



# 3C Shared Services

Local Authority Building Control

## Year End Review 2020-21

**Cambridge City Council**  
**Huntingdonshire District Council**  
**South Cambridgeshire District Council**



# Overview

**3C Building Control is a strategic partnership between Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Local Authority Building Control.**

The 3C Building Control team comprises of technical support officers, professional building control surveyors and street naming and numbering. The team are professional, highly experienced and greatly valued by partners and clients. The ethos of the shared service is to ensure that the councils shared expertise, remains robust and a high-quality service is provided to residents and our communities.

## **What does the service do?**

### **Grant Building Regulation approval**

- Most types of building work in the UK need to comply with a set of minimum standards known as Building Regulations.
- The work can be self-certified by a competent person registered with an approved certification body or work can be checked, inspected and certified by a statutory building control body such as Local Authority Building Control.

### **Deal with statutory issues relating to the Health and Safety of people in and around buildings**

- Local authorities have the power to act in respect of buildings that are dangerous or dilapidated, require demolition or constitute a hazard to public health and safety.

### **Maintain statutory records relating to buildings**

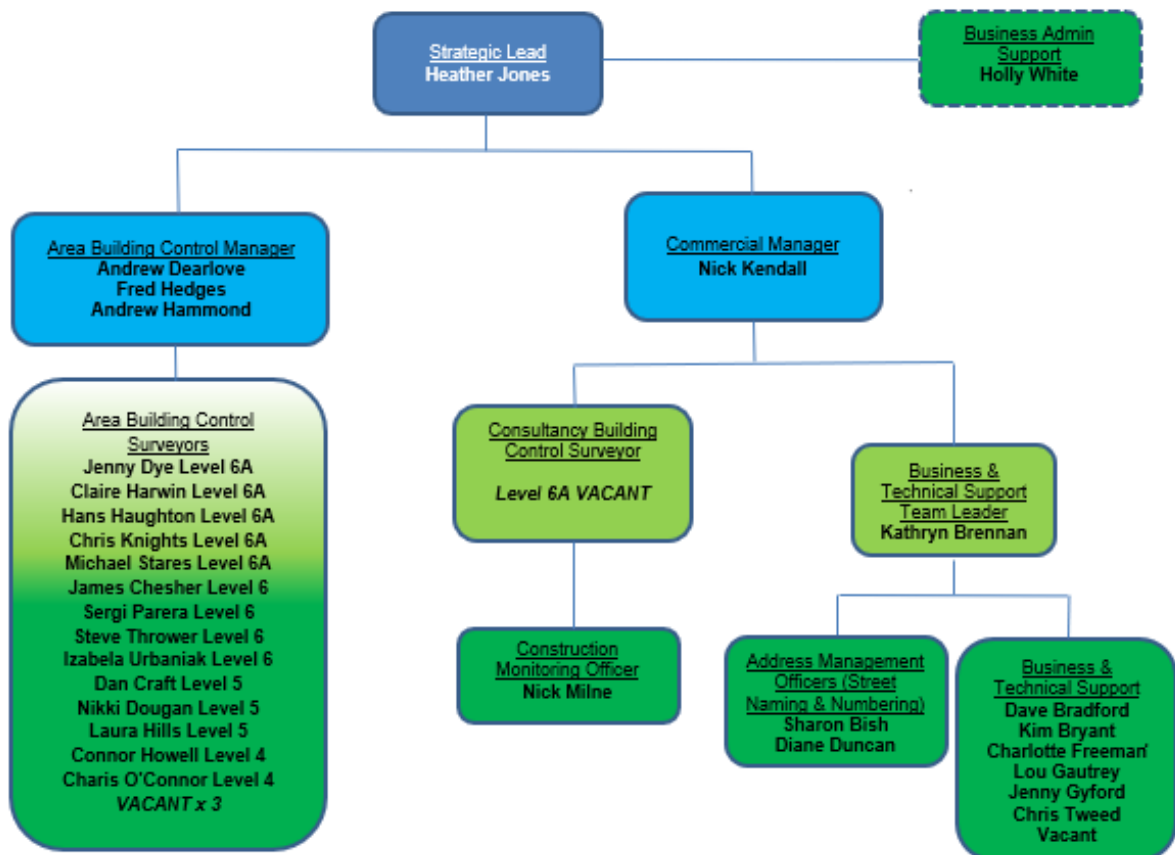
- As part of the local land charges process and to assist the CON29 agreement with solicitors on land transactions the local authority is required to maintain records in respect of the Building Control function for a period of up to 16 years.

