


Executive

Councillors; C. D. Christer, O. Johnson, D. Lavin, D. G. Llewellyn, M. J. Malone, C. Marshall, A. Taylor, A. Watson O.B.E

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is invited at a meeting of the Executive to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Consett on 10th March 2008 at 4:30p.m. for consideration of the undernoted agenda.



MIKE CLARK

Chief Executive Officer

Agenda

1. **REVIEW OF SCRUTINY BOARD DEBATE**

A list of items discussed at Scrutiny Board held on 7th March 2008.

(To be circulated at the meeting)

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS.**

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal interests in matters on the agenda, identify the item on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.

3. **MINUTES**

To consider the minutes of the meeting held 18th February 2008.
(Herewith 'A')

Attached Documents:

[MINUTES A](#)

4. **THE NEW LOCAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK - FUTURE COLLECTION OF BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

To consider the report of the Director of Corporate Administration and Policy. (Herewith 'B')

Attached Documents:

[THE NEW LOCAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK - FUTURE COLLECTION OF BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 'B'](#)

5. **COUNCIL PERFORMANCE - REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE THIRD QUARTER 2007/08**

To consider the report of the Director of Corporate Administration and Policy. (Herewith 'C')

Attached Documents:

[COUNCIL PERFORMANCE - REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE THIRD QUARTER 2007/08 'C'](#)

6. **NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY: FURTHER PROPOSED CHANGES**

To consider the report of the Director of Environmental Services. (Herewith 'D')

Attached Documents:

[NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY: FURTHER PROPOSED CHANGES 'D'](#)

7. **COUNTY DURHAM ECONOMIC STRATEGY (CDES) 2008 - 2013: "BUILDING OUR FUTURE"**

To consider the report of the Deputy Chief Executive. (Herewith 'E')

Attached Documents:

[COUNTY DURHAM ECONOMIC STRATEGY \(CDES\) 'E'](#)

8. **EXCLUSION**

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE LIKELY TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF BUSINESS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY INVOLVE THE LIKELY DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF PART 1

OF SCHEDULE 12(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED).

9. SALE OF LAND AT SHIELD ROW LANE, NEW KYO

To consider the report of the Deputy Chief Executive. (Herewith 'F')

10. CONSETT AND STANLEY MARKETS

To consider the report of the Deputy Chief Executive. (Herewith 'G')

Agenda prepared by Gemma Donaghy, Democratic Services 01207 218249

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Consett on 18th February 2008.

PRESENT:

Councillor A.Watson (Chairman)

Councillors O. Johnson, D. Lavin, D. Llewellyn, C. Marshall and A. Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors: R. Alderson, W. Stelling, J. Williams and W. Tyrie.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C. Christer and M. J. Malone.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman advised that the Executive had been asked to consider an urgent item regarding Vehicle Renewal: General Services 2008 /2009 as replacement vehicles would need to be ordered by March 2008. It was agreed that this be taken after Item 6 on the agenda.

61. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY BOARD DEBATE

A list of items discussed at Scrutiny Board were circulated, the Chair advised that the comments, if any would be referred to as each agenda item was discussed.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interest made.

63. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held 14th January 2008 be agreed as a correct record.

64. AREA BASED GRANT

Councillor Llewellyn presented the report which requested approval from Members for the allocation and management of the new 2008-2011 Area Based Grant (ABG).

The Council had been the recipient of numerous government funding streams to tackle issues around deprivation for a considerable number of years. Recently, neighbourhood renewal had been a key focus for the government with the allocation of funding streams such as Neighbourhood Management, Safer Stronger Communities (Communities and Local Government element and Home Office element), Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Local Enterprise Growth Initiative to Derwentside. Through the publication of the Local Government White Paper, and the emergence of new generation Local Area Agreements (LAA) for 2008-11 these funding streams and many other external grants previously allocated to localities have been replaced with a single Area Based Grant (ABG) allocated to Local Authorities.

Notes of Scrutiny Board – 8th February 2008 – *“Councillors L. Marshall and T. Parry declared an interest, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion thereon.*

Councillor D. Barnett in the Chair.

Councillor McMahon commented upon the proposals for the Derwentside Partnership to provide a robust performance management framework for the delivery of the final year of the Green Corridor Neighbourhood Management Programme and questioned whether the Green Corridor Management Board had been consulted on such a major issue. He questioned what Derwentside Partnership would offer the Management Board during this period. Members agreed to support the recommendation contained in the report with reservations relating to consultation on the proposals with the Green Corridor Management Board.”

The Chief Executive referred to the issues raised at Scrutiny Board and commented that it was a major decision for Derwentside Council to passport money to Derwentside Partnership (DP). He also added that the DP would offer the Green Corridor a very good performance management framework (for which DP had achieved Green accreditation status from Government Office North East) and the benefit of experience and expertise in this area. As this was the last year for the Green Corridor it was important that the exit process was managed in a proper way as this would benefit both the Green Corridor and the Council in respect of risk assessment.

Options:

1. Retain the total ABG and allocation procedure within the Council's revenue budget.

2. Retain the ABG including the Community Cohesion Grant within the Council's revenue budget and delegate decision making for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) to the Derwentside Partnership and for the Safer Stronger Communities (Neighbourhood Management Programme) to the Green Corridor Neighbourhood Partnership.
3. Retain the ABG within the Council's revenue budget and delegate decision making for its entire allocation to the County Durham Partnership.
4. Retain the ABG including the Community Cohesion Grant within the Council's revenue budget and delegate decision making for both the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and the Safer Stronger Communities elements to the Derwentside Partnership.

RESOLVED: That Option 4 be agreed - Retain the ABG including the Community Cohesion Grant within the Council's revenue budget and delegate decision making for both the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and the Safer Stronger Communities elements to the Derwentside Partnership.

Reasons:

1. The Cohesion Grant is retained within the Council's revenue budget and will allow community cohesion to be addressed as part of core service delivery.
2. The Working Neighbourhoods Fund is allocated to tackle priorities supported by the Council.
3. The Derwentside Partnership already has a robust commissioning and performance management framework in place and is a partnership delivering best practice.
4. The Derwentside Partnership is able to provide a robust performance management framework for the delivery of the final year of the Green Corridor Neighbourhood Management programme.

65. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF CRIME AND DISORDER

Councillor Watson presented the report the purpose of which was to outline the proposed crime and disorder priorities to be tackled over the next 3 years commencing April 2008 and to consult and request views from the Council in order to inform the Strategic Assessment Executive of the Derwentside Community Safety Partnership.

The intended priorities were:-

- violent crime
- domestic violence;
- criminal damage; and
- anti-social behaviour.

Young people, re-offending, alcohol and problems within the town centres were also identified as priorities, though it was considered that these could be integrated as key elements within the control strategies for each of the 4 priorities above.

The following concerns were considered important, but were not identified as priorities:-

- Hate crime
- Sexual offences
- Robbery
- Burglary (dwelling and non-dwelling)
- Theft
- Drugs

These findings resulted from a detailed analysis of national priorities, data drawn from multi –agency sources, local community engagement mechanisms, and national and local surveys. This analysis linked also with a wider analysis of the long-term community safety issues affecting County Durham, which would operate within the wider strategic context of the LAA, and the new Public Sector Agreement (PSA) targets, including those governing Community Safety Partnerships.

The Strategic Assessment Executive would determine these priorities based on their analysis of the strategic assessment document and the comments of relevant organisations obtained through the statutory consultation process. Agencies and community groups comprising the Derwentside Local Strategic Partnership and the Derwentside Community Safety Partnership had also been consulted. As regards this Council – all Councillors had been written to and invited to submit their views to the Scrutiny Board meeting held 8th February 2008, the comments of which are set out below.

Notes of Scrutiny Board – 8th February 2008: *“Councillor Barnett in referring to paragraph 4.2 – suggested priorities – expressed concerns that the issue of alcohol misuse / abuse was not given a sufficient individual priority. Whilst recognising that the issue was a cross-cutting area over the four identified priorities, it was his belief that action/ intervention into alcohol problems would not be given appropriate funding. Members of the Board agreed with the sentiments expressed and believed that the issue of alcohol misuse/abuse was a key priority in its own right and should be accorded appropriate recognition and funding. Members also accepted that drugs misuse was a serious issue in Derwentside and likewise would not receive funding/action appropriate to its key impact on crime and disorder if it was merely referred to as cross-cutting within the priorities. The Scrutiny Board therefore agreed that Executive be invited to consider agreeing to Option 2 in 4.6 of the report prioritising alcohol and drug issues as separate priority areas.”*

The Chief Executive highlighted the comments from Scrutiny Board which did not think sufficient emphasis had been given to alcohol and drug abuse. He advised that recent lengthy discussions had taken place with the Police on this issue and the opinion from the Community Safety Partnership was the drug and alcohol

abuse issues would be covered as part of the violent crime priority from a geographic point of view.

Councillor Taylor commented that violent crime, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour could all be linked to alcohol abuse and it was important that this was recognised and not given a low priority. She highlighted that there was a national incentive for alcohol to be taken off the streets, which she supported as alcohol abuse was a big issue.

In response to questions regarding statistics on alcohol abuse the Chief Executive advised that crime statistics were provided by the Police and these could be made available to Members.

Councillor Taylor referred to the Alcohol Prohibition Order implemented as a pilot scheme in Dipton. Councillor Taylor asked whether it would be possible to have feedback from the Police on the effectiveness of this scheme and whether it would be worth widening the pilot. In response the Community Safety & Information Officer advised that this scheme had been aimed at tackling a specific problem in Dipton relating to adults. The Police had earlier confirmed to the Council that the Order had succeeded in tackling the problem and were keen that it continued.

It would not be necessary however to introduce Alcohol Prohibition Orders to tackle the problem of alcohol consumption by juveniles in public places. The Police had powers to confiscate alcohol from such persons, and were currently active in doing so. Indeed, alcohol consumption by juveniles in public places is a significant problem in Derwentside, and is considered to be an aggravating factor in anti social behaviour, criminal damage and secondary fires. Partnership Anti Social Behaviour Officers work closely with the Police in identifying problem areas and directing patrols to those areas, enabling alcohol to be seized and details of the juveniles taken. Since November 2006 in Consett and March 2007 in Stanley, the ASB Officers inform parents / guardians of the incidents and share details with partners on the ASB Task Groups to identify patterns of behaviour, locations and age groups to allow further consideration of appropriate interventions.

To date a total of 1249 names have been identified, and letters sent accordingly (948 in the Stanley area and 301 in the Consett area). Responses from recipients of the letters are generally supportive, with many parents indicating that up till then they did not know of the whereabouts or activities of their children, and that they would be paying more attention in future.

However, distinct pattern of repeat offenders has been identified through this process, and the ASB Co-ordinator is leading in developing with YES and the PCT an appropriate response to juveniles who have been the subject of alcohol seizures on three or more occasions.

In addition, a scheme is to be piloted in Stanley whereby youths having alcohol confiscated more than 3 times will be invited, or in some cases required, to refer themselves to a Drugs and Alcohol Team worker.

Councillor Watson commented that although the Police and the Council were involved in lots of actions to work against alcohol abuse these actions were not being publicised and a press release was needed to get the message across to the public.

Councillor Marshall commented on the priority of anti-social behaviour and asked whether there was any information or work being carried out to increase the incidents of anti-social behaviour being reported to the authorities. In response the Community Safety & Information Officer advised that a new CRM system had recently been introduced which would collect information on one central database which would then be shared with the relevant authorities.

In response to questions on 'the fear of crime' the Chief Executive advised that this was no longer a national indicator, the Council was intending to keep this as a local indicator however, there would be no national statistics to compare this with in future.

Options:

1. Agree to the suggested priorities as indicated in paragraph 4.2 subject to the comments submitted by Members during this process and inform the Derwentside Community Safety Partnership accordingly.
2. Suggest alternative priorities and inform the Derwentside Community Safety Partnership accordingly.

RESOLVED:

That Option 1 on the report be agreed and that the Council:-

1. Agree with the priorities proposed, as indicated above, and consider them to reflect accurately the main concerns facing Derwentside; further that as such, they should facilitate the targeted responses appropriate to local communities; in this respect, plans should be capable of being amended and priorities changed should circumstances dictate
2. Acknowledge the concerns of the Scrutiny Board about alcohol and drugs misuse. The Council is confident however that such misuse would be addressed properly in the control strategy for each of the identified priorities, as proposed by the Community Safety Partnership.
3. Consider strongly that the community should be reassured that those crimes identified as non-priorities will still be addressed with all reasonable efforts in terms of prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation.

And that the Derwentside Crime and Disorder Partnership be informed accordingly.

Reasons:

1. The priorities are based on a detailed strategic assessment of national priorities.
2. The priorities are based on an analysis of data drawn from multi-agency sources and feedback from local community engagement.
3. The strategic assessment for Derwentside links with a wider review of the long-term community safety issues affecting County Durham.
4. The above reasons would enable the Council to monitor performance on both priority and non-priority concerns and changing circumstances, and make informed recommendations accordingly to the Partnership.

**66. DERWENTSIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:
STANLEY TOWN CENTRE AREA ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT
PLAN ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

Councillor Johnson presented the report which requested approval for the Stanley Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) Development Plan Document Issues and Options. This document was the first stage in the preparation of the AAP. A full copy of the document was attached to the report.

