



DEVON BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE 13 NOVEMBER 2020

Report Title	Operational Report Part 1
Purpose of Report	To provide an update on the operational performance of the Partnership between July and September 2020.
Recommendation(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to: (1) Note the report
Financial Implications	No specific financial implications highlighted in the report. Clare Moors Tel 01626 215248 clare.moors@teignbridge.gov.uk
Legal Implications	“no specific legal implications” Karen Trickey Karen.Trickey@Teignbridge.gov.uk
Risk Assessment	The risks to the Partnership, listed in 2.3 below, are currently being managed. Andrew Carpenter Tel: 01626 215721 Email: andrew.carpenter@devonbuildingcontrol.gov.uk
Environmental/ Climate Change Implications	The ability of Building Control to deliver services during times of increased restrictions on physical site inspections may have implications on the energy and carbon performance of buildings, however, experience from the initial lockdown in Spring 2020 and an increase in agile working should help to mitigate any significant negative effects. William Elliott Climate Change Officer William.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk
Report Author	Andrew Carpenter Tel: 01626 215721 Email: andrew.carpenter@devonbuildingcontrol.gov.uk
Partnership Chairman	Cllr Mike Haines mike.haines@teignbridge.gov.uk
Appendices	
Background Papers	None

1. PURPOSE

Committee
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The Partnership operates under the Devon Building Control Partnership Agreement 2017.

2. REPORT DETAIL

2.1 Operation

The Partnership has completed sixteen years in operation and is hosted by Teignbridge District Council

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

Performance

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

Staff

Two members of staff have left the Partnership recently. One, who was already part-time, retired in August. The other, a full time surveyor, left at the end of September. Discussions are in progress regarding future resources.

Covid 19

During Lockdown workloads were significantly reduced and staff conducted site inspections using photographs and Social Media. The Furlough scheme was used to compensate for reduce workloads. Several staff were in isolation due to health conditions that put them at high risk.

The construction industry recovered quickly from June and all staff returned from Furlough. Physical site inspections have since been carried out whilst following all guidelines but virtual inspections remain an option where it is deemed not essential or not safe to visit physically. The imminent lockdown throughout November has led to the reversion to only essential visits being carried out physically during this period.

With another lockdown imminent all except one member of staff can successfully operate from home. Forde House is Covid compliant and therefore will remain in use for the remaining person as well as anyone else who has a need to work there.

Head of Partnership

An advertisement is due to be placed for a new Head of Partnership which becomes vacant at the end of March 2021. The post will return to a full time position.

Marketing and events

All events continue have been either cancelled or postponed until further notice due to Covid 19 restrictions and ongoing uncertainty over how long these may continue

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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 annually. 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 break even financially

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

3. CONCLUSION

Committee

Date of meeting

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.