

**Meeting:** Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Operations Team)

**Date:** 18 January 2017

**Wards Affected:** All

**Report Title:** Transformation Project - Building Control Shared Service

**Is the decision a key decision?** No

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** 1 April 2017

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## **1. Proposal and Introduction**

- 1.1 The proposal is to join and form part of an existing shared Building Control Service known as the Devon Building Control Partnership with neighbouring Local Authorities. This partnership will deliver Torbay Council's statutory responsibilities for Building Control.
- 1.2 The Current Building Control Service consists of 6.12 FTE staff who will TUPE transfer to Teignbridge District Council, (the host Council). The Building Control service provides a Building Regulation statutory function on behalf of the Council and other related services.
- 1.3 The overarching aim of the proposal is to maintain effective and efficient Building Control Services meeting statutory requirements whilst satisfying customers' needs.
- 1.4 The shared service arrangement is cost neutral. The Council will enter in to a contractual arrangement supported with a Service Level Agreement with Teignbridge District Council for the provision of a Building Control Service.

## **2. Reason for Proposal**

- 2.1 Over the past 5 years, the service has experienced a 46% reduction in staffing numbers to meet financial pressures.

- 2.2 With further budget pressures forecast until 2020 the joining and transfer to the Devon Building Control Partnership, will provide the Council with a sustainable and resilient service for the residents of Torbay.
- 2.3 Unusually for Council services Building Control is also in competition with the private sector for some elements of its functions. Where the Building Regulation function exists in direct competition with the private sector, a stronger and more robust and enlarged Local Authority service will continue to be publicly accountable and transparent, protecting Torbay's built environment.
- 2.4 The Devon Building Control Partnership has been in existence since for the past 12 years and presents a low risk option for the service.

### **3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision**

- 3.1 That Torbay Council's Building Control Service join and become part of the Devon Building Control Partnership with staff TUPE transferred to the host Authority, Teignbridge District Council from the 1 April 2017.
- 3.2 That the Assistant Director (Communities and Customer Services), in consultation with the Executive Lead for Planning, Transport and Housing, be give delegated authority to finalise the arrangements of the transfer of the Building Control Service.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

### **Background Documents**

None