The AAP builds upon the previous studies carried out in Stanley and seeks to complement the Modus agreement for redevelopment in the Town Centre.

He recommended that the contents of the Stanley Action Plan Document Issues and Options be approved and that public consultation begin on 22nd February 2008.

Councillor Watson commented that this report was an example of further multi-million pound investment by Derwentside District Council in the Stanley area, other investments included Modus, View Lane Park and the South Moor Hospital Site.

Councillor Llewellyn raised the question of why the Modus consultation was not synchronised with this project. In response Councillor Johnson indicated that the infrastructure appraisal was still awaited. The Director of Environmental Services advised that discussions between Modus and Durham County Council on infrastructure had slipped from the original timescales. Councillor Llewellyn advised that he had written to Durham County Council on this issue on 10th December 2007 and had received a response posted 7th January 2008. He commented that he was dismayed that the traffic survey had not been carried out and was still waiting for Durham County Council to become fully involved in the Modus project.

Councillor Lavin commented that the Modus project was a partnership between Modus, Durham County Council and Derwentside District Council. As far as he was aware Durham County Council had asked that Modus carry out the traffic survey.

Councillor Marshall in welcoming the report advised that he supported the regeneration of Stanley. He also supported Councillor Llewellyn's comments on the delays of the Modus project and wanted to find ways to drive this project forward. He agreed that the transport and infrastructure issues were holding up this project and officers needed to be given directions by the politicians. He asked whether there was anything Derwentside Council could do to drive this issue forward.

Councillor Taylor commented that the 'foot flow' must be considered as an essential part of the transport plan.

The Chief Executive updated Members on the Modus project as follows:

- Modus development document had been signed during summer 2007.
- 3 Stanley Town Centre meetings which had been cancelled as a result of consultations / information not being available.
- Durham County Councillors had been briefed on 2 occasions regarding proposals for Stanley area when regeneration issues had been emphasised however, this had not appeared on Durham County Council's Work Programme.
- Derwentside District Council had tried to progress the Modus issues however this needed priority workload allocation at County level.

Councillor Llewellyn emphasised that Derwentside had tried to drive forward the project and did not want any accusations from anyone that Derwentside had been responsible for any delays. He therefore requested an update on the Modus project for a future meeting.

Notes of Scrutiny Board – 8th February 2008: *“The Director of Environmental Services commented upon previous and current proposals for consultation on the above. Councillor McMahon in welcoming the opportunity for further consultation commented upon previous negative comments during the consultation exercise relating to potential funding and/or lack of action. Reference was made to the impending election purdah and the potential impact on the consultation process. It was also noted that the consultation on the Modus project would be progressing however, discussions with the County Council in relation to highways arrangements had delayed the progress. Councillor Beckwith referred to comments in the document which implied that progress would take place early in 2009 and suggested that such be amended.”*

Options: Whether to agree, amend or reject the contents of the Stanley Action Plan.

RESOLVED:

1. That the content of the Stanley Action Plan Document Issues and Options be approved and allow it to be published for public consultation beginning 22nd February 2008.
2. That Officers prepare a further report for Members on the Modus project / Durham County Council / highways issues.

Reasons:

1. The publication of the Stanley Area Action Plan Issues and Options is an important step in the preparation of the Derwentside Local Development Framework. The responses received will give an indication of the needs and aspirations of the Community in and around Stanley and enable them to be integrated into the policies and proposals that are brought forward in future stages.

URGENT ITEM

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (As Amended) the Chairman announced that it had been requested that an urgent be considered – Vehicle Renewal: General Services 2008 /2009 (this item had previously been circulated to all Members). In view of the fact that replacement vehicles would need to be ordered by March 2008 it was agreed that this be taken as an urgent item.

67. VEHICLE RENEWAL: GENERAL SERVICES 2008 / 2009

Councillor Johnson presented the report which advised of the operational requirements for the replacement of vehicles within the General Services Division for the financial year 2008 / 2009 and recommend the necessary replacement of vehicles in order to meet operational requirements as well as to fulfil statutory duties.

Notes of Scrutiny Board – 8th February 2008: *“The Director of Environmental Services circulated a report on the above. Members noted the comments of the Director in relation to the recharge arrangements with the County Council for vehicles involved in agency working.*

Options:

1. Operating Lease.
2. Finance Lease.
3. Contract Hire.
4. Capital Programme.

RESOLVED:

1. That the acquisition of the vehicles detailed in the report be approved.
2. That the funding of these vehicles be the subject to an options appraisal by the Finance Directorate and the most advantageous to the Council is selected over the specified period of time.

Reasons:

The recommendations contained within this report will provide the Council with a modern fleet of Refuse Collection / Recycling / Grounds / Street Cleansing and Winter Maintenance vehicles, which would have the least environmental impact

for those reasonably obtainable, whilst providing the flexibility needed to address future environmental issues.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.19 p.m.

TITLE:	THE NEW LOCAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK – FUTURE COLLECTION OF BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
TO/ON:	EXECUTIVE – 10TH MARCH 2008
BY:	DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	M.J. MALONE, DEPUTY LEADER
STATUS:	PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

1 Strategic Factor Checklist

- 1.1 The Council's Corporate Management Team has confirmed that the Strategic Factor Checklist has been applied to the development of this report, and that there are no key issues, over and above those set out in the body of the report, that need to be brought to Member's attention

2 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the forthcoming changes to the future collection of performance information by the Council.
- 2.2 In addition the report also highlights all current statutory Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPs) and suggests which of these indicators the authority should continue collecting and monitoring during 2008/09.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' published in October 2006 and the subsequent Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 set out a new performance framework for local services and promised greater freedoms for local government. This new framework is designed to give greater flexibility to set priorities and greater discretion with regard to how these priorities will be met. In addition the White Paper promised a review of the 1,200 performance indicators currently collected within the public sector expressing a need to replace them with a single set of measures.
- 3.2 The new proposed indicator set is comprised of 198 National Indicators, which will measure and track the services and functions that local authorities are responsible for either delivering or securing alone or in partnership with others. The new local indicators will replace the current statutory Best Value Performance Indicators and promise to significantly reduce reporting burdens currently placed upon local authorities.

- 3.3 The Government has stated that the new indicator set will be the only measure upon which central government will performance manage outcomes delivered by local government working alone or in partnership. From April 2008, all other indicators, including Best Value Performance Indicators will be abolished.
- 3.4 The new performance framework is the means for local strategic partnerships to agree with local Government offices up to 35 improvement targets drawn from the new national indicator set by June 2008. In addition the LSPs will also monitor an additional 16 statutory indicators drawn from the Children, Schools and Families targets contained within the national indicator set.
- 3.5 At the heart of the new performance framework will be the Durham Local Area Agreement (LAA) which will act as a delivery mechanism to assist the Durham Local Strategic Partnership to deliver its ambitions. This Durham LAA will act as an agreement between central government and their partners to improve services and the quality of life for citizens of the new unitary authority.
- 3.6 The Local Area Agreement will become the only mechanism for measuring performance across an area against all of the 198 National Indicators and the newly established LAA will be the only vehicle for agreeing shared targets with central government. The new Durham LSP is currently in the process of agreeing up to 35 national priority targets taken from the new National Indicator Set. Appendix 1 gives details of the proposed indicators, although it should be noted that these indicators may be subject to change. Within the new framework local partners can also agree additional local targets in their LAA to support improved delivery and outcomes and these suggested local indicators are also detailed within Appendix 1. These additional targets will not, however be subject to performance monitoring by Government.
- 3.7 The National Indicator set contained within the new Performance Management Framework has been developed to underpin the national priorities and to measure performance against each of the Government's Public Service Agreements. Local Authorities will be responsible for delivering these national priority outcomes either on their own or in partnership with others. These indicators will be used to measure performance in all areas over the next three years and will be implemented from April 2008. Appendix 2 of this report gives further details of the new local performance framework.

4 Relevant Material Considerations

- 4.1 The new 198 National Indicators will replace the present set of Best Value Performance Indicators currently used to assess the performance of the local authority each year. Performance against each of the 198 indicators will be reported for every single tier and county council local strategic partnership.

- 4.2 Each one of the new indicators will be collected to a defined spatial level and it is anticipated that 64 of the proposed indicators will be collected to a District level. A proportion of the new National Indicators that measure levels of satisfaction with service delivery will from 2008 be collected via a Place Survey and therefore replace the current BVPIs that measure satisfaction rates. Appendix 3 gives full descriptions of the National Indicators that will be collected to a District spatial level with effect from April 2008.
- 4.3 A number of the current BVPIs are 'recycled' within the new local National Indicators and the authority will therefore continue the collection of these indicators and other new indicators, which will be the responsibility of the district councils to collect during 2008/09. The authority, however will no longer be required to collect and report on Best Value Performance Indicators with effect from 1st April 2008.

5 Future collection of Best Value Performance Indicators

- 5.1 As the authority will no longer have a statutory duty to collect, monitor and report against the current set of Best Value Performance Indicators it will be necessary to agree which of the indicators should continue to be collected and monitored as local indicators.
- 5.2 There have been a number of criticisms levied at the current set of indicators, partly due to their ambiguity and perceived inability to accurately judge performance in some service areas. In response to this it may be appropriate to cease collection of a number of these indicators. In other areas the performance monitoring data has historically been used to successfully improve service delivery and has therefore formed a significant role within the council's corporate planning function and continuing collection may be the preferred option.
- 5.3 In addition a large number of the BVPIs are used to complement existing local indicators and form part of the performance monitoring process for the aims, objectives and targets contained within the authority's Corporate Plan and other high level strategies. In these instances it may be necessary to retain these indicators to ensure the successful monitoring and evaluation of council services.
- 5.4 Alongside the Corporate Plan there are also a number of indicators included within the Community Strategy that are currently being negotiated with partners as priority improvement indicators for the partnership. Any current BVPIs that align to these Community Strategy indicators should therefore be retained. A description of these indicators is included within Appendix 4.
- 5.5 Finally the priority indicators proposed within the Durham Local Area Agreement highlighted in Appendix 1 of this report should also be taken into consideration when agreeing which of the current statutory BVPIs to retain as local indicators.

- 5.6 In response to both the forthcoming changes and also the priority outcomes identified within the Durham LAA, the Derwentside Community Strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan a table has been produced to highlight how the authority might respond to these impending changes. Table A is included in pages 5 to 7 of this report and gives a short description of each of the current BVPIs along with any linkages to the Corporate Plan or other strategies. In addition a recommendation, which has been developed in consultation with service departments, is included and highlights which of the current BVPIs the authority may consider continuing to collect as part of a future local indicator set during 2008/09.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 From the 1st April 2008 the authority no longer has a statutory duty to collect the current Best Value Performance Indicators due to the introduction of a new local National Indicator Set that will in future be reported at a County or Unitary level of local government via the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 6.2 During 2008/09 a number of the new indicators will however continue to be collected at a district level and will therefore have to be included within the Council's current Performance Management Framework.
- 6.3 In addition to the collection of these new indicators the authority can continue collection of any relevant indicators, which contribute to the delivery of services across the district. Table A of this report identifies the current BVPIs where continued collection would assist in the monitoring and evaluation of locally delivered services in addition to contributing to nationally set targets.
- 6.4 The current Performance Management Framework could facilitate the continued collection, monitoring and reporting of these additional local performance indicators throughout 2008/09 alongside the collection of the new district National Indicators.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are requested to note the content of this report and consider the recommendations contained within Table A of this report.

For further information contact Anne Smith, Performance Management Officer, Telephone 01207 218208 or e-mail anne.smith@derwentside.gov.uk

Background Papers: County Durham Local Area Agreement 2006 and Refresh 2007;
Derwentside Local Strategic Partnership Priorities 2008/09;
Derwentside Community Strategy 2007 to 2010;
Audit Commission 'Comprehensive Area Assessment' 2007;
HM Treasury Public Service Agreements 2007;
LGA 'An Introduction to the Local Performance Framework' 2007;
HM Government 'The New Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Partnerships 2007'.

