to award the 2026 Playpark Renewals contract to a supplier successfully procured via the EDDC electronic procurement service, with a value of over £100k.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

Grant delegated authority to the Assistant Director of StreetScene in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Environment Operations and Portfolio Holder Finance, to award the contract to the preferred supplier.

REASON:

To enable the Assistant Director to award the contract to the preferred supplier following completion of the tender exercise. The delegation would allow the contract to be entered without a further cabinet paper, to ensure programme targets are met.

207 **Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026/27**

The report highlighted the good position EDDC was in to deliver the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CaRF). The need now was to focus on developing the policy to allow to build on the work already undertaken to date, which was why delegated authority was being sought. The new CaRF policy aligned with the Devon Districts approach of test and learn. Whilst the policy was being developed, EDDC would make use of its cost-of-living hardship funds to continue to support households in financial difficulty. This

included support for those low-income households struggling to afford heating oil making sure no households are negatively affected.

Members thanked Sharon Church and her team for their hard work in getting the grants out to the people who needed it the most. The Deputy Leader highlighted that EDDC were chosen by the DWP as one of the 10 Local Authorities across England and Wales to undertake research into how Housing Support Fund was delivered locally to help inform the Government's CaRF scheme.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

Grant delegated authority to the Assistant Director for Revenues, Benefits and Customer Service to design, implement and update a policy for the Crisis and Resilience Fund, that aligns with the Devon District Council Approach and DWP guidance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Homes and Communities.

REASON:

As this was a new fund the recommendation was being made to avoid any further delay in delivery of the scheme. Taking this agile approach would allow the council to adapt its approach when required, through the learning with the voluntary sector, enabling to achieve the best possible outcomes for residents.

208 **New Towns Programme Consultation Response**

The report summarised the Government consultation on the New Towns Programme. The proposals did not include Marcombe within the shortlisted sites and this was a topic covered extensively in the proposed responses including the weight that seemed to have been given to a high level Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that had been carried out for the programme. The report presented brief responses to the questions raised by the consultation on behalf of EDDC for Members to consider for submission as the Council's response to the consultation.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

Note the content of the consultation and agree the responses to each consultation question included in this report for submission as the Council's response.

REASON:

To ensure that members were aware of the consultation and had the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

209 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, of the description set out on the agenda, is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing this item in private session (Part B).

210 **Clyst Meadows Country Park, Broadclyst - Purchase of Additional Land**

The recommendations as set out in the exempt report were agreed.

211 **Cranbox Modular Space Delivery in Cranbrook Town Centre**

The recommendations as set out in the exempt report were agreed.

Attendance List

Present:

Portfolio Holders

P Arnott	Leader of the Council
S Hawkins	Portfolio Holder Finance
P Hayward	Portfolio Holder Assets and Economy
N Hookway	Portfolio Holder Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
S Jackson	Portfolio Holder Communications and Democracy
G Jung	Portfolio Holder Environment - Operations
D Ledger	Portfolio Holder Sustainable Homes & Communities
J Loudoun	Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder Corporate, Council & External Engagement
R Jefferies	Portfolio Holder Environment - Nature & Climate

Cabinet apologies:

T Olive Portfolio Holder Place, Infrastructure & Strategic Planning

Also present (for some or all the meeting)

Councillor Ian Barlow
Councillor Kevin Blakey
Councillor Kim Bloxham
Councillor Roy Collins
Councillor Peter Faithfull
Councillor Steve Gazzard
Councillor Mike Goodman

Also present:

Officers:

Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Amanda Coombes, Democratic Services Officer
Tim Child, Assistant Director Place, Assets & Leisure
Sharon Church, Benefits Manager
Simon Davey, Director of Finance
Libby Jarrett, Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits, Corporate Customer Access, Fraud & Compliance
Tom Winters, Interim Economic Development Manager
Andrew Wood, Director of Place
Naomi Harnett, Corporate Lead (Interim) – Major Projects & Programmes
Paul Osborne, Green Infrastructure Project Officer
Frances Wadsley, Project Manager, Planning, Growth, Development & Prosperity

Chair

Date:

Recommendations for Cabinet that will resolve in an action being taken:

Housing Review Board on 30 April 2026

Minute 111 Housing Review Board annual report 2025-26

That Cabinet and Council note the work that the Housing Review Board has undertaken during the 2025-26 civic year.

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Housing Review Board held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton, EX14 1EJ on 30 April 2026

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 12.02 pm

100 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2026 were agreed.

101 Apologies

In the absence of the Chair who had given her apologies, the Vice Chair Simon Smith was in the Chair and it was agreed that Councillor Chris Burhop would act as Vice Chair for the meeting.

102 Declarations of interest

Declarations of interest.

Councillor Aurora Bailey, Affects Non-registerable Interest, EDDC housing tenant.

Declarations of interest.

Councillor Brian Bailey, Affects Non-registerable Interest, EDDC housing tenant.

Declarations of interest.

Councillor Steve Gazzard, Affects Non-registerable Interest, EDDC housing tenant.

103 Public speaking

There was no public speaking.

104 Matters of urgency

There were none.

105 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There were no confidential/exempt items.

106 Forward plan

The Assistant Director – Housing Regulated Services presented the forward plan and advised members that the forward plan acted as a reminder of agenda items to come forward to future meetings. Meeting dates for the forthcoming civic year had been populated on the forward plan.

The Board noted that the forward plan had been derived from previous meetings and requests, as well as the housing service plan. Service Managers were currently reviewing realistic time frames against each topic. The Assistant Director explained that

a couple of the policies that had been due to be presented to the Board that day had been delayed due to the consultation process.

Members were reminded that they could add further reports and topics for discussion to the next forward plan by either informing the Assistant Director or the Democratic Services Officer.

In response to a question about the review and replacement of Home Safeguard equipment within housing stock, officers advised that an update would be brought to a future Board meeting.

RESOLVED: to note the Housing Review Board forward plan.

107 **Finance report**

The accountant's report gave the Housing Review Board an initial draft summary of the Council's overall financial position for 2025/26 for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and associated capital programmes. A final report would be presented to the HRB, Cabinet and Council and any material differences to the figures would be highlighted and explained.

Current monitoring indicated that:

- The Housing Revenue Account balance was projected to be below budget with a considerable capital contribution to revenue in year.
- The HRA budget strategy followed the sustainability plan which required the restoration of the HRA balance to £3.1m in £250k annual increments. This was set to be achieved, with the estimated surplus on account at £1.9m. A revenue contribution to capital would be made to reduce the annual borrowing requirement and the resultant interest burden on revenue in each year going forward.
- Capital in the housing workstreams was significantly below budget expectations resulting in a large amount of slippage into 2026/27.

The accountant explained that the budget was set on the sustainability plan as at the time the results of the stock condition survey and subsequent asset management plan were not available.

The revenue and capital split across the property & asset related work streams had been reviewed in year and virements were made, primarily moving budget and expenditure from revenue and into capital, with a relatively immaterial amount of budget reducing supplementary estimates. Training was being undertaken with the team on what was deemed as revenue and capital. The accountant explained to the Board that council accounting was different to commercial accounting.