### **Undertake discretionary work relating to buildings**

- The skills and abilities of Building Control professionals lend themselves to fee earning specialist work for internal, other public sector and private clients.

During a challenging year, the team continued to provide a professional service, visiting site for compliance in difficult circumstances to bolster the construction industry and ultimately the economy. In tandem, the team mobilized quickly to home working facilitated by digital technology and requisite equipment. Procedures were reviewed to promote effectiveness whilst operating remotely and new measures were introduced to protect health and safety. Not only did the team continue to deliver outstanding customer service, 3CBC also supported other service areas within the councils, such as posting planning site notices, to reduce the number of people exposed to risk out on site.

3C Building Control has also recently undergone a service review, identified internally as a growth strategy. This included the TUPE of staff from other Councils to consolidate the street naming and numbering function within the 3CBC Shared Service. A new team structure was created to facilitate the identified future growth for the service following opportunities created by the advent of the Building Safety Regulator within the HSE. The following chart details the new structure including vacancies for growth:



# Awards

**3C Building Control is an award-winning service keeping buildings safe and healthy and environmentally considerate places to live and work.**

## iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards

3C Building Control has been nominated as a Finalist in the Efficiency and Effectiveness Category. This is an incredible achievement as 3C Building Control was awarded Silver last year. Throughout the pandemic, the team maintained its service to the construction industry and developed online Building Awareness training for people both in and outside the Council including Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. *Bronze, Silver and Gold 2021 Winners announced in September*



## Women in Construction and Engineering Awards (WICE)

Area Building Control Surveyor Claire Harwin has been nominated as a Finalist as Best Female Mentor. Claire has over 14 years' experience working in Building Control and welcomed the opportunity to become a mentor to share her knowledge and expertise with new trainees. *Winners announced Summer 2021*



## LABC East Anglia Building Excellence Awards

**Winner:** Best Small New Housing Development (Fallowfield, Cambridge)

**Winner:** Best Extension or Alteration to an Existing Dwelling (Grantchester Street, Cambridge)

**Highly Commended:** Best Extension or Alteration to an Existing Dwelling (St Barnabas Road, Cambridge)



# Key Achievements 2020-21

- ✓ Celebrated National Apprenticeship Week
- ✓ Featured by Form the Future on Apprenticeship Case Studies
- ✓ Celebrated International Women’s Day
- ✓ Became a silver member of Women into Construction
- ✓ Volunteered in local communities during COVID-19
- ✓ Hosted CPD Training Events
- ✓ Launched internal newsletter including project case studies
- ✓ Contributed towards Government Consultations
- ✓ Delivered training workshop at Dept. of Architecture, Cambridge University
- ✓ Published articles in Cambridge Architecture Gazette (CAG), Connected Magazine, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Magazines.

*“I have an incredible sense of pride in the team, and I know Nick and the rest of the management team support me in this. We really are an effective, flexible, adaptable, professional, committed, supportive, talented and stupendous team. The ideas we all generate and follow through are exemplar” – Heather Jones, 3C Strategic Lead*