Table A

BVPI No	Title of indicator	Linkages to Corporate Plan	Recommend collection	Comment
2a	Equality Standard (0-5)	Strong Comm C.5.5	Yes	NI 3; NI 140; PSA 15
2b	Race equality checklist	Strong Comm C.5	Yes	
8	% of invoices paid within 30 days	-	Yes	Contributes to Use of Resources Assessment
9	% of council tax collected	-	Yes	
10	% of non-domestic rates due that were received	-	Yes	
11a	% of top 5% of earners that are women	-	No	In view of LGR it is unlikely that these indicators will improve during 2008/09
11b	Percentage of top 5% of earners that are from BME communities	-	No	
11c	Top 5% of earners: with a disability	-	No	
12	Number of days/shifts lost to absence	Excellence Ex 4.5	Yes	Contributes to Use of Resources and has also been highlighted as a concern in Direction of Travel Assessments
14	% employees taking early retirement	-	No	LGR will impact upon performance
15	% employees retiring on ill health	-	No	
16a	% of LA employees meeting DDA	Strong Comm C.5	Yes	NI 140 PSA 15
17a	% of LA BME employees	Strong Comm C.5	Yes	NI 140 PSA 15
64	No. of private sector dwellings returned into occupation	Environ and Housing EH.4	Yes	Part of current CPA Service PI set
76b	HB security – number of investigators per 1000 caseload	-	No	Not a local or national priority
76c	HB security – number of investigations per 1000 caseload	-	No	
76d	HB security – number of prosecutions and sanctions per 1000 caseload	-	No	
78a	Average time for proc new claims	-	Yes	NI 181
78b	Average time for processing change in circumstance	-	Yes	NI 181
79a	Accuracy of HB/CTB claims	-	No	Not a local or national priority
79b i	(HB) o/payments recovered being reported on as a % of HB- o/payment	-	Yes	The collection and reporting arrangements for 79b i and ii are complex and in response to this the Revs and Bens Dept are investigating alternative methods of reporting performance to both simplify the monitoring procedures and also give a more accurate indication of current performance.
79b ii	HB o/paymts recovered as a % of the total amount of HB o/paymt debt	-	Yes	

BVPI No	Title of indicator	Linkages to Corporate Plan	Recommend collection	Comment
79b iii	HB o/payments written off as a % of HB overpayment debt out-standing at period start + HB o/payments	-	Yes	See explanation for 79b i and ii
82a i	Percentage of waste recycled	Environment and Housing EH 3.2	Yes	NI 192; Durham LAA PI 20; Links to Community Strategy improvement outcome – a clean safe environment
82b i	Percentage of waste sent for composting			
84a	Kg of household waste collected	Environment and Housing EH 3.2	Yes	Contributes to N1 191 and 193; Durham LAA PI 21; Links to Community Strategy improvement outcome – a clean safe environment
86	Cost per household of waste collection	-	No	Not a local or national priority
91a	% of pop served by kerbside collection (one recyclable)	Environment and Housing EH 3.2	No	Removed due to 100% service delivery
91b	% of pop served by kerbside collection (two recyclables)			
106	% of new homes built on previously develop land	-	Yes	Links to NI 154 and to Regional Performance Monitoring
109a	Planning apps processed in 13 wks	-	Yes	NI 157
109b	Minor plan apps deter-mined 8 wks	-	Yes	
109c	Other planning apps processed in 8 weeks	-	Yes	
126	Domestic burglaries per 1,000 h/hlds	Community Safety CS1	Yes	BVPI 127a and b link to NI 15, NI 20 and NI 32 BVPI 126 links to NI 16 BVPI 127a and 127b link to Durham LAA PI 12 BVPI 127 a and 127b link to Community Strategy improvement outcome – Reduced misuse of alcohol Final arrangements re collection of these indicators is to be discussed and agreed as part of the general Crime and Disorder Partnership Management Framework scheduled for completion by March 2008.
127a	Violent crime per 1,000 pop	Community Safety CS4	Yes	
127b	Robberies / 1,000 pop	Community Safety CS1	Yes	
128	Vehicle crimes per 1000 population	Community Safety CS1	Yes	
156	Buildings accessible to people with a disability	Supporting Comm C.5	Yes	Linkages to BVPI 2b; NI 140
166a	Environmental Health checklist of best practice	-	Yes	Part of current CPA Service PI set
174	No. of racial incidents per 100,000 pop	Community Safety 2.3	Yes	Linkages to BVPI 2b and PSA 15
175	% Racial incidents resulting in further action	Community Safety 2.3	Yes	Linkages to BVPI 2b and PSA 15
179	Searches out within 10 days	-	No	Not a local or national priority

No	Title of indicator	Linkages to Corporate Plan	Recommend collection	Comment
183a	Average length of stay in BB	Health H.4.2	Yes	Part of current CPA Service PI set; NI 156; Durham LAA PI 27;
183b	Homelessness – average stay in hostel		Yes	
199a	Street & environmental cleanliness - litter	Environment and Housing EH 1.1	Yes	Part of current CPA Service PI; NI 195; Durham LAA PI 18; Links to Community Strategy improvement outcome – a clean safe environment
199b	Local street environmental cleanliness – graffiti	Community Safety CS.2.4	Yes	
199c	Local street and environmental cleanliness – fly posting	Community Safety CS.2.5	Yes	
199d	Environmental cleanliness – fly tipping	Community Safety CS.2.6	Yes	Part of current CPA Service PI; NI 196; Durham LAA PI 19; Links to Community Strategy improvement outcome – a clean safe environment
200a	Plan making development plan	-	No	Full compliance
200b	Plan making – milestones	-	No	
202	Number of rough sleepers	-	No	Questions have been raised around the reliability of the method of measurement for this indicator
204	Planning Appeals	-	No	Not a local or national priority
205	Quality of planning service checklist	-	No	
216a	Identifying contaminated land	-	No	Questions have been raised around the reliability of the method of measurement for both indicators
216b	No. of sites insufficient info. Is avail./remediation of land is necessary	-	No	
217	Pollution control improvement	-	No	Not a local or national priority
218a	Abandoned vehicles investigated	Community Safety CS 2.7	Yes	Reflected in NI 21
218b	Abandoned vehicles - removal	Community Safety CS 2.8	Yes	
219b	Conservation areas: character Appraisals	-	Yes	Contributes to NI 197
225	Domestic violence checklist	Community Safety 4.2	Yes	Contributes to NI 32; Links to Durham LAA PI 12; Links to Community strategy improvement outcome – the community feels safe and crime and anti-social behaviour does not affect their lives
226a	Advice and guidance services: total expenditure	-	No	Not a local or national priority
226b	Advice and guidance services: CLS quality mark	-	No	
226c	Advice /guidance services: direct provision	-	No	

Durham LAA Revised Priority Indicators 18.01.08	
Health and Well-being	
NI112 Under 18 conception rate	1
NI121 Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75	2
NI122 Mortality from all cancers at ages under 75	3
Mental Health Indicator	Local
% / Number of residents participating in physical exercise	Local
NI55 Obesity among primary school children in reception year	Local
NI56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6	4
NI 40 No of Drug Users in Effective Treatment	5
Reducing the harm caused by alcohol	Local
NI123 16+ current smoking rate	6
NI119 Self reported measure of overall people's health and well-being	7
NI 125 Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation / intermediate care.	8
NI 141 Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living	9
Safe	
NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about anti social behaviour by police and the local council	10
NI 30 Re-offending rate of Prolific and priority offenders	11
NI 32 Repeat Incidents of Domestic Violence	12
NI 111 First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17	13
NI47 People killed or seriously injured on road traffic accidents	14
Achieve	
NI117 16-18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment	15
NI 164 Working population qualified to at least Level 3 or higher	16
NI 79 Achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19	17
Physical Place	
NI195 Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)	18
NI 196 Improved Levels of street and environmental cleanliness - fly tipping	19
NI192 Household waste recycled and composted	20
NI191 Residual household waste per head	21
NI175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling	22
NI187 Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with low energy efficiency rating	23
NI186 Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area	24
NI158 % decent council homes	25
NI 88 Adapting to Climate Change	26
NI 156 Number of Households living in Temporary Accommodation	27
NI 155 Affordable homes delivered (gross)	28
Economic Well-being	
NI 151 Overall Employment Rate	29
NI173 People falling out of work and onto incapacity benefits	30
NI152 Working age people on out of work benefits	31
NI166 Average earnings of employees in the area	32
NI171 VAT registration rate	33
Positive Contribution	
NI4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	34
NI6 Participation in regular volunteering	35
NI 23 Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity	36
NI 110 Young Peoples participation in positive activities	37

Appendix 2

The opportunity for reform – The new local Performance Framework

The Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' published in October 2006 and the subsequent Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 set out a new performance framework for local services. The new performance framework offers local people more opportunities to influence the way services are run, strengthening the way the councils provide leadership and encouraging all parties involved in delivering local services to work together more effectively to target resources where they can achieve the greatest impact.

Strong local performance management arrangements have been key to underpinning much of the improvement delivered by local government in recent years providing a strong basis for moving forward in partnership. The new local performance framework has the Local Area Agreement at the heart of it to enable the area to deliver its ambitions set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy. The LAA is a contract between central government and the new Durham Unitary authority that provides a framework that relates to the priorities and specific local circumstances in the Durham area, identifying what is most important to local people.

Local Area Agreement

The Durham Local Area Agreement (LAA) provides the basis for local leadership, enabling the local authority and its partners to deliver a shared vision for the area. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act provides the statutory basis for this stronger approach to partnership working. Section 106 of the Act imposes a duty on a responsible local authority to prepare a Local Area Agreement, which specifies local improvement targets in cooperation with partner authorities. The duty to prepare the LAA rests with the County Council in two tier areas, although the involvement of the district council will be central throughout the negotiating process. It is therefore envisaged that joint working arrangements will be developed between Durham County Council and all 7 district councils to develop the Durham LAA prior to the new Durham unitary authority being established on the 1st April 2009.

The Local Area Agreement will set out the priorities for the Durham area agreed between local government and the Local Strategic Partnership and other key partners at a local level. In addition, to enable the delivery of local services in an area, a balanced and robust evidence base will be required. This analysis of social, economic and environmental issues is essential to underpin sustainable community strategies

The new performance framework is the means by which the Durham Local Strategic Partnership will agree with Government North East up to 35 improvement targets by June 2008. These 35 indicators will be drawn from the national indicator set. In addition the newly created Durham LSP will also monitor an additional 16 statutory indicators drawn from the Children, Schools and Families targets contained within the national indicator set.

Comprehensive Area Assessment

A key part of the new proposals for the new performance framework is the Comprehensive Area Assessment, which will focus on the delivery of outcomes that are the responsibility of the Council, either alone or working in partnership with others. The new framework has been developed to be outcome focused, constructive and forward looking.

The Comprehensive Area Assessment is:

- The new joint assessment framework for local services from 2009 includes four elements:
 - An annual joint inspectorate risk assessment for each area;
 - Use of resources judgements for councils, police authorities, primary care trusts and fire and rescue authorities;
 - Direction of Travel judgements for each council and fire and rescue authority;
 - Local performance against the national indicator set.

- A catalyst for further improvement in the quality of life for citizens, the experience of people who use services and value for money for taxpayers.
- A source of independent information and assurance about local services for citizens, people who use the services, taxpayers and central government.
- A mechanism to help coordinate, rationalize and target inspection, improvement support and intervention where they are most needed.

This means that CAA will consider for example health and well-being, community safety, sustainable communities, economic development, local housing markets and children and older people's services in addition to council services. Historically performance frameworks have looked at individual organisations to see how well they deliver or commission their services. The way local services are organised and delivered is continually changing and more than ever the providers delivering these services are working together to solve problems, improve services and increase efficiency. In doing so, local services are being challenged to demonstrate that their priorities are chosen via an understanding of the needs of the citizens they serve.

Much of the evidence used in future assessments in the majority of cases will be the very information that local service bodies and the local strategic partnership have used to develop their sustainable community strategies and this information will now be used to manage performance. This will include information taken from the new national indicator set, in addition to progress being made against set targets within the Local Area Agreement. The Local Area Agreement will be therefore be pivotal to the Government's new performance framework

Multi Area Agreements

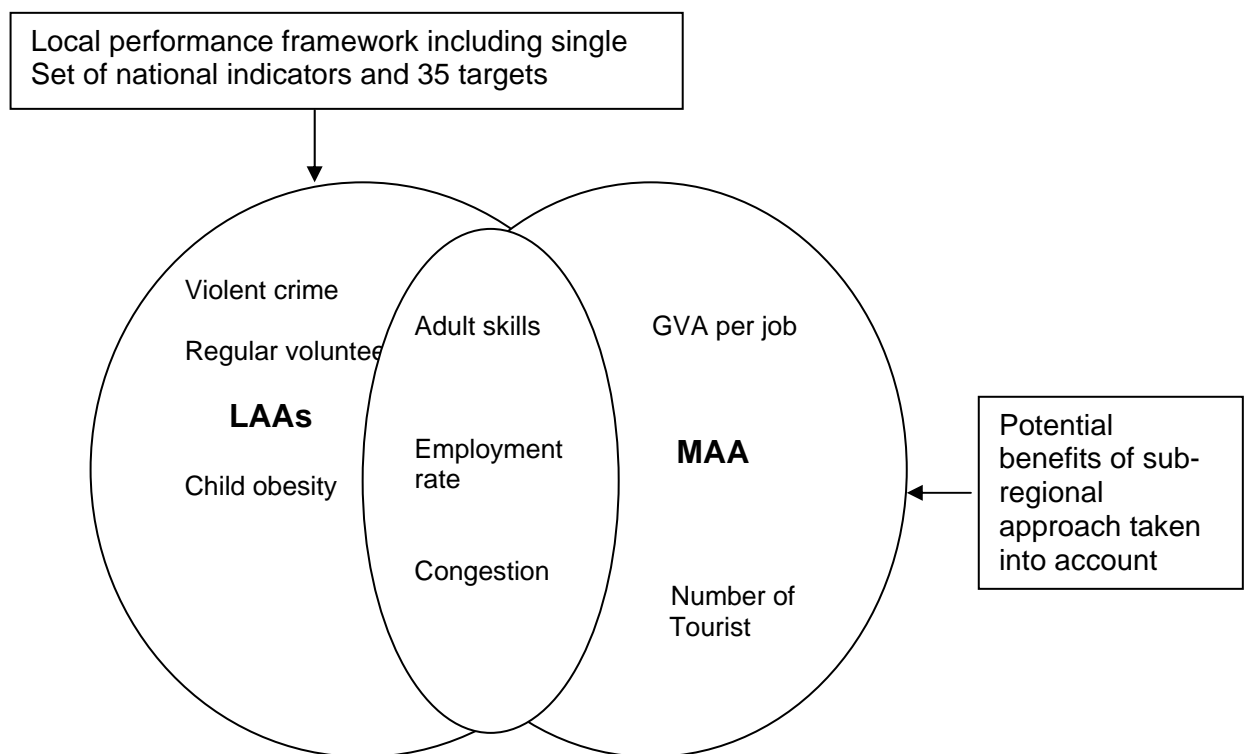
In addition to the Local Area Agreement the Multi Area Agreement was also introduced as part of the reform programme set out in the Strong and Prosperous Communities White Paper. The Multi Area Agreement is a voluntary agreement between two or more top tier or unitary local authorities, their partners (including the district authorities) and Government to achieve collective outcome based targets to

improve economic prosperity. This will enable groups of partners to respond to challenges in their areas more effectively and efficiently than would be possible on their own. For example a group of authorities working on common objectives can achieve greater efficiencies through shared services. Central Government will expect MAAs to consider the key policies, which relate to economic prosperity, for example skills levels and worklessness, housing and planning and the transport infrastructure in an area.