Members sought reassurance that the service was now fully staffed and the capacity was there to spend the capital budget going forward. The Director – Housing & Health confirmed that management positions were in place but more surveyors were needed and a structure was being put to ELT to resource this effectively. Asset management was critical to the capital budget and it was felt that it was preferable to carry money forward to the next financial year as opposed to spending it for the sake of it. The Council now had to borrow when it spent on capital so it was being more cautious when it came to spending and borrowing.

RESOLVED: that the initial variances identified in the revenue and capital monitoring process be noted.

108 **Housing complaints - performance report 2025-26 (Q4)**

The Housing Performance Lead's report provided the Board with details on housing related complaints performance, and details of the ongoing complaints improvement action plan and the breakdown of departments complaints were related to. The Board noted that there had been clear improvement in response times during quarter 4, with both stage one and two complaints falling into target timescales. This followed the recruitment and induction of several surveyor employees and the imbedding of new practices during quarters 3 and 4.

The Board noted the theme for escalation of complaints to stage two during quarter 4:

1. Lack of works being completed at stage one.
2. Requests for an increase in compensation.
3. Dissatisfaction with responses for requests for upgrades to kitchens, bathrooms and windows.

In order to remedy this trend in escalations to stage two complaints, during Q4, a new process was implemented where following a surveyor visit to assess repairs, the customer was issued with a written report within three days outlining what works would be completed and the surveyor would follow the repairs through to post inspection of the works. In addition, a new compensation framework had been developed to ensure compensation was consistent, fair and in line with Housing Ombudsman guidance.

The Housing Performance Lead explained to the Board that a newly created customer complaints survey was due to be presented to the Tenant Scrutiny Panel for their feedback on the questions and tone of language, before being sent for ELT approval. In addition to the survey a tracker had also been created which would support the monitoring of customer satisfaction, monitoring areas for improvement and those the service was doing well in. This would also be presented to the Scrutiny Panel for their feedback and suggestions.

The Housing Performance Lead's report also detailed Housing Ombudsman complaints in 2025/26 and explained that due to high demand and increased caseloads, the Ombudsman was dealing with significant backlogs. As a result of this, many of the cases that were currently being determined related back to complaints originating in 2023. Therefore, the themes and issues currently being determined were historical and, in many cases, had already been identified and addressed in the time that had passed. It was noted that during 2025/26 43 Ombudsman cases were received. During 2025/26 the total compensation awarded by the Housing Ombudsman was £10,790. Of the cases determined in 2025/26:

- 2 counts of severe maladministration.
- 10 counts of maladministration.
- 6 counts of service failure.
- 2 counts of no maladministration.

The themes of these cases were contained in the report as well as an explanation of actions taken following a Housing Ombudsman determination.

The Housing Performance Lead's report also outlined several complex cases that were being dealt with. Finally, the report stated that 13 compliments had been recorded during quarter 4.

A request was made for a graphical trend of complaints so that the Board could chart progress. Comparative and benchmarking data would be presented to the Board in future.

RESOLVED: that the Housing Review Board note the content of the report outlining the quarter 4 performance for housing related complaints.

109 **Tenancy services - performance report 2025-26 (Q4)**

The Housing Review Board were presented with key performance indicators (KPIs) for quarter 4 of 2025/26 for tenancy services. The Tenancy Services Manager (Regulated Services) gave a presentation which summarised performance actions being taken to improve performance in rentals, estate management and sheltered housing functions within tenancy services.

100.43% of rent was collected in quarter 4, above the target of 98%. The rental collection figure was over 100% as rent was also collected for former tenancies, therefore counting towards income for that period. Rent arrears as a percentage of annual rent debt was 1.17%, the target was 2.38%. The rentals team demonstrated high performance with low tenant rent arrears and were within the top 25% of landlords nationally and the Tenancy Services Manager congratulated the Rental Manager and her team.

There were 38 open Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) cases that the estates team were currently dealing with, with 11 reported in quarter 4. This involvement could range from monitoring cases through to preparing court paperwork to commence legal proceedings. Although eviction was a last resort, there had been 5 evictions in quarter 4; two were for rent arrears, two for trespass and one eviction from temporary accommodation.

100% of estate inspections had been completed in the six-month cycle.

Tenancy visits were a joint objective for the Estate Management and Sheltered Housing. The purpose of the visits was to not only offer support to the tenant but to also identify any tenancy management issues, wellbeing/safeguarding concerns, and issues of disrepair. Any changes to the tenant's situation were recorded on EDDC systems. 27.44% of general purpose tenancies were visited in 2025/26. This was below the target of 33% but two officers had been absent for a quarter of the year. The Tenancy Services Manager reported that 95.4% of sheltered tenancies had been visited in 2025/26. The remaining 4.6% sheltered tenancies had not been visited due to those opting out of support, access issues and tenants being in respite care.

18 new tenant visits had been completed within target (95%), with 0 new tenant visits currently outstanding. Tenant visits within the first 10 weeks of tenancy start date was set so that any issues with the tenant could be addressed at an early stage and would enable tenancy sustainment and identify social housing fraud.

The Tenancy Services Manager outlined the work of the Communities Team, which included:

- Getting to know you survey.
- Roaming hubs.
- Community hubs.
- Resident Connect Festival.

It was noted that there had been nine households (sheltered and general needs) decanted to temporary accommodation, primarily due to the condition of their property. Six EDDC properties were being used as decant accommodation, thereby reducing the

need to use costly temporary accommodation. Feedback from the tenants that had been decanted was positive.

The Director – Housing and Health thanked the Tenancy Services Manager and his team for the incredible service turnaround and commended the team for all their hard work.

RESOLVED: that the housing performance report – tenancy services quarter 4 (2025/26) is noted.

110 **Property & Assets performance report 2025-26 (Q4)**

The Corporate Lead for Property and Assets report outlined the property and assets element of the housing service's performance through quarter 4 of 2025/26. The report covered the repairs, compliance and planned works functions within property and assets. Regular performance reporting to the Housing Review Board ensured that oversight was maintained and enabled timely scrutiny and challenge, as expected under the Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Standards.

Tenant satisfaction measures in repairs in maintenance continued to increase as a result of the repairs improvement plan and its delivery.

There was focus on customer engagement with work continuing with the Repairs and Maintenance Scrutiny Group, meet the contractor events, repairs updates to the Complaints Scrutiny Group, tenant engagement with new kitchen designs and a mapping workshop to consider the repairs customer journey.

Another area of focus had been on building capability for the surveyor capacity. This involved:

- Patched based working so that maintenance surveyors had operational areas.
- Fully equipping the surveyors to properly identify issues in properties.
- Coaching and training, internally and externally.
- Issuing survey summary reports to customers to help tenants understand what was going on, why the works were taking place and when they could expect that to happen.

Good progress continued to be made in the introduction of the performance framework across property and assets. The framework would provide consistent and robust performance reporting to the Regulator for Social Housing and other stakeholders, while clearly defining accountability for the delivery of the property and asset service areas. As the framework became embedded as business as usual, it was anticipated that additional improvement opportunities would be identified and addressed.

