

# Agenda Item

**Executive Board**

**12 April 2006**

**AT/KAL**



## Building Control Proposed membership of LABC

### Summary

Since 1985 East Devon District Council Building Control has belonged to the District Surveyors Association. This is a national association comprising all Local Authority Building control bodies and it was set up to promote the local authority provision of this service in the competitive market. In order to provide competitive business services and partnership arrangements, the DSA set up LABC Services as a commercial arm. Over the past 20 years the distinction between the roles and responsibilities became extremely convoluted and this was confusing for members and customers alike. In 2005 the decision was taken to merge the two bodies as LABC. We belonged to the 'old' organisation and the Building Control Manager is now seeking approval to join the 'new'.

### Recommendation

**That East Devon District Council Building Control joins the newly re-formed LABC**

#### a) Reasons for Recommendation

To maintain this Council's beneficial connection with the Local Authorities Building Control Services.

#### b) Alternative Options

No alternative body available.

#### c) Risk Considerations

Failure to be kept aware of national issues  
Failure to develop and be innovative  
Failure to retain market share of the construction market  
Failure to be represented in marketing initiatives

#### d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

Annual Subscription 2006/7 £1550. Budget provision in place

#### e) Date for Review of Decision

March 2009

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### 1.0 The Articles of Association

1.1 The following is an extract from the Articles of Association for LABC and summarises the reasons for wishing to continue to be part of a national body. These objectives are entirely in line with the Planning and Countryside Service Plans, Best Value Review of Building Control and Chartermark Action Plan for the Building Control Service.

"The objects of the Association ("Objects") are:

- 3.1 To promote public safety, best practice and sustainability in buildings and in the regulations which govern them.
- 3.2 To promote compliance with building regulations and public safety standards and to develop and improve methods of monitoring and enforcing such compliance ("Building Control") in general and through local authority building control in particular;
- 3.3 To establish unity of purpose and common action among all those promoting or concerned with local authority building control and the furtherance of the role of local authorities in Building Control and to assist local authorities in the management of Building Control services.
- 3.4 To operate and maintain a membership association in furtherance of these Objects;
- 3.5 To promote in furtherance of these Objects:
  - A. Research and development.
  - B. The collation publication and dissemination of information, papers, periodicals, books and circulars.
  - C. Training and continued professional development.
  - D. The provision of arbitration services.
  - E. The provision of advice and assistance for members of the Association and others engaged in the provision of Building Control, local authorities, central government, other relevant organisations, professionals engaged in the construction industry and/or to or for the public in general;
- 3.6 To promote consistency in the interpretation of building regulations and in the methods of Building Control throughout England and Wales;
- 3.7 To provide a forum to discuss and consider building regulation and Building Control;
- 3.8 To cooperate and liaise with all relevant bodies concerned with the implementation of Building Control and with other bodies in general;
- 3.9 To facilitate the provision of Building Control services by local authority building control surveyors to any organisation, person, body or association including any organisation, body, person or association which is a public body (whether or not defined as such under all relevant laws), and which is operating on a not- for profit basis, or as a charity, statutory body or government department and
- 3.10 To promote and market local authority building control services to stakeholders and users of the service.

- 1.2 The Building Control Service benefits from the skills, training opportunities, advice and marketing carried out by LABC and it is recommended that the Council formally join the reconstituted body.

**Legal Implications**

No legal implications to report.

**Financial Implications**

The financial implications are as indicated in the report.

**Consultation on Reports to the Executive**

None

**Background Papers**

- Memorandum of Association
- These papers have not previously been submitted to Executive Board

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Executive Board

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