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21 November 2025

DEVON BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Devon Building Control Partnership Committee will be held on **Friday, 28th November, 2025** in the Council Chamber, Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4XX at **10.00 am**

Membership:

Councillor John Birch (Chair)
Councillor Ric Cheadle (Vice-Chair)
Councillor John McKay
Councillor Terry Southcott
Councillor Gary Taylor
Councillor Suzanne Sanders

South Hams District Council
West Devon Borough Council

South Hams District Council
West Devon Borough Council
Teignbridge District Council
Teignbridge District Council

Please Note: Filming is permitted during Committee meeting with the exception where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being filmed.

A G E N D A

Part I (Open to the public)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)
3. Declarations of interest.

If Councillors have any questions relating to predetermination or interests in items on this Agenda, please contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

4. Part 1 Operational Report Q2 2025-2026 (Pages 7 - 12)
5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public
RECOMMENDED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Part II (Private)

Items which may be taken in the absence of the Public and Press on grounds that Exempt Information may be disclosed.

6. Part 2 Operational Report Q2 2025 (Pages 13 - 24)
7. Part 2 Operational Plan Q2 2025-2026 (Pages 25 - 36)
8. Part 2 Financial Report 2025-2026 (Pages 37 - 44)

DEVON BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**28 JULY 2025**Present:

Councillors Birch, Cheadle, G Taylor and Sanders

Apologies:

Councillors McKay and Southcott

Officers in Attendance:

Drew Powell, Corporate Director – Strategy and Governance
Scott Adams, Group Leader, Strategic Place - Building Control
Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer
Nigel Hunt, Head of Devon Building Control Partnership
Nicola Denton, Business Development and Support Manager
Neil Blaney, Director of Place
Simon Arthurs, Deputy Chief Finance Officer
Matthew Long, Insurance Officer

8. ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was proposed by Cllr Cheadle and seconded by Cllr Sanders that Cllr Birch be elected Chair of the Partnership Committee for 2025-26.

All were in favour.

Resolved

that Cllr Birch be elected Chair of the Partnership Committee for 2025-26.

9. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

It was proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr G Taylor that Cllr Cheadle be elected Vice-Chair of the Partnership Committee for 2025-26.

All were in favour

Resolved

that Cllr Cheadle be elected Vice-Chair of the Partnership Committee for 2025-26.

10. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr G Taylor and seconded by Cllr Cheadle that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

All were in favour

Resolved

that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

12. PART 1 OPERATIONAL REPORT 2025-2026 Q1

The Head of the Partnership introduced the item to the Committee. He spoke on positive customer feedback, the positive market share, meeting KPIs, both online and in-person briefings to clients, and considerations of risks including cyber-attacks.

The report was noted by the Committee.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Cheadle that the press and public be excluded as per the resolution below.

RESOLVED

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

14. PART 2 OPERATIONAL REPORT AGM & Q1 28TH JULY 2025

The Head of the Partnership introduced the item to the Committee. He spoke on the financial business of the Partnership, staffing, funding, ongoing process mapping, updating software including working with Strata, and preparing for the Local Government Reorgansiation.

The report was noted by the Committee.

15. PART 2 DBCP OPERATIONAL PLAN Q1 2025-2026

The Head of the Partnership introduced the item to the Committee. He spoke on achieving KPIs, managing risks, and works being undertaken in Central Government.

The report was noted by the Committee.

16. PART 2 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Head of the Partnership introduced the item to the Committee. He spoke on the financial business of the Partnership,

It was proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Cheadle that an informal meeting be held in South Hams to discuss organisational and financial information included in the report.

All were in favour.

Resolved

that an informal meeting be held in South Hams to discuss organisational and financial information included in the report.

The report was noted by the Committee.

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.58 am.