Areas where the service was experiencing challenges were:

- Disrepair cases.
- Property and asset related complaints.
- Voids performance.
- A slight improvement in the percentage of repairs completed within target. A winter plan would be put in place for 2026/27 to deal with increased demand.

In terms of void performance the void lifecycle process was mapped out and a new classification framework established. The status of all 170 vacant properties at that time were reviewed and categorised. There had also been a review of resources in terms of void surveying roles, planned works capability and asset planner capability. The Corporate Lead for Property and Assets outlined future actions to the Board.

Internal compliance audits had taken place and actions were already being delivered. Compliance was strong, with most areas consistently achieving 100% or improving compared to the previous month's position. Electrical compliance continued to improve with a focus on obtaining access to non-compliant properties. The deterioration in gas compliance was due to delays with the supplier not booking in the tests on time. The issue had been raised with the supplier and was being resolved as per the contract. There were new compliance contracts for fire, radon and electrical, with contracts being developed for legionella and fire risk assessments. The application of the performance framework had increased compliance assurance. An internal promotion had strengthened the compliance function, with further recruitment underway for compliance and repairs administrator roles. All other positions within property and assets were currently filled.

The Corporate Lead Property and Assets reported that the demand for adaptations was increasing, with a diverse range of requests; more for minor works rather than major works. It was noted that the Council had to self-fund adaptations and requests were likely to increase further with Awaab's law. Awaab's law was coming out in a phased approach with tough timeframes.

The Corporate Lead Property and Assets explained that planned works took time. The planned works team had over 30 live projects at varying stages and examples of these were shown to the Board. Consideration was being given to the recruitment of an additional Planned Works Surveyor to process the increasing number of referrals into the programme of works.

In response to a question about kitchen and bathroom replacements the Corporate Lead Property and Assets replied that in terms of kitchen replacements there had been 81 undertaken in 2024/25, and three in 2025/26. He gave context to this in terms of the contract which was not continued with and resources used to resolve this. 100 kitchen replacements were planned for 2026/27. The bathroom replacement and decarbonisation programmes demonstrated a similar theme. Planned works figures would be provided in future reports but did not always reflect the responsive repairs and the overall picture. The Director – Housing and Health reported that the turnaround in the programme was incredible and that it was not a quick process.

A request was made for ward members to be notified of void properties in their area. Officers explained that this was not practical operationally. Challenges already existed in the void process and officers did not want to complicate the administrative process anymore. Members asked for a simplified report relating to voids. The Board were advised that a lunchtime learning session on voids and the disposals was planned for May. It was acknowledged that long term voids had an impact on the figures and the team were congratulated on a transformational job over the last 12 months.

RESOLVED: that the housing performance report – property and assets, quarter 4 2025/26 is noted.

111 **Housing Review Board annual report 2025-26**

The Chair presented the annual report of the Housing Review Board which summarised and highlighted the diverse range of issues covered by the Board over the year. The report gave an overview of the achievements of the Board and celebrated the progress that had been made. The Chair thanked all those involved with housing and the Housing

Review Board for their outstanding work and dedication, and huge efforts in improving the service.

RECOMMENDED: that Cabinet and Council note the work that the Housing Review Board has undertaken during the 2025-26 civic year.

Attendance List

Board members present:

Sid Forde, Tenant
Wang Tian, Independent Community Representative
Councillor Christopher Burhop
Councillor Melanie Martin
Councillor Simon Smith (Vice-Chair)
Sara Clarke, Independent Community Representative
Rob Robinson, Tenants
Councillor Tim Dumper
Councillor Helen Parr
Councillor Roy Collins
Councillor Mike Goodman

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

A Bailey
B Bailey
P Arnott
I Barlow
S Gazzard
D Ledger
S Westerman

Officers in attendance:

Alethea Thompson, Democratic Services Officer
Darren Hicks, Tenancy Services Manager (Regulated Services)
Andrew King, Assistant Director for Housing (Regulated Services)
Nathan Muggeridge, Corporate Lead for Housing Property and Assets
Liam Reading, Assistant Director - Housing Programmes, Investment and Development
Giles Salter, Solicitor
Catrin Stark, Director of Housing and Health
Tanya Traylen, Housing Performance Lead

Councillor apologies:

Rosemary Dale, Tenant
Rachel Browne, Tenant
Councillor Sarah Chamberlain
Tracy Hendren, Chief Executive

Chair

Date:

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting of Arts and Culture Forum held at Online via Teams on 29 April 2026****Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.15 am

10 Public speaking

There were no members of the public registered to speak.

11 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2025 were agreed.

12 Declarations of interest

4. Declarations of interest.

Councillor Ian Barlow, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Member of the Sidmouth School of Arts which had previously received a grant. Member of Sidmouth Town Council..

4. Declarations of interest.

Councillor Olly Davey, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Member of Exmouth Town Council.

4. Declarations of interest.

Councillor Vicky Johns, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Arts administrator for South West Academy of Fine and Applied Arts..

13 East Devon Cultural Strategy

The Cultural Producer introduced herself and explained that she led on the delivery of the East Devon cultural strategy. She had recently delivered the fourth year of the UK Shared Prosperity Funded Cultural Programme (SPF), exceeding all targets. There had been 11 Creative East Devon funded projects as well as financial support provided to Screen Devon and Villages in Action.

Progress reports from Screen Devon, Villages in Action and Museums Development South West were included in the agenda papers and the Cultural Producer highlighted some key areas to note. Overall these organisations had evidenced that they laid strong foundations for future growth and it was hoped that EDDC could continue to support them. Whilst there was no more UK SPF funding going forward, there was a modest internal cultural budget to continue delivery on the strategy.

The Cultural Producer outlined:

- Creative East Devon Fund 2026 highlights – the fund had been oversubscribed and was highly competitive. Lots of positive feedback had been received.
- ACED network meeting – 37 people attended the last meeting at The Beehive, and a Festivals Champion had recently been recruited.
- ACED Volunteer of the Year – this would be awarded at the next ACED event on 3 June at Kennaway House. Nominations were open until 7 May 2026.

- Update on map at railway stations – thanks to EDDC’s partnership with South Western Railways and the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership a fantastic promotional opportunity had been secured to display the Cultural Tourism Map poster across various train stations on the Waterloo line from Exeter to London.

The Cultural Producer informed those present that both Exmouth and Sidmouth had submitted expressions of interest in the UK Town of Culture competition. A lot of hard work had gone into this new Department for Culture, Media and Sport competition. It was inspired by the success of the flagship UK City of Culture, which was a proven model for cultural placemaking. The competition aimed to spotlight the cultural contribution of towns of different sizes. The winning town would be awarded £3 million to deliver a cultural programme in 2028 and the other two finalists would receive £250,000 each to deliver elements of their bid. If either Exmouth or Sidmouth passed the expression of interest stage they would receive £60,000 to help deliver a full bid. It was suggested that if either of the towns were shortlisted that the Arts and Culture Forum considered a contribution of match funding from EDDC.

Members of Sidmouth and Exmouth Town Councils thanked the Cultural Producer and her team for all the help they had given the towns in submitting expressions of interest in the UK Town of Culture Competition.