For MAAs to be successful they must therefore share a common understanding of the priorities for the sub-region and how these relate to agreed regional and local objectives. MAAs are therefore not just an aggregation of the outcomes agreed in Local Area Agreements, the MAA should compliment these outcomes as opposed to forming an additional layer of bureaucracy.

The diagram below is taken from 'Development of the new LAA framework Operational Guidance 2007' and illustrates how LAAs and MAAs might interact.

Possible interaction between LAAs and MAAs



Comprehensive Spending Review

Since their introduction in the 1998 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), Public Service Agreements (PSAs) have played a vital role in galvanising public service delivery and driving major improvements in outcomes. Building on this success, over the past two years the government has been working with frontline professionals, the public and external experts to renew the performance management framework for the next decade.

In the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review the government announced 30 new Public Service Agreements that set out the key priority outcomes the Government wants to achieve in the next spending period 2008 to 2011. The PSAs have been grouped under the following headings:

- ❑ Sustainable growth and prosperity (PSAs 1-7)
- ❑ Fairness and opportunity for all (PSAs 8-17)
- ❑ Stronger communities and a better quality of life (PSAs 18-26)
- ❑ A more secure, fair and environmentally friendly sustainable world (PSAs 27-30)

A Delivery Agreement that is shared across all contributing departments and developed in consultation with delivery partners and frontline workers underpins each PSA. There is also a small basket of outcome focussed performance indicators that will be used to measure performance against each PSA.

The CSR for 2008 to 2011 increases the pressure on public services to achieve more from the resources available. The Comprehensive Area Assessment will reflect this through a revamped use of resources assessment carried out by the Audit Commission. This will place an increased emphasis on how the council is managing their financial and other resources to achieve and improve value for money and also how well we are working with partners to share resources to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Direction of Travel Assessment

The direction of travel reflects the effectiveness of each council in their ability to drive continuous improvement. It assesses the rate of improvement and the likelihood that improvement will continue. This assessment significantly contributes to the overall area assessment.

For single tier and county councils this assessment will be a scored annual direction of travel judgement. The audit commission intend to use this scoring system for district councils and we will continue to receive a direction of travel assessment each year. The direction of travel assessment will continue to focus on how the authority contributes to achieving local priorities for the area and will:

- ❑ Assess improvement made, if any, over the previous year and the likelihood that this will continue;
- ❑ Provide assurance each year about whether each authority is complying with its statutory duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement;
- ❑ Help keep up momentum and focus in delivering on priorities for improvement;
- ❑ Signal where further support and improvement work will be helpful;
- ❑ Inform the risk assessment, future audit work and inspection or other assessment to ensure resources are targeted in the most appropriate areas;
- ❑ Identify areas of innovation that might be shared as good practice.

Use of Resources

The Audit Commission carries out a use of resources assessment of the authority annually. This assessment is designed to challenge the authority to ensure that we

are delivering better value for money, actively promoting effective financial management and demonstrating and retaining high standards of governance and accountability. Within the new performance framework the Audit Commission propose to continue this form of assessment with enhanced focus upon achievement of value for money and effective financial management.

The Audit Commission also propose to simplify the current structure into three themes shown below. These themes will be brought together and the authority will be awarded a single scored value for money judgement.

- Managing money
 - Financial health
 - Financial planning
 - Understanding costs and achieving value for money
 - Financial monitoring and forecasting
 - Financial reporting
- Managing the business
 - Leadership
 - Performance management
 - Commissioning services
 - Risk management and internal control
 - Ethical behaviour and counter fraud
- Managing other resources
 - Natural resources
 - Physical assets
 - People and information technology

Performance Information - Local National Indicator Set

The new Public Service Agreements reflect Government priorities and offer a commitment from central and local government to deliver these priorities. Alongside these PSA outcomes will be a single set of 198 indicators, which will measure and track the services and functions that local authorities are responsible for either delivering or securing alone or in partnership with others. The new local indicators will replace around 1,200 measure currently used by public sector bodies to monitor performance and will significantly reduce reporting burdens currently places upon local authorities and existing indicator sets will stop being collected with effect from April 2008.

These 198 indicators will be used to measure performance against a number of thematic areas over the next three years and from June 2008 the new Durham Local Area Agreement will be the principle means for delivering the nationally agreed PSAs. In addition to reporting against this indicator set, the data will also be used to inform area risk assessments, the direction of travel assessment and the use of resources assessments.

**National Indicator Set – 64 NIs to a District Spatial Level (as at Dec 2007) –
Indicators that will be collected by the District Council are highlighted**

NI	Title	Comment
STRONGER COMMUNITIES		
NI 1	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	Existing indicator – now to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 2	% of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood	New indicator to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 3	Civic participation in the local area	New indicator to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 4	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	Existing indicator – now to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 5	Overall/general satisfaction with the local area	New indicator to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 6	Participation in regular volunteering	New indicator to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 8	Adult participation in sport	Collected via Sport England Active People Survey Reported by Sport England to a District Level
NI 10	Visits to museums or galleries Not collected by Derwentside	Collected via DCMS To be reported by local authority
NI 14	Avoidable contact: The average number of customer contacts per resolved request	Collected by local authority via CRMS To be reported by local authority
SAFER COMMUNITIES		
NI 15	Serious violent crime	Collected via Police and ONS Population data Reported by the Crime and Reduction Partnership
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime	Collected via Police and ONS Population data Reported by the Crime and Reduction Partnership
NI 17	Perceptions with anti-social behaviour	APACS Existing indicator – now to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 20	Assault with injury	Collected via Police and ONS Population data Reported by the Crime and Reduction Partnership
NI 21	Dealing with local concerns about ant-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	APACS New indicator to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 22	Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area	APACS New indicator to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner

**National Indicator Set – 64 NIs to a District Spatial Level (as at Dec 2007) –
Indicators that will be collected by the District Council are highlighted**

NI	Title	Comment
NI 23	Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and consideration	APACS Existing indicator – now to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 27	Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	APACS New indicator to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 29	Gun crime rate	Collected via Police and ONS Population data Reported by the Crime and Reduction Partnership
NI 30	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders	Collected via PCN Reporting organisation to be confirmed
NI 32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence	Collected via DV incident data from the police Reported by the Crime and Reduction Partnership
NI 34	Domestic violence – murder	Collected via DV incident data from the police Reported by the Crime and Reduction Partnership
NI 35	Building resilience to violent extremism	Collected by the LSP Reported by the Local Authority
NI 37	Awareness of civil protection arrangements in the local area	APACS New indicator to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 41	Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem	APACS Existing indicator – now to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 42	Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem	APACS Existing indicator – now to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE		
NI 118	Take up of formal childcare by low income working families	New Collected via HMRC Tax Credit administrative data – ration to be based upon a 10% sample of tax credit claimants to a district level Reported by HM Revenues and Customs
ADULT HEALTH AND WELLBEING		
NI 119	Self-reported measure of people's overall health and well-being	New indicator to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 120	All-age all cause mortality rate	Collected via ONS Reported by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development

**National Indicator Set – 64 NIs to a District Spatial Level (as at Dec 2007) –
Indicators that will be collected by the District Council are highlighted**

NI	Title	Comment
NI 121	Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75	Collected via ONS Reported by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development
NI 122	Mortality from all cancers at ages under 75	Collected via ONS Reported by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development
NI 137	Healthy life expectancy at age 65	Existing indicator – now to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 138	Satisfaction of people over 65 with home and neighbourhood	Existing indicator – now to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 139	The extent to which older people receive the support they need to live independently at home	Existing indicator – now to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
NI 140	Fair treatment by local services	New indicator to be collected via the Place Survey Reported by the Local Authority or local partner
LOCAL ECONOMY		
NI 151	Overall employment rate	Collected via the Annual Population Survey This data is collected by the Office for National Statistics
NI 152	Working age people on out of work benefits	New Collected via the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study This is reported via Jobcentre Plus
NI 154	Net additional homes provided	Collected via Housing Flows return Reported by the Local Authority
NI 155	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	The Housing Corporation information management system. Also HSSA gives information in units funded solely through S106 and P2 gives local authority new build social rent. Reported via Housing Corporation and Local Authority
NI 156	Number of households living in temporary accommodation	Collected via P1E data Reported by local authorities
NI 157	Processing of planning applications against targets for 'major', 'minor' and 'other' types	Collected from CLG-PS2 form Reported by local planning authorities
NI 158	% decent council homes	Collected via the Business Plan Statistical Appendix from the LA Reported by the Housing Authority
NI 159	Supply of ready to develop housing sites	Collected by local planning authority Reported via local planning authorities
NI 160	Local authority tenants' satisfaction with landlord services	Collected via a representative sample surveys of tenants carried out by local authorities in a

**National Indicator Set – 64 NIs to a District Spatial Level (as at Dec 2007) –
Indicators that will be collected by the District Council are highlighted**

NI	Title	Comment
NI 170	Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years	New indicator to be collected by local planning authorities Reported by local authorities
NI 172	VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth	New indicator collected via the Inter Departmental Business Register – available from ONS at local authority level
NI 173	People falling out of work and on to incapacity benefits	New indicator collected through the DWP's IB 5% Terminations database and the Labour Force Survey Reported through the DWP
NI 179	Value for money - Total net value of ongoing cash-releasing value for money gains that have impacted since the start of the 2008-09 financial year	Collected by local authorities Reported by local authorities and partners
NI 180	Changes in Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit entitlements within the year	Collected by local authorities and submitted to DWP Reported by local authority
NI 181	Time taken to process Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit new claims and change events	Collected by local authorities as existing HB data returned to DWP each month Reported by local authority
NI 182	Satisfaction of business with local authority regulation services	New indicator to be collected via a survey of business customers To be reported by local authorities
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY		
NI 184	Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law	Collected by local authority data transferred electronically to the Food Standards Agency database To be reported by local authorities
NI 185	CO ₂ reduction from local authority operations	New indicator to be collected by local authority using spreadsheet tool published on the DEFRA website To be reported by local authorities
NI 186	Per capita reduction in CO ₂ emissions in the LA area	New indicator collected via a DEFRA publication of local CO ₂ emissions every Autumn To be reported by DEFRA
NI 187	Tackling fuel poverty - people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating	New indicator collected by the local authority via SAP survey results and additional benefit recipient question To be reported by local authorities
NI 188	Adapting to climate change	New indicator to be collected by the local authority To be reported by local authorities
NI 189	Flood and coastal erosion risk management	New indicator – data provided by the Environment Agency To be reported by the Environment Agency

**National Indicator Set – 64 NIs to a District Spatial Level (as at Dec 2007) –
Indicators that will be collected by the District Council are highlighted**

NI	Title	Comment
NI 191	Residual household waste per head	Collected by local authority via the WasteDataFlow system Reported by the Waste Collection Authority
NI 192	Household waste recycled and composted	Collected by local authority via the WasteDataFlow system Reported by the Waste Collection Authority
NI 193	Municipal waste land filled	Collected by local authority via the WasteDataFlow system Reported by the Waste Collection Authority
NI 194	Level of air quality - Reduction in NO _x and primary PM ₁₀ emissions through local authority's estate and operations	New indicator to be collected by local authority To be reported by local authorities
NI 195	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)	To be collected by local authority To be reported by local authorities
NI 196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness - fly tipping	To be collected by the local authority via the Flycapture Database Reported by the Waste Collection Authority
NI 197	Improved local biodiversity - proportion of Local Sites where active conservation management is being achieved	Collected by Local Sites Partnership To be reported by local authority

Key

APACS	Assessments of Policing and Community Safety
CRMS	Customer Relationship Management System
DCMA	Dept for Culture, Media and Sport
DWP	Dept for Work and Pensions
DEFRA	Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
HSSA	Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix

DERWENTSIDE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT INDICATORS	
Priority Outcome	Indicators
The Community feels safe and crime and anti-social behaviour does not affect their lives.	Incidents of Criminal Damage
	NI 23 Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity
	NI 32 Repeat incidents of domestic violence
	NI 17 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour
Reduced levels of worklessness	NI 152 Working age people on out of work benefits
	NI171 VAT registration rate
	NI173 People falling out of work and onto incapacity benefits
	Incapacity Benefit Claimants
An enterprising, educated and motivated workforce with the skills to meet current and future employers' needs.	NI 165 Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher
	NI 166 Average earnings of employees in the area
	NI 79 Achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19
	NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)
A clean and green environment.	NI 186 Per capita CO ₂ emissions in LA area
	NI 192 Household waste recycled and composted
	NI 195 Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)
Leisure and cultural opportunities that meet community needs.	NI 119 Self-reported measure of people's overall health and well-being
	%/Number of residents participating in physical exercise
	NI 6 Participation in regular volunteering
	NI 8 Adult participation in sport
	Satisfaction with parks and open spaces
A Transport system that ensures better access, greater choice, higher quality and more sustainable local provision.	NI 175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling
	NI 176 Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes)
Reduced misuse of Alcohol	NI 39 Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates
	NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate
	Binge drinking rates/dangerous drinking rates

