
REPORT TO:	Environmental and Development Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	12 April 2012	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Director of Operations	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Stuart Batchelor Ext 5820 Head of Community and Planning	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Feasibility Into a Shared Building Control Service	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS 05

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the committee agree for the feasibility of a shared Building Control Service to be considered.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To seek the authority of the committee to work towards a joint working arrangement to deliver the Council's Building Control Service.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 In 2008 the Council was involved in a project looking at the creation of a Building Control Service for Derbyshire. This project was abandoned when the recession started and the combined service proposal became unsustainable.
- 3.2 Whilst the current financial constraints on the Council mean it is always appropriate to look at the options for the most cost effective delivery of Council's services, that is not the only reason for again considering the partnership option. The provision of an improved service at a reduced cost to the Council is the objective with the improvement aspect being the delivery of a wider set of services with the flexibility to manage the upturns and downturns of the economy.
- 3.3 A number of building control partnerships have already been established between Councils in various parts of the country, including in the North East of the County involving Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Councils and in Staffordshire between Lichfield, Tamworth and South Staffordshire.
- 3.4 In terms of a partnership arrangement for South Derbyshire it is proposed to consider the potential of joining with East Staffordshire Building Control Service. The current

shared Emergency Call Out Service has been established and is operating smoothly and it is appropriate to look at the potential of a more comprehensive partnership.

- 3.5 It is proposed to complete a feasibility into a partnership between the two Building Control Services and bring a report back for Members consideration at a future Committee.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Any costs arising from this initial feasibility work will be shared between the two authorities and funded from existing Building Control budgets.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The provision of a quality Building Control Service is crucial to the Councils aim of ensuring the provision of Safe and Secure in terms of quality build homes and this proposal will examine how this service can continue to be provided with improved Value for Money a key Corporate priority.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 A quality public sector provided Building Control Service supports the delivery of well built and sustainable housing and commercial buildings which have a positive long term benefit to the District.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 To be successful, any partnership must cater for the interests of each participating Council and be capable of delivering a superior service in terms of quality, meeting customer need and providing increased value for money. This will be the aim of this proposal..

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 None