14 **Screen Devon**

The Forum noted the Screen Devon UK Shared Prosperity Fund report and project summary to date, which had been included in the agenda papers.

15 **Villages in Action**

The Forum noted the annual report from Villages in Action, which had been included with the agenda papers.

16 **Museum Development South West**

The Forum noted the annual report from Museum Development South West, which had been included with the agenda papers.

17 **East Devon Festival Fund**

The Senior Economic Development Officer updated the Forum on the cultural tourism agenda. The East Devon Festival Fund had a good strong link to both the cultural and tourism strategies. Funding had been secured from an internal budget and was aimed at supporting existing established festivals to promote their activities outside of the district, in order to encourage more visits, overnight stays and tourism to the area. The initial budget was £10,000 but it was hoped to increase this in the future. Applicants could apply for grants of £500-£2,000 for external promotion of festivals.

The Senior Economic Development Officer also updated the Forum on the partnership with South Western Railways and the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership to display 62 promotional posters during April showcasing the Cultural Tourism map in key locations on the rail network, including Waterloo station, to pitch East Devon as a cultural destination. She hoped that this could be repeated in the future. The Forum agreed that

this was an excellent opportunity to promote cultural activities in the area whilst encouraging sustainable travel.

The Forum congratulated the Senior Economic Development Officer and welcomed the East Devon Festivals Fund. It was agreed that festivals had a positive impact on the local economy and could be a huge economic boost to the whole area.

18 **Sidmouth Folk Festival**

The Chair introduced and welcomed Tash Daley, Artistic Co-Director of the Sidmouth Folk Festival to the meeting. Tash was also the new ACED Festival Champion.

It was noted that Sidmouth Folk Festival would be held from 31 July – 7 August 2026 and had been running since 1955. It championed traditions from across the UK and internationally. An important part of the Festival was working with grass-roots emerging artists, sustaining and promoting regional traditional artists, as well as showcasing traditions from across the world. The Festival was an immersive, inclusive, multi-generational experience with over 80 events. It was worth £7.3million to the area, with around 175,000 people visits across the week.

The focus for 2026 was accessibility and communication. There were many free offerings, but not everyone was aware of this. There were also discount tickets for local people. The Sidmouth Folk Festival was very much community led with volunteer directors. This year there was a pre-festival concert and a Sidmouth in London event, showcasing Sidmouth and East Devon as a destination for both artists and tourists.

The Forum agreed that the Sidmouth Folk Festival was an excellent event. The Artistic Co-Director was thanked for being the ACED Festivals Champion and for her detailed update to the Forum. It was acknowledged that the Folk Festival was huge for the whole area, with extended stays and visits. There were many strong creative offerings in East Devon linking in with tourism and hospitality.

19 **Manor Pavilion Theatre**

The Manor Pavilion Theatre Manager gave the Forum an update on the recent refurbishment of the Manor Pavilion auditorium. The theatre was closed during January and February 2026 to enable the auditorium to be redecorated, a new carpet laid and the seating replaced. A great deal of thought and research had gone into the redecoration. The 277 seats had been specially made for the venue, providing greater leg room and the first few rows fully adaptable. It was noted that the theatre had last been refurbished 38 years ago. The Theatre Manager was very proud of the achievement and had worked closely with Property Services. All involved had worked hard, achieved the refurbishment on time and underbudget.

The Manor Pavilion Theatre had been very busy since reopening and feedback on the refurbishment had been fantastic. Forward bookings were going well into 2028. An interesting mix of 12 plays had been announced for the summer season, with tickets going on sale on 12 May 2026. The theatre was expected to be very busy over the season ahead.

The Theatre Manager welcomed members of the Forum to visit the Theatre and advised that a video of the auditorium refit was available on Facebook. In turn the Manager was

thanked and congratulated along with Property Services for the fantastic renovation. The Manor Pavilion Theatre was an asset to East Devon, not just to Sidmouth.

20 **EDDC events**

The East Devon Events Officer introduced herself as one of two members of the EDDC events team. She outlined the work of the team during 2025/26, which included:

- 180 events held on Streetscene land and car parks.
- 48 events in August 2025.
- 85 events in Exmouth.
- 385 days of events, an increase from 311 in 2024/25.
- 40 cancellations for various reasons, often weather related.
- 5 weddings held in Connaught Gardens in 2025 and 6 (maximum capacity) booked for 2026 and 2027.
- Fitness licenses were processed for East Devon land and open water swimming, predominantly in Exmouth.
- 10 filming permissions were granted in East Devon in 2025/26.
- Administration of the Safety Advisory Group which covered any event in East Devon, not necessarily on Council land.

The Events Officer advised the Forum that 2026/27 was on track to deliver a similar year. 112 events were currently booked for the forthcoming year, with more applications being received and many repeat bookings.

It was noted that the events were a good source of income for the Council. The financial impact across the district was not currently monitored as it was complex and expensive to capture and measure the data, but it was possible to do so through the South West Visitor Economy Hub. It was reported that the Exmouth Beach Management Plan indicated that the activities on Exmouth seafront amounted to £800m per year

The Events Officer and her colleague were thanked for their hard work.

It was suggested that in order to protect all the fantastic work the cultural and tourism teams were doing, that a document be produced establishing all the achievements, strategies and data. This could be used to persuade the new interim LGR authority to advocate to continue the excellent work.

Attendance List

EDDC Councillors present:

O Davey
N Hookway
V Johns
I Barlow
S Gazzard
P Faithfull
S Jackson

Town Representatives

R Doorbar, Budleigh Salterton Town Council
S Gazzard, Exmouth Town Council

I Barlow, Sidmouth Town Council

Officers in attendance:

Graham Whitlock, Theatre and Arts Centre Manager (Manor Pavilion Theatre)

Gemma Girvan, Gallery Manager and Curator

Alethea Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

Caitlin Davey, Events Officer

Sarah Elghady, Cultural Producer

Chloe Woodman, Assistant Director - Communications, Digital Services and Engagement

Gerri Panteva, Senior Economic Development Officer

Also Present

P Arnott

R Collins

Tash Daley, Artistic Co-Director, Sidmouth Folk Festival

Jess Magill, Arts Manager, Exmouth Town Council

Apologies:

P Fernley

J Rowland, Seaton Town Council

Chair

Date:

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting of Leisure Strategy Delivery Forum held at Online on 28 April 2026****Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.47 pm

40 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 January 2026

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 January 2026 were noted as a true and accurate record.

41 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

42 Public Speaking

No members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting.

43 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

44 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There was one confidential/exempt item (minute 48 refers).

45 LED Facilities and Activities report April 2026

The LED Chief Operating Officer presented this report which provided an update on recent activities. He highlighted recent refurbishments, the launch of the Health Key programme, a tree and kelp planting initiative, and preparations for the LTA Tennis Centre Roadshow.