Cllr John Birch
Chair

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DEVON BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE 28TH NOVEMBER 2025

Report Title	Operational Report Q2 2025/26 Part 1
Purpose of Report	To provide an update on the operational performance of the Partnership for the periods above
Recommendation(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to: (1) Note the report.
Financial Implications	To be covered in Financial Report Part 2 papers.
Legal Implications	There are no legal implications associated with this paper Maxine Valentine Senior Legal Officer (interim Team Leader) Maxine.valentine@teignbridge.gov.uk
Environmental/ Climate Change Implications	The ability of Building Control to deliver services during times of increased workloads on physical site inspections may have implications on the energy and carbon performance of buildings, however, from experience gained the increase in agile working helps to mitigate any significant negative effects. Nigel Hunt Tel: 01626 215721 Email: nigel.hunt@devonbuildingcontrol.gov.uk
Report Author	Nigel Hunt Tel: 01626 215721 Email: nigel.hunt@devonbuildingcontrol.gov.uk
Partnership Chairman	Cllr John Birch Cllr John Birch cllr.john.birch@southhams.gov.uk
Appendices	See Part 2
Background Papers	None

PURPOSE

Devon Building Control Partnership Committee
Date of meeting 28TH November 2025

To provide reports as required under the Devon Building Control Partnership Agreement 2017.

REPORT DETAIL

The reports for the Joint Committee meetings are supported by the Partnership's Operational/Business Plan. This will be the main source of information/discussion with additional sensitive information contained in the Part 2 report. Also, as all financial information is considered confidential under the various Cipfa guidelines and Local Government Acts pertaining to Building Control there will no longer be any such information disclosed in Part 1 reports. The only financial data that the partnership is obliged to publish is a summary of our end of year accounts.

2.1 Operation

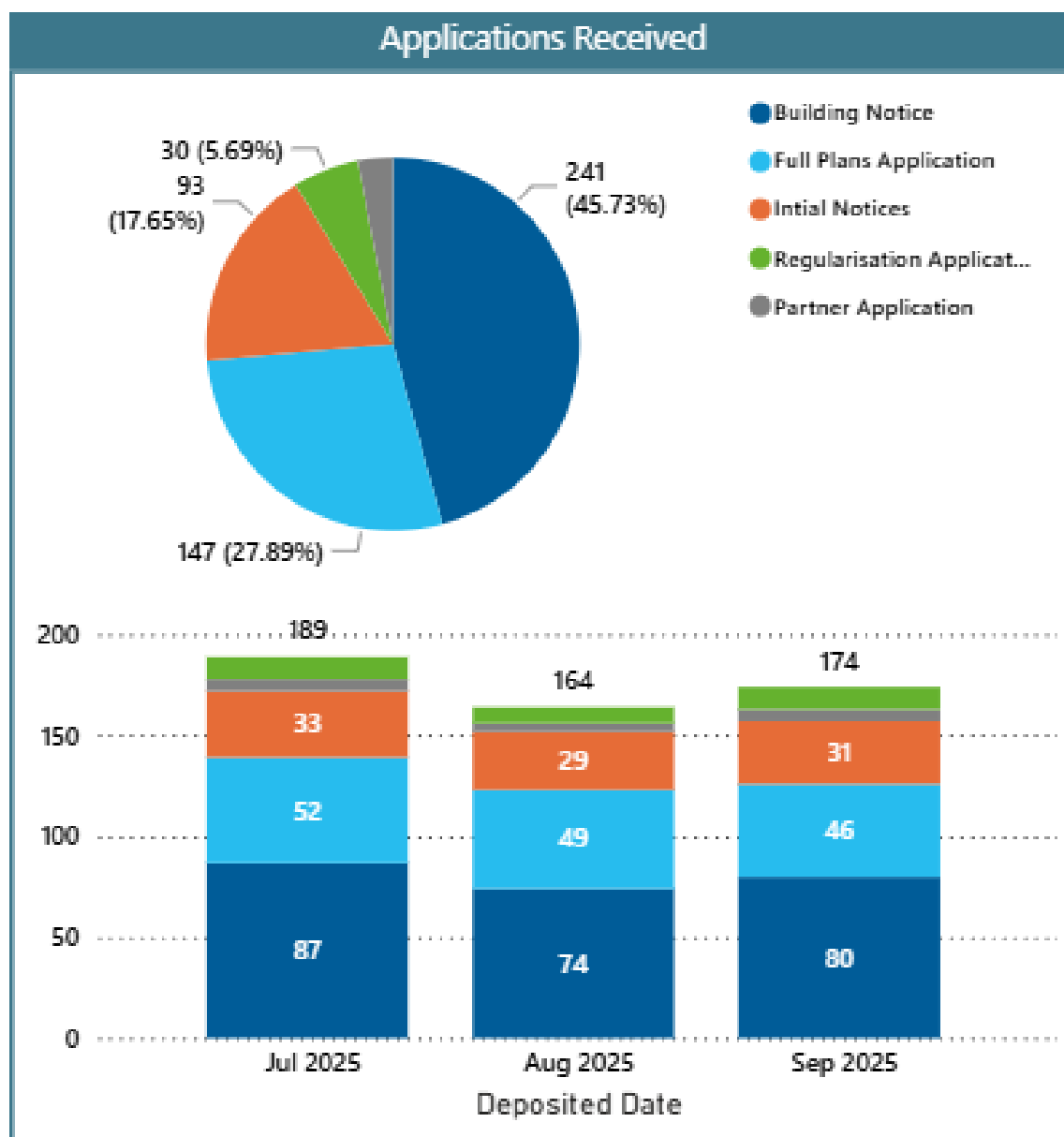
The Partnership has been in operation for 17 years and is hosted by Teignbridge District Council

