

To receive Cornwall Council's draft Cornwall Seascape Character Appraisal and consider any actions and associated expenditure.

Report to:

Annual Full Town Council

Date of Report:

1 May 2026

Officer Writing the Report:

Office Manager / Assistant to the Town Clerk

Purpose of the report:

To brief Members on the Cornwall Seascape Character Assessment consultation and to invite consideration of whether Saltash Town Council should respond in order to help shape the evidence base used in future planning and marine management affecting the town and wider Tamar area.

Officer's Recommendations

To note the Cornwall Seascape Character Assessment consultation and consider delegating authority to the Saltash Waterfront and Water Management Transport Working Group to prepare and submit a response on behalf of the Town Council, should Members consider it appropriate.

Report Summary

Local councils and communities are encouraged to share their insights on the draft Cornwall Seascape Character Appraisal, which will be open for feedback between the 17 April and 15 May 2026.

You can find the consultation here: <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/cornwall-seascape-character-appraisal>

Seascape appraisal is a process that helps provide an objective evidence base for planning policies, development proposals and marine planning. It ensures that the visual, cultural, historic and natural aspects of seascapes are understood before decisions are made.

Everyone's perspectives are vital in capturing the character, challenges and opportunities unique to each area. Everyone's comments will help ensure that coastal and marine planning is well-informed, place-based and sensitive to what people value,

helping balance development needs with the protection of our unique coastal character.

What is the purpose of a seascape appraisal in planning?

A seascape appraisal (or Seascape Character Assessment – SCA) is used in the planning system to help understand, describe and manage the character of coastal and marine areas in a consistent, evidence-based way. Its key purposes are:

1. To inform planning and decision-making

Seascape appraisal provides an objective evidence base for planning policies, development proposals and marine planning. It ensures that visual, cultural, historic and natural aspects of seascapes are understood before decisions are made. This reflects requirements in the Marine Policy Statement, which asks planners to consider visual, cultural, historical and archaeological impacts on coastal landscapes and seascapes.

2. To integrate land and marine planning

Seascape Character Assessments help bridge the gap between terrestrial planning and marine planning by analysing coastal and offshore areas in a holistic way, rather than treating land and sea as separate.

3. To guide sensitive design and protect local character

By mapping and describing what makes each stretch of coast distinctive, seascape appraisal supports sympathetic design of new development and helps avoid harm to valued coastal character. It highlights natural, cultural, aesthetic and perceptual qualities that need consideration.

4. To support marine planning and strategic management

Seascape Character Assessments underpin the Marine Management Organisation's (MMO) marine plans by defining Marine Character Areas with agreed key characteristics, ensuring planning is based on consistent national evidence.

5. To capture local experience and stakeholder knowledge

Seascape Character Assessments rely on fieldwork and stakeholder engagement, providing a structured way to bring local insights into planning decisions.

When clicking onto the Cornwall Seascape Character Assessment the following notice is provided:

Thank you for taking part in this public consultation on the Seascape Character Assessment for Cornwall.

This consultation invites you to share your views on the character of Cornwall's seascapes, including what makes them distinctive, what you value most, and how they could be protected or enhanced in the future. Your responses will help inform the understanding, management, and long-term planning of the seascape.

The consultation is open to everyone. You do not need specialist knowledge to take part. We are interested in your personal experience, observations, and opinions. There are no right or wrong answers.

Your feedback will be reviewed alongside other responses and used to help inform the content of the seascape character assessment.

How to Take Part

1. Explore the map to familiarise yourself with the different seascape character areas.
2. Click the 'Comments' button and place it in the area that your feedback relates to.
3. Use the questions that pop up on the left hand side of the screen to share your views. Once completed, select 'Create' to save your comments.
4. You can leave as many points on the map as you wish, if you have knowledge of different areas of Cornwall.
5. You can respond to as many or as few questions as you wish.
6. Responses can be brief or detailed. Please provide as much information as you feel comfortable sharing.

Although the Seascape Character Assessment covers a wide area from Rame Head to Bude Bay, Members may wish to respond to the consultation to ensure that Saltash Town Council's local knowledge and community priorities are reflected in the evidence base that will inform future coastal, estuarine and marine planning decisions affecting the town and wider Tamar area.

Signature of Officer:

Office manager / Assistant to the Town Clerk