



NOTE TO: BUILDING CONTROL JOINT COMMITTEE
DATE: 08/07/2021
TOPIC: BUILDING CONTROL BUSINESS UPDATE
REPORT BY: MIKE TUCKER (BUILDING CONTROL MANAGER)

1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to update members regarding the progress of the partnership and contains no recommendations.

2 REPORT

2.1 Workload

Workloads have remained high. However, there does appear to have been a shift in the ratio of work between North and Mid Devon to approximately 50:50 rather than the 60:40 split previously seen.

Analysis of this suggests that this is simply due to the general volume of work in each area rather than the result of specific larger projects or a change in market share. It is therefore hard to predict if this is likely to continue or if it will slowly revert to the previous situation.

In addition workload has become distorted within the individual teams. Unfortunately the impact of this was exasperated by technical issues with regard to the reporting module which delayed the use of the reports to identify this and contributed to a reduction in performance indicators.

We are now reallocating resources to take this into account moving a member of the Surveying team across the Mid Devon boarder to balance workloads. This also provides the opportunity to provide commercial experience to prepare for their professional membership interview.

2.2 Enforcement

The log jam in the listing of cases for the Magistrates Court now appears to be easing enabling us to move ahead with action under Section 77 to remove the dangerous wall at Rowan Cottage Chittlehampton for which we originally applied for a hearing in March 2020.

2.3 Complaints

We have had one complaint escalated to Stage 2 regarding lack of action in relation to an empty derelict property in Croyde. This has now been resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant and remains the only complaint received in 2021.

2.4 Staffing

As reported in the update report distributed due to the cancellation of the last meeting one of our Technical Support Officers is on maternity leave.

Our Technical Support Team Leader is retiring in January 2022 and in order to facilitate effective resource planning has formally resigned with 6 months notice. This has enabled us to advertise the post internally and I am happy to say that the post will be filled by one of our Technical Support Officers.

Whilst this level of notice and early recruitment is unusual it has created the opportunity to recruit a new technical support officer now and fund this post in the interim period due to the maternity leave in the knowledge that there is a permanent vacancy.

Our apprentice/trainee Building Control Surveyor has now completed the academic content of his degree finishing with a distinction in the final module. He is now waiting the formal award of his grade and will then progress to the assessment of professional competence.