TITLE:	COUNCIL PERFORMANCE - REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE THIRD QUARTER 2007/08
TO/ON:	EXECUTIVE – MARCH 10TH 2008
BY:	DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	M.J. MALONE, DEPUTY LEADER
STATUS:	PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the performance of red, amber and green rated Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) for the third quarter of 2007/08.
- 1.2. In addition the report includes the national quartile position of each of the BVPIs based upon the 2006/07 All England quartile boundaries published by the Audit Commission in January 2008 and gives an update with regard to the revised quartile position of each indicator.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Year End Performance Monitoring report for 2005/06 introduced a traffic light risk rating system to identify the Best Value Performance Indicators where anticipated performance for the following year was thought to be at risk. A feature of the system is that assigned risk ratings can be amended both throughout the year to reflect current performance levels and also at the year-end where any indicators are deemed to be posing a concern.
- 2.2. As part of the Action Planning framework all red rated indicators are required to complete an Action Plan at the start of each financial year. The agreed Action Plans are referred to the relevant Scrutiny Panels throughout the year and updates given at regular intervals within the approved reporting mechanism.
- 2.3. One of the criticisms highlighted by the CPA Inspection Team was that the Council does not always systematically target top performing councils to discover best practice. In response to this the authority compares performance with a group of similar councils known as our nearest neighbours. In addition the nearest neighbour grouping for 2007/08 has an arrangement between all of the authorities in the group to share performance information on a quarterly basis throughout the year.

The district authorities included within the 'Nearest Neighbour' Grouping for 2007/08 are shown in the table below:

Nearest Neighbour Grouping 2007/08	
Allerdale Borough Council	Fenland District Council
Ashfield District Council	Gedling Borough Council
Bassetlaw District Council	Mansfield District Council
Blyth Valley Borough Council	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Bolsover District Council	Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council
Boston Borough Council	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Broxtowe Borough Council	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Chesterfield Borough Council	Sedgefield Borough Council
Derwentside District Council	Teesdale District Council
Durham City Council	Wear Valley District Council
Erewash Borough Council	West Lancashire District Council

- 2.4. The outturn national quartile boundary data is published by the Audit Commission in January every year and gives the performance for all local authorities for the preceding financial year. This data is used to determine how Derwentside is performing both in comparison to other councils in our Nearest Neighbour grouping and also nationally.
- 2.5. The Final Year End Performance Monitoring Report for 2006/07 and the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarters 1 and 2 of 2007/08 contained a predicted quartile position for each BVPI based upon current performance and the 2005/06 published quartile boundaries. The quartile boundaries for 2006/07 are now available and have been included in the performance tables in Appendix 1 of this report for Member's information.
3. **Relevant Material Considerations**
- 3.1. Performance for all of the BVPIs is detailed in a series of tables in Appendix 1 along with the 2006/07 year end performance for each indicator and the anticipated target for the third quarter of 2007/08. In addition full titles of the indicators are included along with the recommended risk rating for each indicator for the third quarter of 2007/08.
- 3.2. The report highlights the performance for the third quarter of 2007/08 for all red risk rated indicators and demonstrates where performance is a concern and also where improvement in performance has occurred. Any amber rated indicators where performance has significantly fallen or improved by 10% or more during Quarter 3 are also highlighted and an update of the performance of all green rated indicators is given. All indicators demonstrating deterioration in performance are highlighted and a new risk rating assigned where appropriate.

- 3.3. In addition the performance tables in Appendix 1 include the national quartile position for each of the BVPIs for the last two years, which enables the direction of travel for the performance of each indicator to be assessed. A comparison with the 2006/07 outturn published figures from other authorities in our 'Nearest Neighbours' grouping has also been calculated offering an additional measure of current performance against a set of comparable authorities.

Red Rated Best Value Performance Indicators

- 3.4. There are currently five BVPIs that have been allocated a red risk rating for the third quarter of 2007/08 and these are included in Table A in Appendix 1 along with a comparison with the average outturn performance for our nearest neighbours. The table highlights the fact that all of the red risk rated indicators performed significantly lower than that of our nearest neighbours during 2006/07.
- 3.5. Due to collection cycles one of the red risk indicators, BVPI 17a cannot be monitored on a quarterly basis. To address this there have been a number of initiatives undertaken to ensure that annually collected statutory indicators are monitored throughout the year and where possible action taken to address falling levels of performance. An update with regard to the success of these initiatives is included in paragraph 3.6 along with an amended risk rating if appropriate.

The remaining four red rated indicators can be monitored quarterly and a detailed analysis of performance to date for these BVPIs is included in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8.

Progress report for Red Risk Indicators that report performance annually

- 3.6. A detailed Action Plan for each of the best value performance indicators where performance cannot be reported on a quarterly basis was referred to the relevant Scrutiny Panels during September and October 2007. To ensure that action is taken to address falling performance in these areas on an ongoing basis a number of initiatives have been taken during Quarters 1, 2 and 3 and these are detailed below:
- **BVPI 17a** – The percentage of ethnic minority employees working for the authority as a percentage of all employees sits within the bottom quartile nationally. Initiatives to address this significantly low level of performance include a review of current policies and practices to ensure that applications from minority ethnic applicants are encouraged. It is recommended that a red risk rating continue to be assigned to this indicator due to the continuing low proportion of employees in this category.

Improvements in Performance for Red Rated Indicators

3.7. Two of the four red risk indicators that can be monitored quarterly have demonstrated a rise in performance for the third quarter of 2007/08 and these are detailed below:

- **BVPI 12** – The average number of days lost to absence during the third quarter of 2007/08 is 7.54 days per employee and performance has improved in comparison to the same period in 2006/07 when the figure was 8.74 days, which is an increase of almost 14%.

The projected year-end performance for this indicator is 10.05 days, which will fall marginally short of a year-end target of 10 days. Absence rates have demonstrated an improvement throughout 2007/08 each month to date in comparison with 2006/07 and in the second quarter, performance for this indicator sat within the 2nd best performing quartile nationally based upon the 2006/07 'All England' quartile boundaries. The current rate of performance for Quarter 3 has, however slipped and the indicator now sits within the 3rd performing quartile nationally and in view of this a red risk rating will remain for BVPI 12 for the remainder of 2007/08.

- **BVPI 213** – This indicator monitors the number of households who are potentially homeless whom because of housing advice and intervention by the Strategic and Supported Housing service had their situation resolved. The indicator has historically reported performance annually, however as part of the Action Planning process for this indicator performance can now be reported quarterly. In addition the Housing Options Manager gave a presentation to the Environment and Health Scrutiny Panel on the 10th January 2008 at which Members were given an update with regard to as the ongoing actions being taken to prevent homelessness.

Performance for this indicator has demonstrated a steady improvement to date during 2007/08 with a recorded rate of 0.3 in Quarter 3 compared to 0.1 for the same period in 2006/07, but continues to sit in the worst performing quartiles nationally. In view of this BVPI 213 will retain a red risk rating for the remainder of 2007/08.

Red Rated Indicators demonstrating either a fall in performance or no improvement in performance

3.8. The remaining red risk indicators have demonstrated either a deterioration in performance or shown no improvement in performance for the third quarter of 2007/08 when compared to performance for the same period in 2006/07:

- **BVPI 11a** – The percentage of earners who are women who fall within the highest 5% of earners has remained at 15.38% in Quarter 3. Performance has improved in comparison to the same period in 2006/07 when the proportion of female employees was 13.79% but remains within the bottom performing quartile nationally based upon the 2006/07 quartile boundaries. In view of the recent announcement concerning the review of Local Government and the proposal for unitary status for County Durham it is unlikely that this indicator will improve significantly during 2007/08.
- **BVPI 11b** – Performance against the percentage of BME employees who fall within the top 5% of earners continues to be 0% and as with BVPI 11a it is unlikely that this level of performance will change due to the ongoing impact of the Local Government Review.

Amber rated Best Value Performance Indicators

- 3.9. Performance for the third quarter of 2007/08 for amber rated indicators is included in Table B in Appendix 1 along with a comparison with the average outturn performance of our nearest neighbours for 2006/07. The tables show that 50% of amber rated indicators performed better than that of our nearest neighbours for 2006/07.
- 3.10. There are 23 amber rated indicators where performance can be reported for the third quarter of 2007/08 and of these 13 have demonstrated an improvement in performance when compared to the same period last year, demonstrating that 56% of amber rated indicators have increased performance this quarter. This is a marginal increase in comparison to Quarter 2 where 12 amber rated indicators improved in performance.
- 3.11. A number of amber rated indicators have also performed well against their anticipated year-end targets for 2006/07 in Quarter 3 with 70% of indicators that can be measured achieving their anticipated quarterly target.

Significant improvements in amber rated indicators

- **BVPI 86** – The cost per household of waste collection has improved from a rate of £22.17 in Quarter 3 in 2006 to £19.43 in the third quarter of 2007, representing an increase in performance of over 12%. This increase is in part due to the introduction of the 'Twin Bins' system of refuse collection which has contributed to this reduction in costs as a result of savings in operational costs.
- **BVPI 127a** – The rate of violent crime has demonstrated a steady improvement in performance throughout the third quarter of 2007/08

where a rate of 14.88 crimes per 1,000 population was recorded in comparison to 18.52 in Quarter 3 in 2006. As a result the indicator now falls within the second best performing quartile nationally based upon the 2006/07 'All England' quartile boundary data. Initiatives contributing to this reduction in violent crime have included partnership working to address alcohol related violence involving close scrutiny of licensed premises and the creation of specific action plans, together with enforcement of licensing conditions.

In addition as part of the action planning process for this indicator Chief Inspector Wood gave an update at the Community Safety and Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel held on the 18th December 2007. He advised that additional initiatives being undertaken to address incidences of violent crime included the launch of the Night Safe project in November 2007 along with high visibility patrols and further targeting of licensed premises.

- **BVPI 127b** – The rate of robberies per 1,000 population has reduced in Quarter 3 in comparison to the same period during 2006/07 falling from 0.29 to 0.26, which represents an improvement in performance of 10%. In addition the rate of robbery has fallen in comparison to November 2007 when it was 0.30. This indicator continues to sit within the top performing quartile nationally based upon the 2006/07 quartile boundaries.
- **BVPI 183a** – The average length of stay in bed and breakfast accommodation has reduced from 2 weeks in Quarter 3 in 2006 to 0 weeks for the third quarter of 2007. This improvement in performance has occurred as a result of the authority entering into an agreement with Derwentside Homes to manage eight temporary emergency units of accommodation, thus negating the need to temporarily re-house homeless people into bed and breakfast accommodation.
- **BVPI 199a** – This indicator measures unacceptable levels of litter and has improved from a rate of 16% in the second four months of 2006 to a rate of 14% for the comparable period for 2007. This accounts for a 12% increase in performance, which can in part be attributed to the changes in street cleansing practices carried out across the district.

Significant deterioration in amber rated indicators

3.12. Indicators where performance has slipped by 10% or more either from an anticipated target for Quarter 3 or in comparison with performance for the same quarter in 2006/07 include:

- **BVPI 14** – The proportion of employees taking early retirement has risen in comparison to the same period last year increasing from

0.30% in 2006/07 to 0.44%. This causes the indicator to fall within the bottom performing quartile nationally and falls short of an estimated year end target of 0.35%. In view of the impending changes as a result of the Local Government Review it is anticipated that performance for this indicator will deteriorate further in both 2007/08 and 2008/09.

- **BVPI 79i and ii** – These two indicators measure the average time taken to recover overpayments in Housing Benefit payments and include any write-offs. BVPI 79b i and ii have demonstrated a significant deterioration in performance for the third quarter of 2007/08 compared with the same period in 2006/07. **BVPI 79bi** has deteriorated from 90.04% in Quarter 2 in 2006 to 63.02% in the third quarter of 2007 accounting for a fall in performance of 30%. Similarly **BVPI 79bii** has also demonstrated a significant decrease in performance falling from a rate of 56.72% in the third quarter of 2006 to 26.26% this quarter. On a positive note performance has improved for both indicators in comparison to both the first and second quarters of this year.

This fall in overall performance is due in part to the transfer of the council housing stock to Derwentside Homes, as prior to the transfer the authority could deduct overpayments in housing benefit directly from the rent payment in the form of a rent rebate overpayment. As Derwentside Homes is now a Registered Social Landlord the Rent Allowances method of benefit payment enables only a small amount of any overpayment to be paid per month, thus causing the repayment arrangement to take a longer period of time. Performance for both indicators now sits on the boundary of the bottom performing quartile nationally based upon the 2006/07 'All England' quartile boundary data. In view of this if performance continues to fall in the final quarter of 2007/08 the current risk rating for both indicators will be reviewed for 2008/09.