Discussion and clarification included the following points:

- The introduction of the Health Key programme helped LED to compete against private sector operators who were growing their reach.
- It was challenging for LED to compete given that some of the private operators could focus on a particular demographic and do very well at it. In contrast, LED were trying to be something for everyone, providing the support that people needed, remaining affordable and ensuring they had the best quality instructors and were up to date with latest trends.
- Some members were disappointed that the Council had not been consulted on the tree and kelp planting initiative and expressed that it would not have supported a policy of planting trees abroad. The LED Chief Operating Officer responded that there was a variant in the price per unit depending on where in the world a tree was planted and LED could not have delivered the initiative had all trees needed to be planted in the UK.
- Other members expressed that it was not appropriate for the Council to micromanage its contract with LED and whilst it did not absolutely align with the East Devon Tree Policy, the tree and kelp planting initiative was imaginative and had captured the imagination of the customers.

- LED would be engaging with ten schools in and around Exmouth in early June as part of the LTA Tennis Roadshow within the schools (during the week) leading to an Open Weekend at the Tennis Centre. The aim was for over 500 children to take part; however, some Members were disappointed that schools elsewhere in the district were not involved.

The Forum noted the report.

46 **LED KPI Dashboard January - March 2026**

The Forum received and noted key details of the performance of LED Community Leisure for January – March 2026.

47 **Cranbrook Leisure Centre update**

The Leisure Manager presented this report which provided an update on the progress with the Cranbrook Leisure and Wellbeing Centre detailing progress through RIBA Stage 3, results of public consultation, funding status and collaboration with Devon County Council (DCC) and NHS.

The Leisure Manager explained that the [public consultation](#) closed on 4th March 2026. The survey received 874 individual responses and 979 contributions overall. People who filled in anonymously were not recorded as respondents but were recorded as contributions.

Headline figures from the early feedback were as follows:

- 82.8% of respondents aged 25 – 54;
- 69.7% female / 28.4% male / 1.3% prefer not to say / 0.3% non-binary;
- 92.4% of respondents said they were 'very likely' or 'quite likely' to use the centre;
- 65.8% of people would walk, cycle or scoot to the centre;
- Strong desire to see trees and planting within the site;
- Strong support for a café and play facilities;
- Individual and family cubicles and private showers requested for the changing areas;
- 78.7% Cranbrook residents.

A second public consultation event was planned for late spring of 2026 to feed back on the responses received and changes considered / made.

Discussion and clarification included the following points:

- It was reported that the project was currently on schedule.
- Partnership and collaboration with DCC and NHS were important but there were risks around alignment of the work of all agencies involved which needed to be carefully managed; however, the overall prize outweighed the risk.
- It was intended to get the business plan, planning application and costs together by December 2026. The business case, when produced, would give more information about how the funding gap would be managed.

The Forum noted the progress being made by the Cranbrook Leisure Centre Project Team.

The meeting went into private session.

48 **Leisure Project Update**

The Leisure Manager presented this update report.

Members discussed the content at length and asked direct questions.

The report was noted.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

P Arnott
K Bloxham
M Goodman
S Hawkins (Chair)
P Hayward
N Hookway
G Jung
J Loudoun

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

I Barlow
P Faithfull
M Hall
S Jackson

Officers in attendance:

Mike O'Mahony, Senior Leisure Officer
Tim Child, Assistant Director Place, Assets & Leisure
Sarah James, Democratic Services Officer
Andrew Wood, Director of Place

Councillor apologies:

F King
S Smith

Representatives of LED Community Leisure in attendance:

Andrew Dare, LED
Richard Purchase, Chairman of LED Board
Olly Swayne, LED Chief Executive
Matthew Wright, LED Chief Operating Officer

Chair:

Date:



Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting 3 June 2026

Heading/Title: Sidmouth Connaught Cliffs Emergency works, request for additional in year funding up to £500k

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Geoff Jung

Director/Assistant Director: Andy Wood / Andrew Hancock

Author and Directorate: Tom Buxton-Smith / Scott Cumming - Place

Contact Details tom.buxtonsmith@eastdevon.gov.uk 01395571630

Key decision Yes

If a Key Decision has it appeared on Forward Plan No

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

1. Background

- 1.1 Following annual cliff inspections, the cobblestone cliff retaining wall supporting a walkway within Connaught gardens was found to have moved since last year's inspection. This has forced the closure of the undercliff path/millennium walkway due to safety concerns. Following investigations and optioneering by designers and contractors due to the constraints the available options are estimated to be more than the available remaining budget. Therefore, in year spend is required to fix the wall to enable the undercliff/millennium walkway to open.
- 1.2 The undercliff millennium walkway is currently closed due to the risk of the retaining wall falling off the cliff onto the walkway. The walkway is an important flat link from town to the Jacobs ladder platform area, providing access to not only the beach, but the beach huts and concession.
- 1.3 A section of Connaught gardens is closed due to the risk of wall failure.
- 1.4 We have both a designer and contractor appointed and there is a concern since initial thoughts that the lower value options may not be safe enough to construct as they would be placing works staff in front of a failing wall. Unless these risks can be mitigated, they may not be possible.
- 1.5 The reason for the high costs estimated is due to all the constraints
 - Poor access below
 - Poor access from above
 - Limited working area above (that would be safe to work from)
 - Conservation area

- Near listed structures
 - Temporary works (and possible permanent works) would affect the garden layout/access considerably.
 - Height of the failing wall is about 3.5m high built upon a cliff about 7m high limiting plant and increasing risks around working from height.
 - Can't put scaffolding etc below wall, due to risk it may fail onto work staff
- 1.6 It is worth noting that Jacobs Ladder Staircase is also closed due to structural failure since its last inspection. Its repairs are currently unfunded so there may be a up to a further £250k needed at a later date to repair/replace this stair case. The structure is well fenced, and not a risk to the public, so its replacement urgency is low compared to the retaining wall. Its worth noting that the Jacobs Ladder staircase is listed, and will require full planning permission for its repairs/replacement.
- 1.7 Connaught Gardens does provide income to the council via events and weddings. Last financial year, 40 events were run with income of around £6.5k, with hope to grow this. The ongoing wall work does not remove all future income, but may reduce it, as the area is less attractive due to the restricted access and fences.
- 1.8 The works are not eligible to external grant funding from the Environment Agency, as they are not flood or coastal infrastructure. Another external ask for contributions has gone out, and subject to approval there may be an external contribution towards the works. (Not agreed at time of writing)

2. Recommendations/Decision

- 2.1 That cabinet recommends to council to approve £500k of budget to cover the works to make the area safe. Any unused budget will be returned
- 2.2 That cabinet decide on proceeding with the work as soon as possible to remove the risk to the public, or waiting for planning permission (needed as wall is in a conservation area)
- 2.3 That cabinet agree to proceed with the options for repair in the following preference Option 4.3, Option 4.4

3. Reasons for Recommendations/Decision

- 3.1 To enable the works to proceed prior to the summer season, to allow the path to open, otherwise it will be April 2027 before budget would allow construction.
- 3.2 The balance of risk to the public against construction without planning permission needs to be weighed up.
- 3.3 Options have cost/time constraints and implications to the look and layout of the area, so confirming agreed preference of options is valuable.