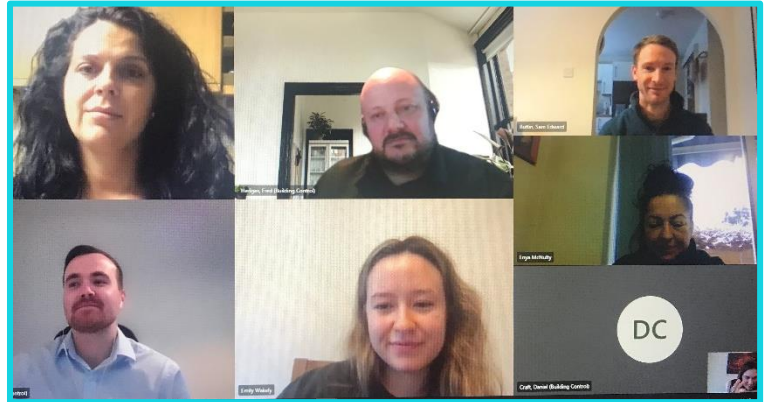
	<b>Over 2,100 applications for Full Plans, Building Notices and Regularisations.</b>
	<b>Around 140 Partner Authority applications.</b>
	<b>Around 100 dangerous structures and demolition notices successfully dealt with.</b>
	<b>Around 15,000 inspections completed by 3C Building Control Surveyors on site.</b>

# Staff Training and Development

3C Building Control continue to invest in the learning and development of staff including management, social media and virtual communication training. Highlights include:

## Building Control Awareness Sessions

3C Area Building Control Surveyor Fred Hedges developed a series of online training sessions to facilitate mentoring new starters and work experience volunteers in the pandemic. Take up was extremely popular and extended to include other council service areas, non-construction professionals and Cambridge Fire and Rescue Service.



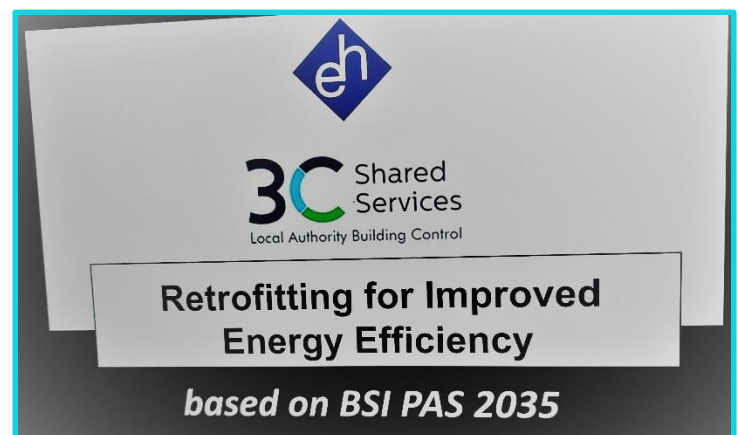
## 3C Surveyors Technical Meetings

The professional surveying staff meet monthly with Cambridge Fire and Rescue Service to discuss technical issues. They have invited colleagues in Planning in order to become early adopters of collaboration between services. This builds on the tenant of the Government Building Safety review which introduces formal consultation on buildings in scope at planning stage, identified as Gateway 1.



## Retrofitting Energy Efficiency Training

The professional surveying staff took part in retrofitting training by Professor John Edwards. Retrofitting promotes a holistic approach to improving energy efficiency of existing and historic buildings.



# Compliments

The service regularly seeks and receives feedback via email and satisfaction surveys sent to service users. The snapshot below of compliments received by the Technical Support and Surveyors show the service being commended for efficiency, friendly and helpful staff, professional advice and the ability to provide a quick service.

**“Charlotte, Sincere thanks to you and your colleagues for such speedy and helpful support under these circumstances, makes them even more outstanding”**

**Claire came to the rescue and put the matter straight quickly and effectively. I cannot thank her enough for her speedy turnaround and follow ups. Claire and team conducted themselves in the highest manner and professionalism”**

**“Jenny, thank you again for such a fast response, I am blown away with your efficiency”**

**James, thank you very much for your time and effort to help us get the Building Regulations Completion Certificate”**

**"The seminar on building regulations run by Nick Kendall at 3C is invaluable. It helps the prospective architects to think about working with building control to improve standards. In these fast changing times it is more important than ever to build collaboration in from the outset”**