- **BVPI 82b** - The composting rate has demonstrated a fall in performance in comparison to the same period in 2006, decreasing from a rate of 8.46% in 2006 to 5.24% in 2007 and performance for this indicator has fluctuated throughout Quarter 3.

As discussed in the Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring Report the reduction in the composting rate is a direct consequence of not being allowed to deliver material to the Digester at Thornley.

This has a significant impact on Derwentside's diversion rates. We are in discussions with the County Council to see if there are ways around this problem. Premier are currently building a 100,000 tonne capacity MRF to deal with co-mingled recyclates at Washington. They hoped to offer us the facility of delivering our materials to Annfield Plain Transfer Station for onward transport to Washington. This would save us all of the transport costs and

remove the need for our Transfer Station, which is causing us some problems in terms of the building. This facility should come 'on line' in October 2008.

- **BVPI 109b** – The percentage of minor planning applications processed in eight weeks has significantly reduced when compared to the comparable quarter in 2006. The proportion of applications determined in Quarter 3 was 71%, which is a 12% reduction in performance when compared to the same period during 2006 when 80% of minor applications were processed with eight weeks. Performance for this indicator now sits in the bottom performing quartile based upon the 2006/07 All England quartile boundaries and if performance does not improve during the final quarter of 2007/08 then a red risk rating will be allocated to this indicator for 2008/09. It is, however encouraging to note that this indicator exceeds the Government set target of 65% and it is therefore anticipated that the annually set national target will be met for this indicator.

- **BVPI 183b** – The average stay in hostel accommodation has demonstrated a significant decrease in performance in comparison to the same period last year rising from 7.3 weeks in Quarter 3 in 2006 to 12 weeks in Quarter 3 in 2007. This decrease in performance has arisen as a result of the changes in the applicant criteria for the 'More than a Roof' scheme. This scheme is a hostel managed by Centrepont for 16-25 year olds and young women who are pregnant residing in this facility fall within the 'family' category used for calculating performance against this indicator. To ensure that the authority supports these clients it often means that a number of applicants remain at the hostel for up to twelve weeks until suitable permanent accommodation is secured for them. This then causes the length of time spent in the hostel to increase. This indicator now sits within the 3rd worst performing quartile nationally based upon the 2006/07 'All England' quartile boundaries and if performance deteriorates further to over 12 weeks then the current amber risk rating for this indicator will be reviewed for 2008/09.

Green rated Best Value Performance Indicators

- 3.13. Performance for the third quarter of 2007/08 for green rated indicators is included in Table C in Appendix 1 along with a comparison with the average outturn performance of our nearest neighbours. All of the green rated indicators performed better than that of the nearest neighbours average for 2006/07 demonstrating the high rate of performance for these indicators.

There are 24 indicators that have been assessed as green for the third quarter of 2007/08. Nine of the green rated indicators are collected annually and performance for these indicators can therefore not be

monitored on a quarterly basis. The remaining 15 green rated indicators can be measured on a quarterly basis and of these 14 have either demonstrated an increase in performance for Quarter 3 in comparison to the same period in 2006/07 or retained their high level of performance within the top two performing quartiles nationally.

One exception to this trend is BVPI 109a that monitors the number of major planning applications where performance has fallen significantly during Quarter 3. The percentage of major planning applications processed in 13 weeks has fallen from 80% in the third quarter of 2006 to 38% for the same period in 2007, representing a fall in performance of over 50%. During Quarter Three the Planning Division determined a number of complex major applications including two applications for retail developments. These were unusual applications, which required careful analysis based on information provided by independent consultants. In addition, the applications had to be referred to Government Office before consent could be issued due to the large scale of the schemes. The Planning Division also determined a number of large housing applications, which raised a number of difficult issues, one of which required consideration at a special planning meeting due to the complexity of the case.

As a result of the fall in overall performance, this indicator now sits in the bottom performing quartile nationally and in view of this the current green rating for this indicator has been amended to amber for the final quarter of this year.

4. **Benchmarking and Comparison**

- 4.1. The Audit Commission published the 2006/07 BVPI outturn performance figures for all local authorities in England in January 2008. Previous Quarterly Performance Monitoring reports for 2007/08 included a predicted quartile position to give Members an indication of the anticipated quartile position of the performance of the authority's BVPIs for 2006/07. The performance tables in Appendix 1, however now include the actual quartile position of each BVPI for 2006/07 along with that of 2005/06 to enable the direction of travel of each performance indicator to be assessed.
- 4.2. The table below shows the annual quartile position for the authority for the last two years and highlights the percentage of indicators performing in the top quartiles nationally using the 'All England' data boundaries in the majority of cases to give a more challenging comparison. The authority currently monitors 65 BVPIs on an annual basis and quartile boundary data is available for 55 of these indicators. This performance information has been incorporated into the calculation used in the figure below for both 2005/06 and 2006/07 and gives an indication of the authority's performance against its statutory BVPIs for the last two years. Indicators that were deleted from the indicator set for 2007/08 have been removed from the 2005/06 calculations along with the former Housing BVPIs that are now reported

and monitored by Derwentside Homes, to enable a direct comparison between the both years.

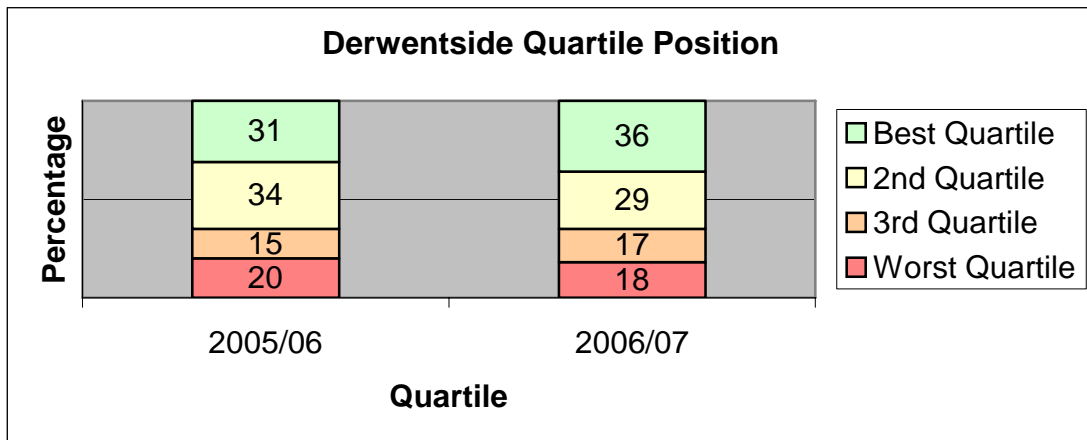


Fig. 1 Quartile boundary position for all BVPIs based upon the 'All England' quartile data published by the Audit Commission for 2006/07.

- 4.3. The authority in 2006/07 had 36% of indicators performing in the best performing quartiles nationally, which is an increase in comparison to 2005/06 when 31% of the same indicators sat within this quartile. The number of indicators performing in the bottom quartile nationally has also demonstrated an improvement with 18% of indicators in 2006/07 sitting in the bottom quartile compared to 20% in 2005/06.
- 4.4. In addition an analysis of the 2006/07 performance for all of our 22 nearest neighbours has been undertaken and included in the performance tables in Appendix 1 to give an additional measure of the authority's performance. The authorities within the nearest neighbour grouping have all agreed to share quarterly performance figures with all members of the Data Sharing Benchmarking Group. This form of information sharing enables the authority to identify comparable neighbours where performance is high or where performance has improved significantly throughout 2007/08 as opposed to waiting until June 2008 when the Best Value Performance Plans for each authority are published.
5. **Action Planning and Risk Assessment Ratings**
 - 5.1. All red risk indicators are required to complete an Action Plan as part of the current Performance Management Monitoring Framework. All completed Action Plans were included in the First Quarter Performance Monitoring Report to the Executive Meeting on the 10th September 2007.
 - 5.2. All Action Plans have been referred to the relevant Winter Scrutiny Panels during December 2007 and January 2008 in line with the agreed quarterly performance reporting mechanism within timetable given below:

BVPI	Title	Scrutiny Panel	Date
12	Days lost to absence	Learning/Economy	4 Dec 07
127a	Violent crime/1000 pop	Com Safety/Strong Com	18 Dec 07
213	Homelessness prevention	Environment/Health	10 Jan 08

- 5.3. An advantage of the current Performance Monitoring Risk Rating System is that it enables risk ratings assigned at the beginning of the financial year to be amended throughout the year to reflect slippages or significant improvements in the overall performance. This re-assessment process is carried out at quarterly intervals throughout the year and the amended risk ratings for the final quarter of 2007/08 are shown below:

BVPI	Title	2007/08 Q3 Current Rating	2007/08 Q4 Amended Rating
109a	% Major planning apps processed in 13 weeks	Green	Amber

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. This is the third quarterly monitoring report for 2007/08 using the Risk Assessment Performance Management Framework. Performance has declined or remained static for two of the four red rated indicators that can be monitored for the third quarter of 2007/08. On a positive note two red rated indicators have demonstrated an increase in performance in comparison to the same period during 2006/07. The recorded levels of absence continue to improve in comparison to 2006/07 and the number of homeless cases prevented as a result of intervention by the authority has also improved in comparison to 2006/07.

All red risk rated indicators will continue to be part of the action planning process and regular updates will be reported to the relevant Scrutiny Panels via the agreed reporting mechanisms throughout 2007/08.

- 6.2. There have been some positive improvements in performance for the amber and green rated indicators during the third quarter of 2007/08 with 56% percent of amber rated indicators demonstrating a rise in performance compared with the same period last year. Similarly 73% of all green rated indicators have either continued to improve in areas where performance was already higher than that of the best quartile performing authorities or retained their top quartile position.
- 6.3. The Audit Commission published the 2006/07 performance figures for all BVPIs collected by local authorities in England in January 2008.

Quartile performance information is available for 55 of the 65 annual BVPIs currently monitored by the authority and when performance for the 55 indicators for 2006/07 is compared with the same indicators in 2005/06 it is pleasing to note that the number of indicators in the best performing quartile has increased from 31% to 36%. Similarly the number of indicators performing in the bottom quartile has increased from 20% to 18% over the same period.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1. Members are requested to note the content of this report and consider commissioning further reports into the performance of any of the best value performance indicators with a view to incorporating any indicators that pose concern into the Action Planning and Scrutiny process.

For further information contact Anne Smith, Performance Management Officer, Telephone 01207 218208 or e-mail anne.smith@derwentside.gov.uk

Background papers – Derwentside D.C. Year End Performance Monitoring Report 2006/07;
Derwentside Best Value Performance Plan 2007;
Audit Commission BVPI Results 2006/07 located at www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Table A

Best Value Performance Indicators – Red Risk Q3 2007/08													
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2006/07	Bottom All England Quartile 2006/07	Outturn Perform 2006/07	2005/06 quartile position	2006/07 quartile position	Q3 Perform 2006/07	Q3 Target 2007/08	Q3 Perform 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
11a	% of top 5% of earners that are women	43.46%	24.11%	17.24%	4	4	13.79%	20.68%	15.38%	x	↕	24.61%	👎
11b	Percentage of top 5% of earners that are from BME communities	4.53%	0.00%	0.00%	4	4	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	✓	↕	1.57%	👎
12	Number of days/shifts lost to absence	8.09%	10.73%	11.36	4	4	11.65 days (Annual)	10.00 days (Year end)	10.05 days (Annual)	x	↕	9.99%	👎
				10.44	4	3							
17a	% of LA BME employees	5.20%	1.00%	0.14%	4	4	BVPI 17a is collected annually but is closely linked with BVPI 11b as both indicators measure the number of employees from BME communities working for the authority. BVPI 17a will therefore form part of a joint Action Plan with BVPI 11b.						
213	Homelessness – Prevention			0.30	4	4	0.1	Year end = 2	0.3	x	↕	2.77	👎

Table B

Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q3 2007/08													
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2006/07	Bottom All England Quartile 2006/07	Outturn Perform 2006/07	2005/06 quartile position	2006/07 quartile position	Q3 Perform 2006/07	Q3 Target 2007/08	Q3 Perform 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
2a	Equality Standard (0-5)	Not available	Not available	Level 2	Not avail	Not avail	Level 1	Level 2	Level 2	✓	↗	Level 2 = 50% Level 3 = 13.6%	👍
2b	Race equality checklist	84.00%	58.00%	73.68%	2	2	68.42%	73.68%	73.68%	✓	↘	67.45%	👍
8	% of invoices paid within 30 days	97.00%	91.00%	92.80%	2	3	94.01%	Year end 93.00%	94.34%	✓	↘	94.92%	👎
9	% of council tax collected	98.48%	96.49%	98.31%	2	2	87.06 Cumulative	Year end 98.40%	86.91% Cumulative	Ongoing ✓	↗	97.42%	👍
14	% employees taking early retirement	0.18%	0.97%	1.25%	1	4	1.06%	0.35%	0.00%	✓	↘	0.60%	👎
15	% employees retiring on ill health	0.00%	0.32%	0.54%	4	4	0.30%	0.35%	0.44%	x	↗	0.28%	👎
76b	HB security – number of investigators per 1000 caseload	0.39%	0.24%	0.38%	2	2	This indicator is collected and reported annually					0.31%	👍