4. Options

All options presented would have a design life of at least 75 years

4.1 Do Nothing

Discounted due to the impact it will have on the area and Sidmouth. As well as ongoing safety concerns to the public. This is the cheapest option

available, which would be £10,000 to install permanent security fencing to try to keep the public away. This can be covered by existing budgets.

Planning permission not required for this option

4.2 Netting of existing wall

This has been discounted as the design will not meet the required specification and code.

The estimated cost is £150k and can largely be covered by existing budgets pending costings by a contractor

Full access below, and above would be maintained with this option

There will be future maintenance issues as the netting may need to be emptied and adjusted. The wall may also need to be rebuilt, however it would allow cheaper construction via scaffolding.

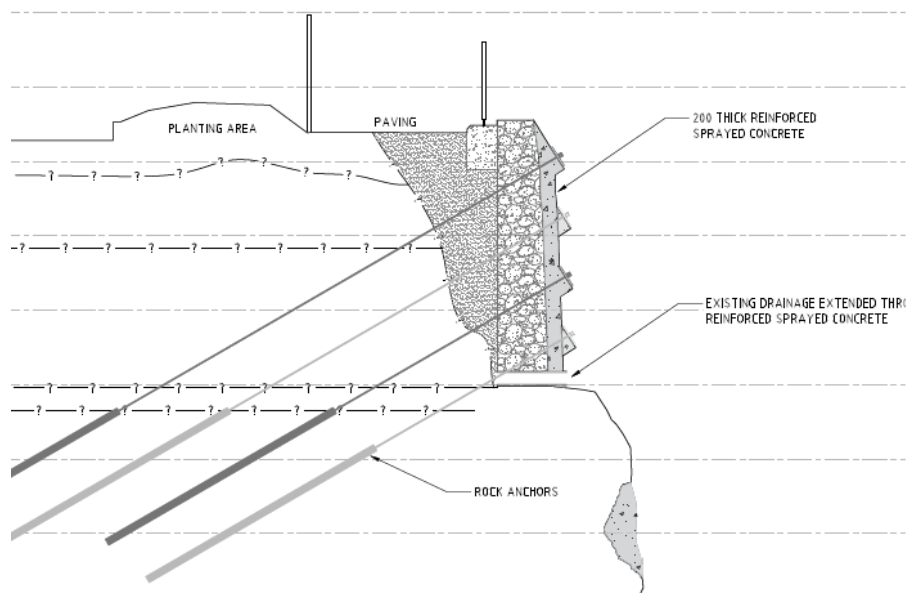
It is likely this solution may not need planning permission.

4.3 Spray concrete of existing wall,

This is the preferred option, subject to be deemed safe enough to construction by a rope access specialist

The estimated cost is £300k and will require in year approval from council for further budget. Due to demand, spray concrete is coming in very expensive with low availability.

This solution will need planning permission and may need cladding either as part of the build or at a later date due to it being within a conservation area, and near listed structures.



4.4 Remove wall and regrade area

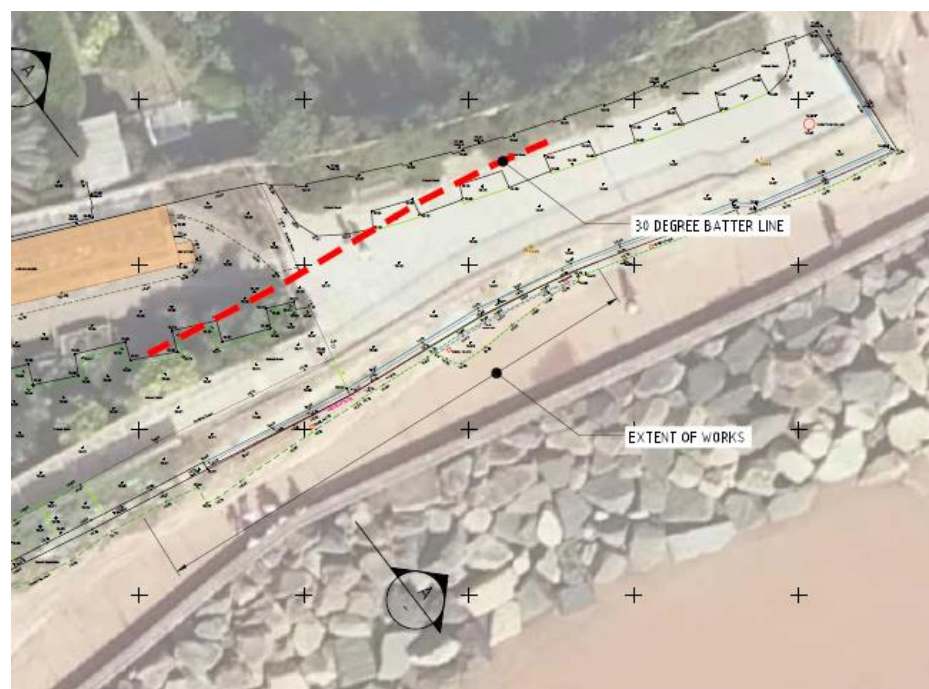
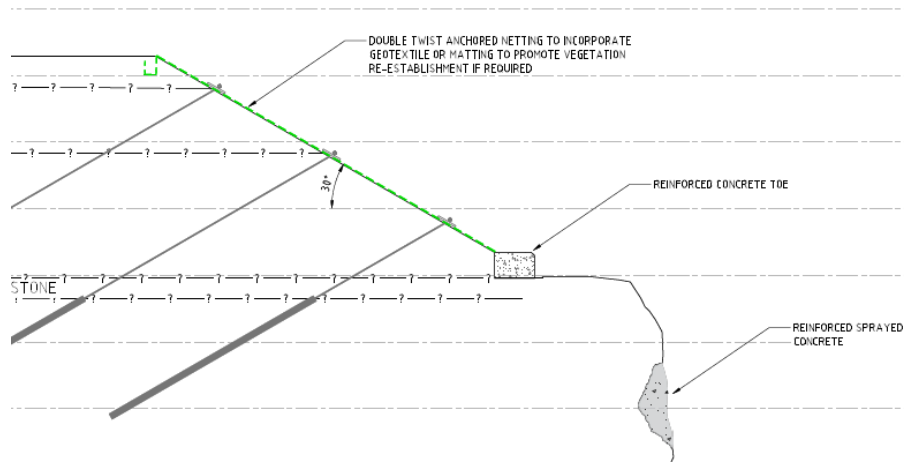
We are currently unsure on the preference on this option given the unknown costs and loss of public space in Connaught gardens. This option is to remove the failing wall and regrade the soil behind the wall. This will lose significant public space within the gardens and permanently remove a section

of cliff top footway. It is not currently known if this is acceptable with members/users. There are two options, a 30 degree batter which would lose all access too the viewpoint, or a 70 degree which limits lost public space.

