

## **ANNUAL STATEMENT – TEIGNMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSION**

I am pleased to say that this year started off well with a very positive completion of the Harbour Master's first year. We are delighted Rob has settled in so well. There was some uncertainty when the previous Chair resigned but I was proud to take on the position as the new Chair in February and the challenges that it brings.

Over the Christmas period we were drawn into the concerns and discussions relating to the damage to the Breakwater and unfortunately into the drawn-out debate as to the ownership and responsibility in respect of emergency repairs and of course the costs. I am pleased to report that we have made progress on this point limiting a potential catastrophe for our harbour. Associated with this risk were the winter storms and the unreasonable amount of sand which very nearly closed the harbour commercially. The decision to reprofile the Point showed the level of commitment we have. We had to act and it is that process and decisiveness of which we should be proud.

This year we have seen greater collaboration with external partners, shipping companies, Teignbridge District Council and our close neighbour and friend Associated British Ports. This approach has facilitated the progress we have seen in the renewal of the Harbour Master provision for ABP, a review of the pilotage process, a review of the dredge contribution and of course our legislative requirement of Open Port Duty. We have been involved remotely in what Local Government Reform will look like for us in the future and opportunities that may present themselves. This is something that will shape up over the next 5 years for the Commission, but I appreciate that the latest Government pause brings further uncertainty. We must wait and see what happens. We cannot look at this past year forensically, but we must always remember our core purpose as a Statutory Authority, which is to keep the harbour open providing safe passage of all vessels. This we have done without hesitation.

In the forthcoming year, with the completion of the projects so far undertaken, we pledge to continue to work with our partners to improve Teignmouth Harbour Commission, to return the charted depths to what they should be, to exploit the opportunities LGR brings and to finally set out our strategic plan for the short, medium and long term.

Finally, I would again like to thank Rob and his team for their dedicated support, professionalism and expertise in the day to day running of the harbour and I look forward to working with them all next year. I would also like to thank the Commissioners for all their valuable support and time in contributing to the continuity of the harbour.

Mark Annett  
Chairman THC  
September 2026