Table B

Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q3 2007/08													
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2006/07	Bottom All England Quartile 2006/07	Outturn Perform 2006/07	2005/06 quartile position	2006/07 quartile position	Q3 Perform 2006/07	Q3 Target 2007/08	Q3 Perform 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
79b i	(HB) o/payments recovered being reported on as a % of HB- o/paymts	80.61%	63.01%	85.58%	3	1	90.04%	Year end 66.00%	63.02%	x	↔	77.20%	👍
79b ii	HB o/paymts recovered as a % of the total amount of HB o/paymt debt	38.38%	26.80%	73.86%	2	1	56.72%	Year end 75.00%	26.26%	x	↔	36.24%	👍
79b iii	HB o/payments written off as a % of HB overpayment debt outstanding at period start + HB o/payts	All England quartile data not provided by the Audit Commission for this indicator		1.70%	All England quartile data not provided by the Audit Commission for this indicator		1.26%	Year end 2.00%	0.95%	✓	↔	7.57%	👍
82a i	Percentage of waste recycled	22.88%	15.79%	19.47%	4	2	19.18%	Year end 21.00%	20.33%	✓	↔	20.37%	👎
82b i	Percentage of waste sent for composting	15.53%	5.49%	9.54%	3	3	8.46%	Year end 11.00%	5.24%	x	↔	10.19%	👎

Table B

Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q3 2007/08													
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2006/07	Bottom All England Quartile 2006/07	Outturn Perform 2006/07	2005/06 quartile position	2006/07 quartile position	Q3 Perform 2006/07	Q3 Target 2007/08	Q3 Perform 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
84a	Kg of household waste collected	395kg	480kg	420kg	3	2	319.0kg	307.5kg	302.0 kg	✓	↕	420kg	👍
84b	% change from previous financial year	-1.78	2.51%	-6.66%	4	1	This indicator reports performance on an annual basis					-1.14%	👍
86	Cost per household of waste collection	District Quartile		£37.24	District Quartile		£22.17	Year end £47.40	£19.43	✓	↕	£46.96	👍
		£42.14	£55.48		2	1							
106	% of new homes built on previously develop land	96.92%	65.93%	85.00%	2	1	78.00%	Year end 65.00%	74.00%	✓	↕	73.16%	👍
109b	Minor planning apps determined 8 wks	83.38%	71.40%	71.69%	2	3	80.00%	Year end 70.00%	71.00%	✓	↕	78.44%	👎
109c	Planning – other apps processed in 8 weeks	92.46%	84.81%	82.29%	2	4	85.00%	Year end 84.00%	88.00%	✓	↕	89.54%	👎
126	Domestic burglaries per 1,000 h/hlds	5.8	13.20	7.55	2	2	7.85	6.25	7.46	x	↕	11.15	👍

Table B

Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q3 2007/08													
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2006/07	Bottom All England Quartile 2006/07	Outturn Perform 2006/07	2005/06 quartile position	2006/07 quartile position	Q3 Perform 2006/07	Q3 Target 2007/08	Q3 Perform 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
127a	Violent crime per 1,000 pop	13.10	22.90	18.34	3	3	18.52	2nd quartile boundary = 17.10	14.88	✓	↕	17.35%	👎
127b	Robberies / 1,000 pop	0.30	1.30	0.30	1	1	0.29	0.14	0.26	✗	↕	0.56	👍
156	Buildings accessible to people with a disability	Quartiles have not been applied because different versions of relevant document have been used by LAs nationally		62.50%	Estimated 3	Estimated 3	This indicator is collected and reported annually					70.75%	👎
166a	Environmental Health checklist of best practice	100.00%	85.00%	86.50%	4	4	This indicator is collected and reported annually					90.55%	👎
174	No. of racial incidents per 100,000 pop	All England quartile data not provided by the Audit Commission		5.79	Estimated 3	Estimated 3	This indicator is collected and reported annually					4.44	👎
179	Searches out within 10 days	BV 179 deleted 2005/06 but continues to report monthly to CMT and Exec.		97.10%	BV 179 deleted 2005/06 but continues to report monthly to CMT and Exec.		(Accumulative year to date) 96.44%	Year end 100%	(Accumulative year to date) 99.57%	✓	↕	Not available	Not applicable

Table B

Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q3 2007/08													
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2006/07	Bottom All England Quartile 2006/07	Outturn Perform 2006/07	2005/06 quartile position	2006/07 quartile position	Q3 Perform 2006/07	Q3 Target 2007/08	Q3 Perform 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
183a	Average length of stay in BB	1 week	4 weeks	2 weeks	2	2	2 weeks	1 week	0 weeks	✓	↔	2.49 weeks	👍
183b	Homelessness – average stay in hostel	0 weeks	14.11 weeks	8 weeks	1	3	7.3 weeks	8 weeks	12 weeks	✗	↔	4.46 weeks	👎
199a	Street & environmental cleanliness - litter	7.0%	17.0%	17.0%	3	3	For the 1 st 8 months 16.0%	Year end 14.0%	For the 1 st 4 months 14.0%	✓	↔	9.81%	👎
199d	Environmental cleanliness – fly tipping	1	3	4	Estimated 2	4	Performance information for BVPI 199d is collected annually. The lowest rating of 4 was recorded during 2006/07 as a result of no enforcement actions being taken against fly-tippers. Following the year end audit of BVPI 199d it was discovered that a number of enforcement actions that had been undertaken by the Environment Agency Enforcement Officer should have been included within the year-end outturn figure for 199d. In view of this the risk rating for BVPI 199d has been amended to amber for Quarter 2.						
216a	Identifying contaminated land	Not available		57	Not available		This indicator is collected and reported annually				1002	👎	
216b	No. of sites insufficient info. is avail./remediation of land is necessary	10.00%	2.00%	29.00%	4	1	This indicator is collected and reported annually				15.10%	👍	
219b	Conservation areas: character Appraisals	43.63%	5.00%	0.00%	4	4	This indicator is collected and reported annually				19.56%	👎	

Table B





Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q3 2007/08													
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2006/07	Bottom All England Quartile 2006/07	Outturn Perform 2006/07	2005/06 quartile position	2006/07 quartile position	Q3 Perform 2006/07	Q3 Target 2007/08	Q3 Perform 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
225	Domestic violence checklist	All England quartile data not provided by the Audit Commission for this indicator		63.64%	Quartiles have not been applied as LAs nationally had difficulties in collecting data		This indicator is collected and reported annually					63.10%	
226a	Advice and guidance services: total expenditure	All England quartile data not provided by the Audit Commission for this indicator		£78,527	Quartiles have not been applied as per guidance to LAs from the Audit		This indicator is collected and reported annually					£102,392	
226b	Advice and guidance services: CLS quality mark			80.00%	Commission to give only a broad estimate of costs for guidance services provided. Quartile data is therefore not statistically reliable		This indicator is collected and reported annually					72.04%	
226c	Advice and guidance services: direct provision			£1167089	This indicator is collected and reported annually					£344,796			

Table C

Best Value Performance Indicators – Green Risk Q3 2007/08

BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2006/07	Bottom All England Quartile 2006/07	Outturn Perform 2006/07	2005/06 quartile position	2006/07 quartile position	Q3 Perform 2006/07	Q3 Target 2007/08	Q3 Perform 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
10	% of non-domestic rates due that were received	99.30%	98.43%	99.30%	1	1	89.15% Cumulative	Year end 99.15%	88.42% Cumulative	Ongoing ✓	↻	98.59%	👍
11c	Top 5% of earners: with a disability	5.49%	0.00%	10.34%	1	1	10.34%	10.34%	11.54%	✓	↻	5.13%	👍
16a	% of LA employees meeting DDA	4.43%	1.90%	4.05%	1	2	4.39%	4.33%	4.38%	✓	↻	3.88%	👍
64	No. of private sector dwellings returned into occupation	District Quartiles		33	District Quartiles		This indicator is collected and reported annually					22	👍
		55	4		1	2							
76c	HB security – number of investigations per 1000 caseload	53.22	25.51	60.39	1	1	This indicator is collected and reported annually					42.03	👍
76d	HB security – number of prosecutions and sanctions per 1000 caseload	6.30	3.43	5.58	2	2	This indicator is collected and reported annually					5.30	👍
78a	Average time for proc new claims	24.5 days	33.8 days	25.53 days	2	2	25.24 days	Year end 25 days	26.49 days	✗	↻	32.06 days	👍

Table C

Best Value Performance Indicators – Green Risk Q3 2007/08

BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2006/07	Bottom All England Quartile 2006/07	Outturn Perform 2006/07	2005/06 quartile position	2006/07 quartile position	Q3 Perform 2006/07	Q3 Target 2007/08	Q3 Perform 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
78b	Average time for processing change in circumstance	7.8 days	15.6 days	10.14 days	2	2	10.07 days	Year end 10 days	10.02 days	✓	↔	12.11 days	👍
79a	Accuracy of HB/CTB claims	99.20%	97.00%	99.40%	1	1	99.20%	99.00%	99.20%	✓	↔	98.02%	👍
91a	% of pop served by kerbside collection (one recyclable)	100.00%	95.40%	100.00%	1	1	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	✓	↔	97.29%	👍
91b	% of pop served by kerbside collection (two recyclables)	100.00%	93.50%	100.00%	1	1	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	✓	↔	97.02%	👍
109a	Major planning applications processed in 13 weeks	80.65%	65.22%	74.28%	1	2	80.00%	Year end 62.00%	38.00%	✗	↔	72.32%	👍
128	Vehicle crimes per 1000 population	7.0	13.9	7.40	1	2	7.12	7.4	7.28	✓	↔	11.24	👍
175	% Racial incidents resulting in further action	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	1	1	This indicator is collected and reported annually					88.50%	👍
199b	Local street environmental cleanliness – graffiti	1%	5%	0%	2	1	For 1 st 8 months 0%	Year end 0%	For 1 st 8 months 0%	✓	↔	1.89%	👍

Table C

Best Value Performance Indicators – Green Risk Q3 2007/08

BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2006/07	Bottom All England Quartile 2006/07	Outturn Perform 2006/07	2005/06 quartile position	2006/07 quartile position	Q3 Perform 2006/07	Q3 Target 2007/08	Q3 Perform 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
199c	Local street and environmental cleanliness – fly posting	0%	2%	0%	2	1	For 1 st 8 months 0%	Year end 0%	For 1 st 8 months 0%	✓	↕	0.37%	👍
200a	Plan making development plan	All England quartile data not provided by the Audit Commission for this indicator		Yes	Not available		This indicator is collected and reported annually					94.45% ans yes	👍
200b	Plan making – milestones			Yes			This indicator is collected and reported annually					50.00% ans yes	94.45% ans yes
202	Number of rough sleepers	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	1	✗	↕	1.68	👍
204	Planning Appeals	25.00%	36.10%	20.00%	1	1	This indicator is collected and reported annually					30.80%	👍
205	Quality of planning service checklist	District Quartiles		94.44%	District Quartiles		This indicator is collected and reported annually					91.16%	👍
		100.00%	88.90%		1	2							
217	Pollution control improvement	100.00%	93.00%	100.00%	3	1	This indicator is collected and reported annually					94.86%	👍
218a	Abandoned vehicles investigated	98.55%	82.00%	96.75%	2	2	94.74%	97.00%	100.00%	✓	↕	95.43%	👍
218b	Abandoned vehicles - removal	97.87%	75.50%	100.00%	1	1	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	✓	↕	87.62%	👍

TITLE:	North East of England Regional Spatial Strategy: Further Proposed Changes
TO/ON:	Executive – 10th March 2008
BY:	Director of Environmental Services
PORTFOLIO:	Environment
STATUS:	Report

STRATEGIC FACTOR CHECKLIST

The Council's Corporate Management Team has confirmed that the Strategic Factor Checklist has been applied to the development of this report, and there are no key issues, over and above those set out in the body of the report, that need to be brought to Members' attention.

1 SUBJECT MATTER AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Further Proposed Changes to the North East Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) published for public consultation by the Government Office for the North East (GONE) on behalf of the Secretary of State on the 6th February 2008. Responses have been invited and the consultation period runs until the 2nd April 2008. Following consideration of the responses to this consultation the final RSS is expected to be adopted in Summer 2008.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members may recall previous reports at different stages of the preparation of the RSS and particularly a report on the Proposed Changes to RSS in July 2007 when a number of formal comments were made in response to GONE's consultation. The principal areas of concern were:
- continued emphasis of the RSS on the Conurbations would limit the contribution that County Durham can make to the future growth of the Region and restrict the County's ability to secure new investment and achieve its own economic regeneration;
 - the housing allocation of 3,200 net new dwellings in Derwentside from 2004-21 would not meet the needs of existing residents and would prevent the Council from providing much needed affordable housing and using new housing to regenerate some of our more deprived communities; and
 - an early review of RSS following adoption is required to enable it to take account of the Strategic Housing Market Assessments currently underway.
- 2.2 In addition the Council expressed support for the housing allocations being proposed by the North East Assembly (NEA) as a more credible and robust

set of figures that will allow all Districts to contribute to an effective spatial strategy for the North East.

3 KEY ISSUES FROM THE FURTHER PROPOSED CHANGES FOR DERWENTSIDE AND COUNTY DURHAM

City Regions

- 3.1 Although there is still a continued emphasis on directing future development to the conurbations, the changes with regard to housing provision and employment sites significantly reduce the level of this emphasis. Further Proposed Change (FPC) 20 to Policy 5 allows development in regeneration towns (including Consett and Stanley) to meet local needs and to achieve a balance between housing economic development, infrastructure and services. In addition FPC 32 to Policy 6 now seeks to support the development of towns such as Consett and Stanley and not just their regeneration.