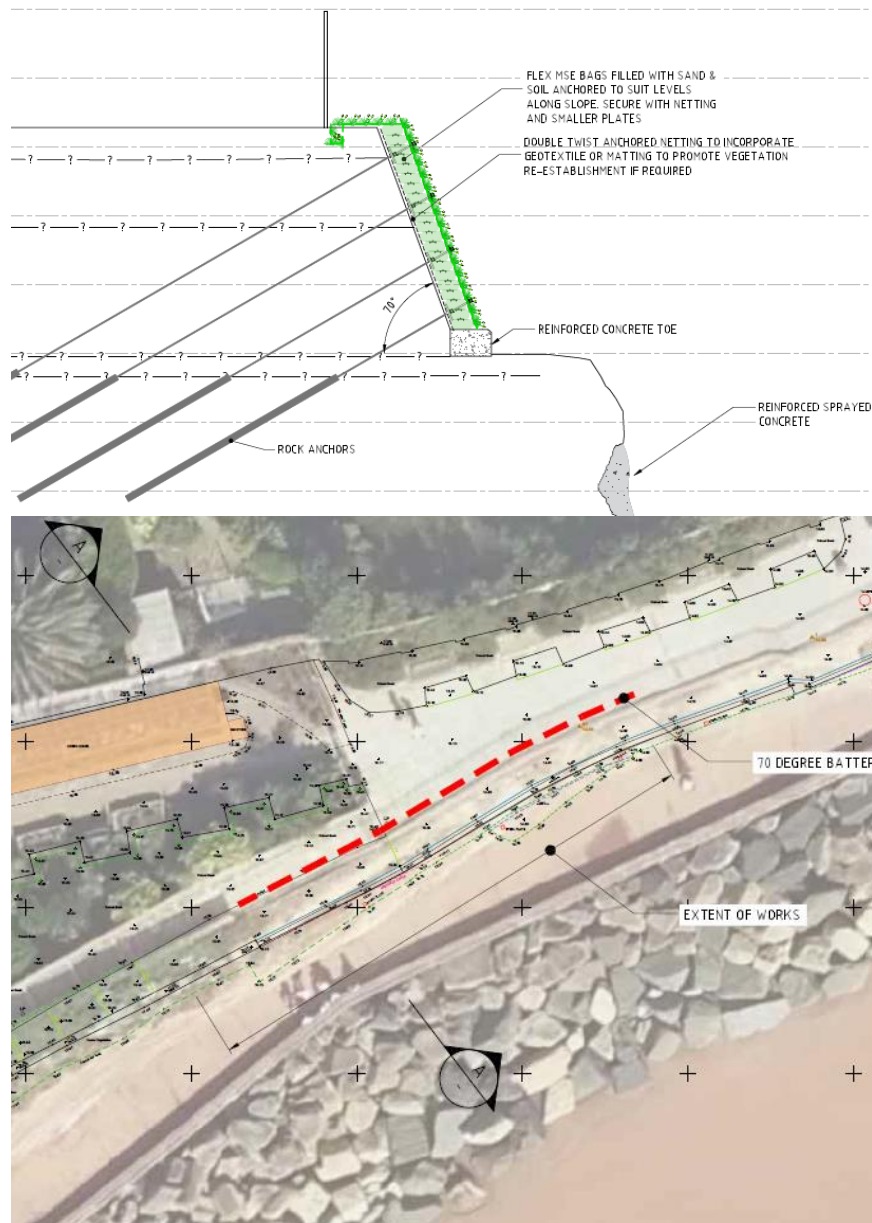
This option could cost around £250k.

This solution will need planning permission and may need cladding either as part of the build or at a later date due to it being within a conservation area, and near listed structures. Initial conversations with the conservation team indicate this option would not be preferred due to the dramatic change in appearance and layout.

30 Degree batter design



70 Degree batter design

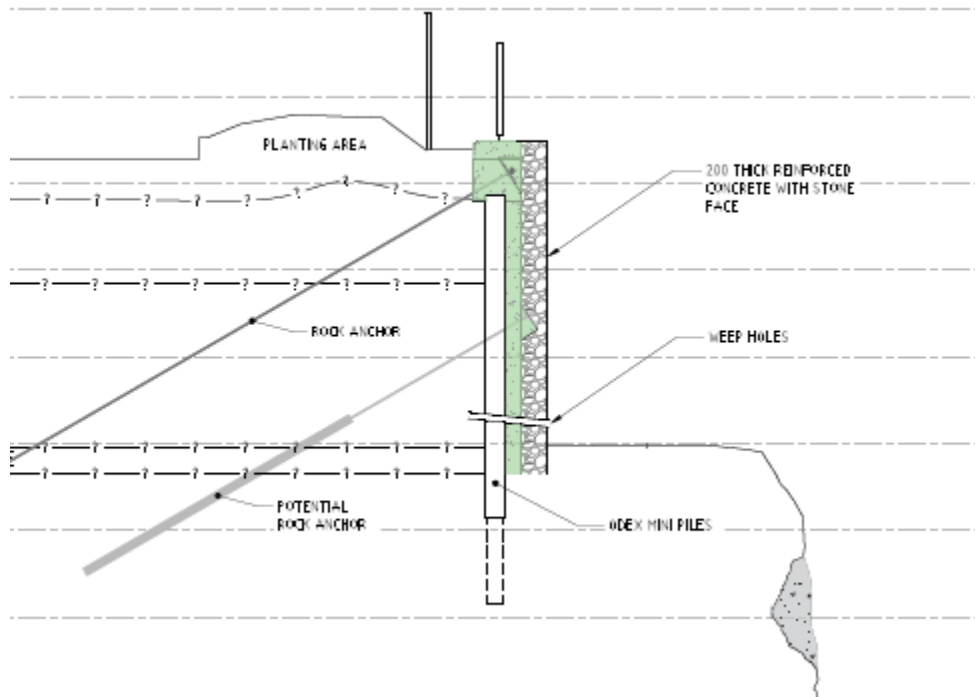


4.5 Removal wall and build new set back wall

We are currently unsure on the preference on this option given the unknown costs. We are likely to lose some public access space. This option is to build a concrete piled wall set back from the edge, which will enable the safe removal of the failing wall, and allow a safe working area to remove the failing wall and face the piled wall. This will lose some public space within the gardens and permanently remove a section of cliff top footway. It is not currently known if this is acceptable with members/users.

This option could cost around £500k.

Given the change in appearance, this will require planning permission



4.6 Removal wall and build new wall on similar alignment

We are currently unsure on the preference on this option given the unknown costs. This option is to carefully remove the wall, and soil behind, make safe and rebuild wall on a similar footprint.

Costs are estimated around £500k, but with a significantly longer programme than 4.5

Given the change in appearance, this will require planning permission

5. Planning permission.

Due to the wall being within a conservation area, and adjacent to a listed structure, all viable works will need planning permission. This will take approximately 8 weeks once submitted, so we would be looking at works being able to start late August into September.

From a planning perspective it is recommended that planning permission is granted in advance of any works. However until the wall is secured, there is a remaining risk to the public. Therefore cabinet will need to weigh up the risk of a retrospective planning permission process being carried out by the council, against public safety.



View of cobblestone retaining wall at risk of falling



Photo of crack opened up since last inspection.

6. Relevance to Council Plan/priorities

Set out how report links to the Council Plan/priorities:

- A supported and engaged community that has the right homes in the right places, with appropriate infrastructure
- A sustainable environment that is moving towards carbon neutrality and which promotes ecological recovery.