**“Many thanks Chris, you run a very quick and efficient service – especially in these Covid times”**

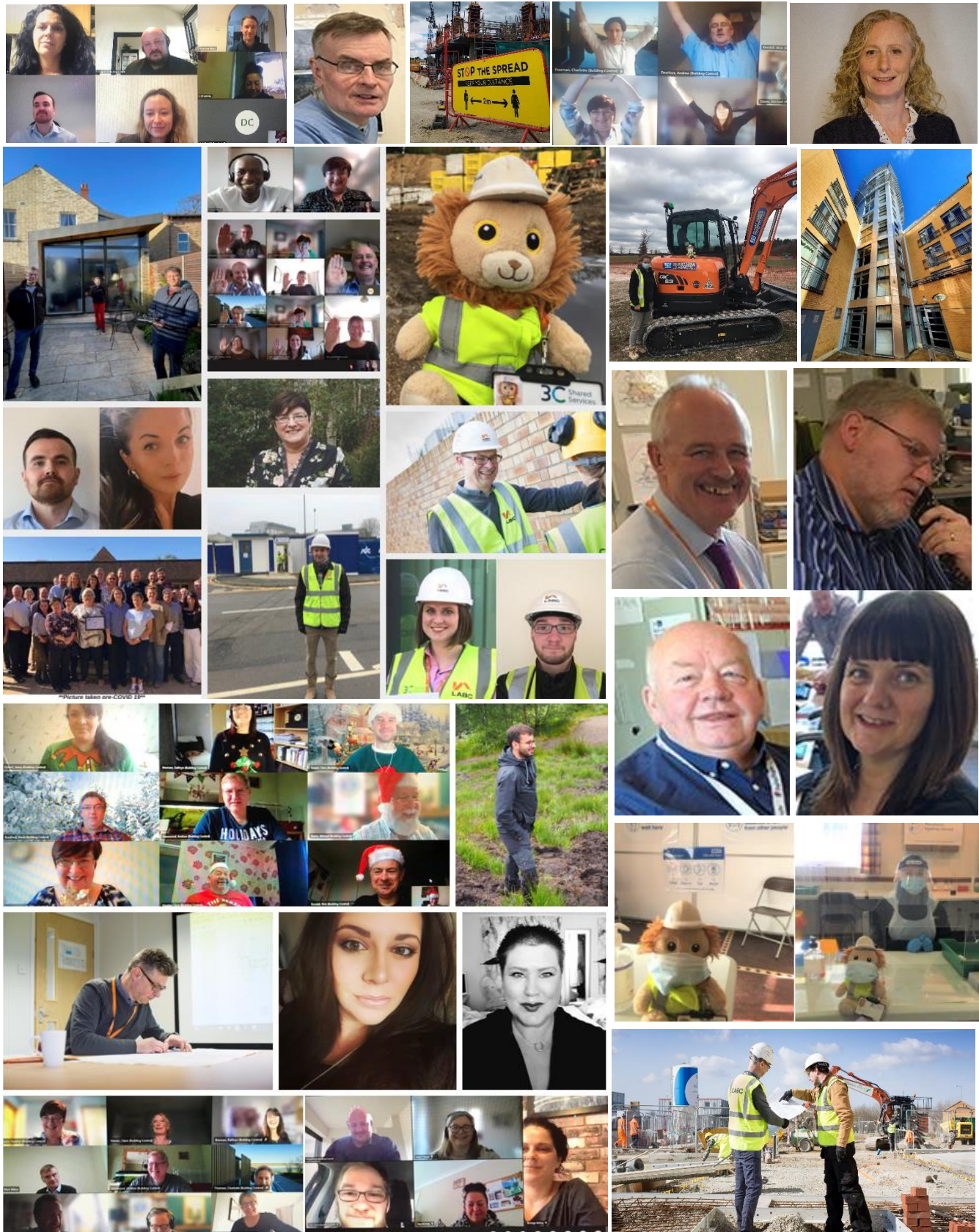
**Jackie and Kim, you have both been extremely pleasant in all my dealings with you... you were both so kind”**

**“I would like to commend Michael and your department for your prompt action in this matter. This will help enormously to meet the deadlines”**

**“The best service we have dealt with in our renovation”**

**“Thanks again for your help, I cannot express in words how fantastic I think the service is”**

# Photo Gallery







# Stay Connected

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