



DEVON BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE 16 JULY 2021

Report Title	Annual General Meeting report Part 1
Purpose of Report	To provide an update on the operational performance of the Partnership during 2020/21.
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 direct 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. Nigel Hunt Tel: 01626 215721 Email: nigel.hunt@devonbuildingcontrolpartnership.gov.uk
Environmental/ Climate Change Implications	<i>“Maintenance of staff levels, staff qualifications/training and company finances, as identified in the report(s) will support DBC in its role of identifying any performance gaps between “as designed” and “as built” developments, which will act to reduce long-term carbon emissions arising from new developments. There are no known significant and further environmental/climate change implications associated with this report.</i> <i>William Elliott, Climate Change Officer Email: william.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk”</i>
Report Author	Nigel Hunt: nigel.hunt@devonbuildingcontrolpartnership.gov.uk Tel: 01626 215721 Email
Partnership Chairman	Cllr Mike Haines mike.haines@teignbridge.gov.uk
Appendices	
Background Papers	None

1. PURPOSE

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

The Agreement states that the Committee shall meet a minimum of three times a year and that one of those meetings shall be the Annual General Meeting, at which the Chair and Vice Chair will be determined for the forthcoming year.

2. REPORT DETAIL

2.1 Operation

The Partnership has completed seventeen years in operation and has been hosted by Teignbridge District Council since April 2011 and who has employed all staff in the Partnership since April 2017.

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.

2020/21 was the third year under the current partnership agreement, with Teignbridge council as the full host authority.

General

The Partnership has performed exceptionally well during the last financial year considering the pressures caused by the pandemic. All staff embraced the remote working ethos and it would appear in general terms that there was not been any reduction in service delivery to customers. The partnership was able to function to near 100% efficiency because all staff have the capability to remote work and that we are in effect a paperless office. These factors allied to the fact that we have our own web presence, as well as being directly contactable by client's means we have been able to offer a seamless service. It has been acknowledged that this way of working is the way forward as it allows the service to be more agile and allows for a greater work-life balance for staff. A further review is under way considering alternative technology and software to further develop remote working.

Whilst application numbers in dropped significantly in the first quarter of the year recovery has been dramatic and have increased on those submitted in 2019/20. Market share has also been maintained.

Staff

The partnership has continued to invest in training and development of staff with more surveyors training to become LABC Competency Level 6A: Fire Safety Specialists. The partnership's apprentice is in his final year, and is currently studying for a BTEC in surveying at Exeter College

Seminars and events

Regrettably the partnership was unable to facilitate any seminars or events due to the pandemic.

Awards

The partnership's awards in their current guise have been suspended, although alternatives are being explored, along with all LABC regional and national awards due to the ongoing pandemic.

2.2 Legal

The 2017 Partnership Agreement requires that the Partnership Committee will meet for a minimum of 3 times a year:

At the Annual General Meeting the Partnership Committee shall;

- Agree the Partnership's draft final accounts, and agree the balance to be held in the Trading Account.
- Reassess the values and objectives of the Partnership and monitor service delivery and financial performance.
- from among their members elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman

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

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.