- A vibrant and resilient economy that supports local business, provides local jobs and leads to a reduction in poverty and inequality.
- A well-managed, financially secure and continuously improving council that delivers quality services

Indicate how the recommendations/decision contributes to the delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities

7. Financial Comments/Implications

6.1 The financial implications for each option identified in this report are given below. This is based on any sums required above existing capital budget levels (estimated £75k is available) will be required to be borrowed.

Do Nothing £10k – can be met with existing budget

Netting of existing wall £150k – Can be part met from existing budget, estimated **£75k additional funding required** at an annual borrowing cost of £5k (50 yrs annuity loan).

Spray concrete of existing wall £300k - Can be part met from existing budget, estimated **£225k additional funding required** at an annual borrowing cost of £15k (50 yrs annuity loan).

Remove wall and regrade area £250k - Can be part met from existing budget, estimated **£175k additional funding required** at an annual borrowing cost of £12k (50 yrs annuity loan)

Removal wall and build new set back wall £500k - Can be part met from existing budget, estimated **£425k additional funding required** at an annual borrowing cost of £29k (50 yrs annuity loan).

Removal wall and build new wall on similar alignment £500k - Can be part met from existing budget, estimated **£425k additional funding required** at an annual borrowing cost of £29k (50 yrs annuity loan).

The report highlights additional funding is being sought to reduce the level of possible borrowing required.

8. Legal Comments/Implications

7.1 The works must be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders. As the owner of the wall, the Council has a duty of care to its employees and contractors under Health and Safety legislation and to visitors under the Occupiers Liability Acts. In light of that duty of care, part of the adjoining area has been cordoned off and authority is being sought to conduct emergency works.

9. Risk Implications

- 8.1 Set out a short description (narrative) of the Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken.
- 8.2 Include details of the Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks.
- 8.3 The risk section should also include the risks for all the options considered.

Activity/ plant/ materials etc	List significant hazards	People at risk	Assessment of Risk			Existing controls e.g. Safety procedures	What further action Is required to control/mitigate the risk?
			*Impact 1-4	*Likeli hood 1-4	Risk Score		
Failure of wall	Negative press, risk of life,	Member s of the public	4	3		Security Fencing	
Permane nt closure of path	Negative press, economic damage. Amenity loss	Member s of the public	4	3			
Planning permissio n needed	Unlikely to be granted prior to construcito n	reputati on	1	4			

*Impact – Major = 4 Serious = 3 Significant = 2 Minor = 1

*Likelihood – Very Likely = 4 Likely = 3 Unlikely = 2 Remote = 1

10. Equality Implications (Public Sector Equality Duty)

- 9.1 This relevance assessment aims to analyse gathered information for potential relevance to equality. If a Full Equality Impact Assessment is required include it as an appendix. At the minimum, the following table must be completed.

Scope (<i>Provide an overview, including objectives and desired outcomes</i>)	N/A
Evidence gathered and engagement (<i>List stakeholders consulted and relevant processes, policies, and data sources</i>)	N/A

<p>Relevance assessment findings <i>(If relevant to equality, undertake a full EIA or If no relevance to equality, explain why with supporting information)</i></p>	<p>A full EIA is required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, this assessment has demonstrated relevance to equality with regard to: Please check relevant boxes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy and maternity <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment <input type="checkbox"/> Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage or Civil Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief <input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces <input type="checkbox"/> Other, e.g. carers, care leavers, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.</p> <p>If no, explain why:</p>
<p>Relevance ranking</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> High – Very relevant to protected characteristics <input type="checkbox"/> Medium – Somewhat relevant to protected characteristics <input type="checkbox"/> Low – Not relevant to protected characteristics</p>
<p>Key findings and impacts</p>	
<p>Conclusion drawn <i>(i.e No major changes needed; EIA found no negative impact or adjust policy/process to remove identified barriers)</i></p>	
<p>Actions <i>(Proposed actions to mitigate negative impacts on identified groups)</i></p>	
<p>Signed off by</p>	

11. HR and Workforce Implications

11.1 Set out any HR or Workforce implications. For advice please contact HR@eastdevon.gov.uk

12. Community Safety Implications (Crime and Disorder)

11.1 Please confirm if there are any Community Safety Implications. N/A

13. Climate Change Implications

13.1 Please confirm if there are any Climate Change implications and how the recommendations are linked to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. N/A

14. Health & Safety and Health & Wellbeing Implications

14.1 Please confirm if there are any Health & Safety implications.
Yes – Structure is unsafe. It is sensibly fenced, although it is still possible for the public to access, and be at risk of the wall falling upon them. Without putting staff at risk, it is not possible to fully fence the walkway.

14.2 Please confirm if there are any Health & Wellbeing Implications. N/A

15. Procurement and Social Value implications

14.1 The [Public Services \(Social Value\) Act](#) came into force on 31 January 2013. The Act requires public authorities to consider how the services they commission and procure might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of their area.

Further guidance is provided at the end of the report.

16. Land and Buildings (non-housing)/Asset Management Implications

15.1 The closed undercliff path allows good access to a concession, which will limit their trade if access remains shut.

17. Overview and Scrutiny Committees Comments/Recommendations

16.1 Demonstrate how scrutiny has contributed to inform the outcomes in the report. Comments from Scrutiny Committee, Overview Committee and Housing Review Board.

18. Digital and Data

17.1 Please set out any digital and data implications, for advice on this contact digital@eastdevon.gov.uk.

19. Consultation and Engagement

Fortnightly emails have gone out to ward members and local businesses. Two notice boards are in place with information for visitors.

20. Communications

19.1 Please set out any PR/Comms implications likely to arise from the recommendations in the report.

21. Next Steps

20.1 Assuming the works can be done outside of the school summer holidays, it is assumed that works will begin as soon as possible using engaged contractors using the previous papers standing order exemption. If its decided not to proceed until planning is granted, we will apply for permission as soon as possible and then plan in the work later this year.

22. Appendices

21.1 N/A

23. Background Papers

22.1 [Sidmouth Emergency Cliff Works Standing Orders Exemption .pdf](#)

Proposed Report Sign Off process

Please make sure you have obtained the relevant sign off and the date completed before submitting your report to Democratic Services.

	Officer Name	Date requested	Date Completed
Legal & Governance	Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer	19/05/2026	Required
Finance	Section 151 Officer or Deputy S151 Officer	19/05/2026	Required
Communications	communications@eastdevon.gov.uk		If applicable
Digital and Data	digital@eastdevon.gov.uk		If applicable
Engagement	engagement@eastdevon.gov.uk		If applicable
HR	HR Lead		If applicable
Chief Executive	Chief Executive		If applicable
Director	Relevant Director		Required
Assistant Director(s)	Relevant Assistant Director(s)		Required
Cabinet Lead Member(s)	Relevant Lead Member (s)		Required
Executive Leadership Team	ELT	19/05/2026	Required
Strategic Leadership Team	SLT		If applicable

broader social, economic, and environmental benefits to the community.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) 6a of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted