

DEVON BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

26 APRIL 2019

Present:

Councillors Pearce (Chairman), Smith (Vice-Chairman), Bastone and Clemens

Apologies:

Councillors Steer and Kimber

Officers in Attendance:

Andrew Carpenter, Business Manager - Head of Building Control Partnership

Drew Powell, Business Manager

Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer

Scott Adams, Group Leader, Strategic Place - Building Control

Trish Corns – Democratic Services Officer

24. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of Interest.

26. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Group Leader presented the performance report circulated with the agenda, which gave an overview of the performance of the Partnership for the previous quarter up to 31 March 2019. The report monitored the performance, service delivery, development and action plans of the Partnership, which covered the building control service across South Hams and Teignbridge District Councils and West Devon Borough Council.

The Partnership had been awarded ISOQAR recognition reflecting the high standard of service. LABC (Local Authority Building Control) was aiming to achieve consistency across all building control providers throughout the country and this recognition is a fundamental element in achieving this.

Area Surveyors had successfully dealt with several high-profile dangerous structures. The Partnership was also first-responders following the gas explosion in Buckfastleigh.

The rollout of ipads enabling remote access to plans whilst on site was proving beneficial for the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.

The Partnership held its award ceremony in February 2019, which recognised 18 separate categories with 32 winning projects and 30 highly commended projects. All entries were nominated by DBCP Area Surveyors. Extremely positive feedback was received from all whom attended the awards. All entries were genuinely appreciative at having their achievements recognised and they placed great emphasis on being officially recognised by the Partnership. The number of viewings on the website had increased as a result of the awards information being made available on the site. The event had been a flagship for the Partnership and the Committee commended the work of staff involved.

The combined marketing event 'Building Together Devon' with Plymouth Building Control would be held in October 2019 and would feature trade stands and technical seminars. The aim of the event being to establish new business opportunities as well as offering key stakeholders.

The DBC Twitter feed had been successful and DBC and social media platforms had been further expanded by launching a new Facebook page.

Training was ongoing with an in-house "Structural Mechanics" refresher course scheduled for all Area Surveyors for May 2019, and a surveyor was shortly to qualify to undertake SAP calculations.

Resolved

The report be noted.

27. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

That under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

28. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Group Leader presented the performance report circulated with the agenda, which monitored the performance of the Partnership up until 31 March 2019 and detailed staff and financial monitoring information.

The competition from the private sector and service levels were discussed.

Resolved

- a) The Business Manager progress staffing matters as agreed in relation to the apprenticeship and administrative posts.

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- b) That direct customer telephone lines be maintained for the service across the three authorities, with regards to telephone systems updates.
- c) The Housing Minister be invited to meet with representatives of DBCP to discuss service provision.

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting (AGM) was scheduled for 19 July, 2019 at 10.30am.

COUNCILLOR T PEARCE
Chairman

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