The Partnership continues to successfully deliver the building control service across the three Authorities, maintaining high standards and continues to operate within agreed annual budgets.

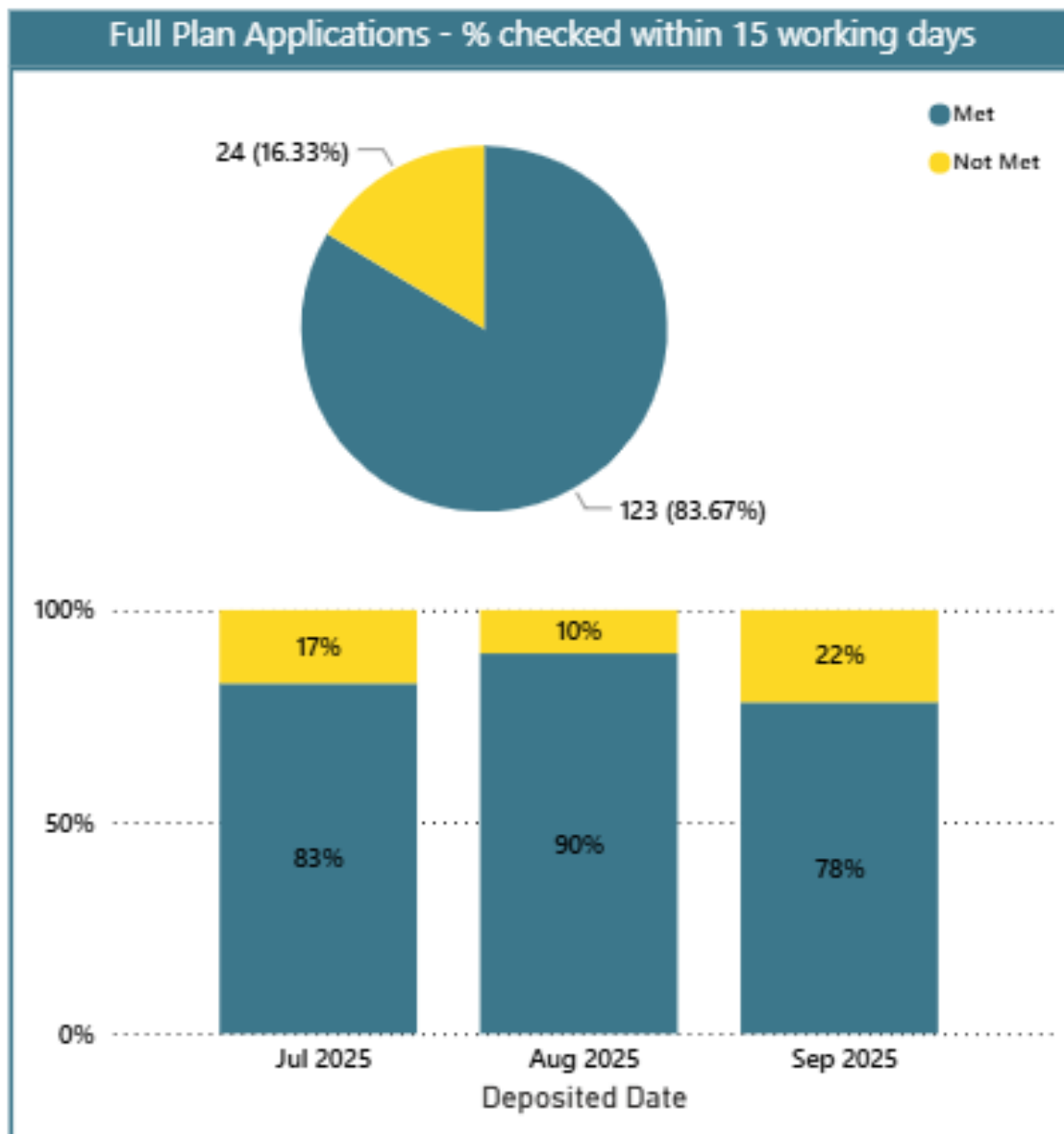
Performance

The Partnership continues to maintain all levels of service relating to current PIs and receives positive comments from customers.

Statistics for Quarter 1



The number of initial notices means that partnership's market share across the second quarter is approximately 82%. This means that market share over all categories remains stable.



The number of applications checked within 15 days has remained stable across the second quarter, which is a credit to the Technical Support Team coming to terms with the issues, in the new requirements, for validating submissions. This includes the need for signatories for the Applicant, Lead Designer and Lead Contractor.



All KPI's above are within the set parameters.

It should be noted that the KPI's will likely change during the current financial year as these will be set nationally by the regulator and will be reported quarterly.

Staff

Staff matters will be discussed in Part 2.

Marketing and events

The Partnership has continued to provide a series of online and in-person briefing sessions with customers regarding the changes in legislation. The Partnership is also looking to form a new Customer Liaison Panel in 2025-26.

2.2 Legal

The Partnership, currently hosted by Teignbridge District Council, meets quarterly to monitor its performance. Performance monitoring is required under the Partnership Agreement that came into operation on 1st April 2017

2.3 Risks

Risks to the Partnership's business are documented and reviewed quarterly. Please see Operational Plan in Part 2 for more detail.

The risks to the Partnership are:

Failure to deliver the service.

Staff resourcing.

Loss of Market share.

Lack of ability to react to changes in policy/legislation.

Changing workload

Failure to follow financial protocols and requirements of Cipfa guidance.

Withdrawal of a Partner council

2.4 Environmental/Climate Change Impact

There are no direct carbon/environmental implications arising from the recommendations in the report. However, it should be noted that the Partnership will be taking an active role in supporting the Southwest Energy Partnership (between Devon, Bristol and Plymouth Councils) on low carbon projects in the region, primarily retrofit.

CONCLUSION

The Partnership Account continues to be managed by the Host Council in accordance with the Partnership Agreement, maintaining cost effectiveness and in accordance with agreed budgets.