Employment

- 3.2 The Proposed Changes followed the Panel's recommendation to delete the strategic reserve sites at Heighington Lane West and South of Seaham and to reduce the potential size of NetPark in Sedgefield as well as deleting reference to a rail-freight interchange at TurSDale near Durham. FPC 60 increases the potential size of NetPark and FPC 61 reinstates Heighington Lane West. FPC 143 now makes reference to TurSDale but support is conditional on a case been made for the proposal. The site at South of Seaham continues to be omitted by name but has been taken into account in the calculation of Employment Land figures.

Housing Allocations

- 3.3 At the Examination in Public the County Durham Authorities presented a united case, accepting the Submission Draft 20,000 housing allocation to the sub-region as a minimum, but seeking an early review to the distribution post 2011. Unfortunately the Panel, despite increasing the Regional total from 107,000 to nearly 112,000 net new dwellings over the period 2004-2021, actually reduced the total for County Durham to 19,000 or 17% of the Regional total compared to 20% in the Submission Draft. Derwentside's housing allocation also fell substantially from a total of 4,250 to 3,215. The Proposed Changes included all of the housing allocations exactly as recommended by the Panel.
- 3.4 In response to the Proposed Changes the NEA submitted an alternative housing distribution, which was endorsed by all County Durham authorities, including Derwentside, and the three sub-regions of Durham, Northumberland and Tees Valley. FPC 78 includes this distribution in its entirety as shown in Table 1 below. Although the percentage of the total allocated to County Durham is less than in the Submission Draft it is now of a much larger total for the region, 128,860 instead of 107,015. As a result the total number of houses to be built in Derwentside is substantially higher at 4,590, which is an increase of 43% over the figure in the Proposed Changes.

Table 1

District/ Sub-Region	Submission Draft	% of Total	Proposed Changes	% of Total	Further Proposed Changes	% of Total
Chester-le-Street	1785	8.9	1540	8.1	2040	8.6
Derwentside	4250	21.3	3215	16.9	4590	19.5
Durham City	2975	14.9	3220	16.9	3825	16.2
Easington	2975	14.9	2735	14.4	3995	17.0
Sedgefield	3995	20.0	4930	25.9	4420	18.8
Teesdale	1190	6.0	1320	6.9	1275	5.4
Wear Valley	2805	14.0	2080	10.9	3485	14.8
Durham	19,975	19.7	19,040	17.0	23,545	18.3
Tees Valley	29,070	27.2	33,145	29.6	35,700	27.7
Northumberland	13,005	12.1	13,235	11.9	15,045	11.7
Tyne & Wear	44,965	42.0	46,450	41.5	54,740	42.5
Total	107,015		111,870		128,860	

- 3.5 Part of the justification for the increased housing provision is the use of more up to date population projections, which show the population of the North East increasing, mainly as a result of international migration.

Gypsy & Traveller Provision

- 3.6 Policy 32 (Improving Inclusivity and Affordability) included a criterion which required local planning authorities to plan, monitor and manage the provision and release of pitches for gypsies and travellers and to identify locations for these pitches if necessary. FPC 85 adds an additional criterion to the Policy, which requires local authorities to undertake an assessment of the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Showpeople.
- 3.7 In the accompanying text to the policy (FPC 83), figures for the current and future unmet requirement for pitch provision are given for groups of local authorities. Derwentside is grouped with Sunderland, Chester-le-Street and Durham City and the figures are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Area	Current unmet requirement	By 2010	By 2015	By 2020	Total by 2020
Sunderland, Chester-le-Street, Derwentside, Durham City	0	4	7	8	19
Regional Total	49	29	42	46	166

- 3.8 These figures come from an assessment of need undertaken by consultants White Young Green in 2007 and indicate what is required and not what local authorities should provide. These figures are essentially part of the evidence base to RSS and their presence in the document itself is misleading given that they are not actually referred to in the policy itself.
- 3.9 A close examination of the Study identifies a number of shortcomings. Furthermore the approach of the White Young Green Study compares unfavourably with the more robust methodology employed in the County Durham Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment undertaken by David Cumberland Housing Regeneration Limited. The County Durham Study is not referred to in RSS despite it also being completed in 2007. The County Durham Study found that three to five small new permanent sites in the County were required, with up to twelve pitches each. This is obviously difficult to compare to the figures in RSS as different sub-areas are used.
- 3.10 FPC 110 changes Policy 39 (Sustainable Construction) by removing the requirement for major new development to have embedded within them a minimum of 10% of their energy supply from renewable resources. This has now been changed to a requirement for 'an ambitious but viable percentage'. This would appear to significantly weaken the Policy and is surely contrary to the Government's own stated aim of using planning to tackle the causes of Climate Change.

4 COMMENT

- 4.1 The Further Proposed Changes to RSS generally make the document more accommodating to the needs and aspirations of the residents of County Durham. The harsh restrictions on new development in the County have been largely lifted although there are some remaining elements of the RSS's approach that will continue to push investment toward the conurbations. Overall though the change in emphasis of the RSS, and in particular a number of specific changes to the document, should be welcomed. The increased housing allocation in particular should help the Council address the need for new affordable housing and the use of new housing development to regenerate the District's communities. The changes have resulted, in part, from the strong representations made to RSS by a number of parties including all County Durham Authorities and the NEA. It should also be acknowledged that recent changes in Government Policy will also have contributed.
- 4.2 The one exception to the generally positive changes made to RSS is the inclusion of the results of the White Young Green Regional Assessment in the section on Improving Inclusivity. Unfortunately the methodology used by the consultants was never likely to produce findings that were robust enough to accurately predict future need for new gypsy and traveller pitches. Although the County Durham study cannot be said to be a completely accurate assessment of these needs it was significantly better than the regional study and should have been referred to and used to identify the pitches required in County Durham over the period. The inclusion of the figures within the text and lack of reference to them in the policy is also misleading.

4.3 The changes to Policy 39 on Sustainable Construction are also disappointing and a step backwards in attempts to tackle Climate Change.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Executive is recommended to:

- i) agree to submit comments to GONE supporting the FPCs 20,32,60,61, 78 and 143, relating to housing allocations and employment sites,
- ii) object to FPC83 and the inclusion of the gypsy and traveller pitch provision figures from the White Young Green Regional Assessment as it is an inadequate assessment of need, and
- iii) object to FPC110 as a significant weakening of the Policy on Sustainable Construction.

For further information contact Mike Allum, Principal Planning Officer, Telephone: 01207 218278 or email: m.allum@derwentside.gov.uk

Background Papers

RSS Submission Draft – October 2005

RSS Panel Report – August 2006

RSS Proposed Changes – May 2007

RSS Further Proposed Changes – February 2008

Title:	County Durham Economic Strategy (CDES) 2008- 2013: “Building our Future”
To/On:	Executive 10th March 2008
By:	Deputy Chief Executive
Portfolio:	Economy
Status:	Report

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.0 The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of comments provided by Officers to the County Durham Economic Partnership on the draft County Durham Economic Strategy (CDES) 2008-2013.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The draft County Durham Economic Strategy (CDES) is being developed by the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) with a formal period of consultation ending on 7th March 2008. The Council is an active member of the CDEP which was created in 1994 and has the responsibility for leading and driving forward the delivery of the Strategy.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Strategy is to set out an inspirational and challenging vision for the growth of the County Durham economy and to translate this into broad objectives and priorities. The Strategy will provide the framework for a more detailed Action Plan which will be prepared after the consultation period and will highlight delivery priorities over the next 3-5 years.
- 2.3 The Strategy sets out a long-term vision for the economy of County Durham, namely:
- “By 2023 we want County Durham to have a modern economy with more jobs, higher income levels, a more skilled workforce and more businesses able to compete in regional and global markets”.*
- 2.4 It makes it very clear that the County faces a massive challenge in closing the gap with both regional and national economies. In 2004, output per head in County Durham was 81% of the regional average and 64% of the national average. The reasons for the gap are explained by a combination of factors including:
- Lower than average levels of participation in the labour market;
 - A mix of industries were high value employment such as manufacturing has been in decline and employment growth has been characterised by low value added services; and only in low value added services; and

- Low average productivity in sectors, except manufacturing.
- 2.5 The Strategy estimates that increasing participation (employment) to national levels and changing the mix of industries would only address some 28% of the gap. The productivity gap is the most significant issue to be addressed and includes key factors such as:
- The Workforce skills base;
 - Levels of capital investment
 - Investment in R and D and levels of innovation; and
 - The degree of competitiveness within the local and other competitor marketplaces.
- 2.6 The Strategy states that output gap is unlikely to be bridged in the life of the strategy up to 2013. To make significant progress, County Durham needs to exceed regional and national indicators by 2023. The headline indicators are:
- Number of enterprises: *closing the enterprise gap would require 6,000 additional businesses and would lead to 15,000 new jobs.*
 - Employment rate: *improving participation to national levels would require 17,000 residents to take up employment.*
 - Average earnings
 - Productivity per employee
 - Educational attainment
 - Residents qualified to NVQ3,4 and 5
- 2.7 The CDES has identified three strategic objectives and areas of intervention:
- to strengthen the competitiveness and productivity of our businesses and create an enterprise culture and performance which matches the best in England, increasing employment, per capita GVA and business start-up and survival rates
 - to enhance the employability and skills of our workforce – increasing productivity and economic participation and reducing social exclusion
 - to develop economically competitive places and sustainable communities and create the conditions for long-term economic growth
- 2.8 The activity needed to address the three objectives has been highlighted under three areas:
- Competitive Business
 - Strengthening the competitiveness of existing businesses, particularly manufacturing
 - Diversify economic base by attracting more value added businesses, particularly in the knowledge economy.
 - Increase business birth rate
 - Draw more heavily on the University of Durham' strenghts

- Competitive People
 - Raising aspirations, participation and attainment
 - Building the skills of the workforce
 - Improving access to employment
- Competitive Places
 - A spatial framework to connect areas of economic growth with areas of need
 - Industrial, Business and Research Parks
 - Developing major centres
 - Improving infrastructure
 - Spatial priorities

2.9 The final section of the CDES sets out how the strategy will be delivered, including:

- How the County Durham Economic Partnership will demonstrate leadership
- How a much stronger and more powerful image will be built for County Durham
- What targets should be set to measure progress.

2.10 A full version with an executive summary of the draft County Durham Economic Strategy 2008-2013 is available in the members library or on www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/cdep

3.0 MATERIAL CONSIDERATION

3.1 The preparation of the CDES is taking place against a period of uncertainty in Local Government and in a period when the Government has published a Sub-national Review of Economic Development and Regeneration that emphasises the role of local councils and Regional Development Agencies in promoting economic prosperity.

3.2 The Council has already taken a strong lead in contributing to the preparation of the CDES, acknowledging both the serious state of the County Durham economy; the need for transformational change; and the key contribution that Derwentside needs to play in supporting the growth of a modern, prosperous County Durham economy to 2013 and beyond.

3.3 The draft Strategy acknowledges that urban centres such as Consett and Stanley will continue to be important employment centres but it does not suggest what further investment is required and over what timescales. Tanfield Lea Industrial Estate and the new Tanfield Lea Business Centre are recognised as key investment locations but the strategy does not fully address the economic impact of projects such as Beamish in the context of further investment in industrial areas in Derwentside.

- 3.4 A formal response has already been presented by Council Officers to the County Durham Economic Partnership as part of the formal consultation process which concluded on 7th March 2008. Appendix One provides the comments in full within the prescribed questionnaire format.
- 3.5 The draft CDES was considered by the Learning and Economy Scrutiny Panel on 4th March 2008 and comments provided at that meeting have been reflected in the response to the CDEP. The Panel had previously expressed concerns that the evidential base for the CDES did not fully support all of the proposed spatial priorities and “flagship” projects such as Barnard Castle and Beamish and also did not adequately recognise the key role or potential of existing and future employment sites in Derwentside.
- 3.6 The Derwentside Partnership met on 7th February 2008 and received a presentation on the Strategy from the CDEP. A number of comments were made at the meeting and these were taken as part of the formal consultation process. Appendix Two provides a summary of the comments from the meeting of the Derwentside Partnership.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The need for a CDES is clear as is the role of Derwentside within a prosperous economy for County Durham. The comments provided to the County Durham Economic Partnership are supportive of the need for a strategy that will lead to a transformational change in the economy of County Durham. A number of positive suggestions have been made that demonstrate that there is a bigger role for Derwentside to play than currently identified.
- 4.2 Council Officers and Members will continue to work with the County Durham Economic Partnership to ensure the CDES is robust and relevant to the needs of Derwentside residents and businesses.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Executive endorses the comments made by Officers as outlined in appendix one to this report.

Background Documents

Draft County Durham Economic Strategy 2008-2013 (Dec 07)
Have Your Say Consultation Form (Dec 07)

For Further Information Contact:

Peter McDowell, Head of Economic and Community Development – Tel: 01207 218239 or email: p.mcdowell@derwentside.gov.uk

Appendix One

County Durham Economic Strategy 2008-2013

The Council Response

Please note that the Council comments are those highlighted in bold within the boxes shown.

Proposed Vision

Do you agree with the proposed vision for the County Durham economy that:

“By 2023 we want County Durham to have a modern economy with more jobs, higher income levels, a more skilled workforce and more businesses able to compete in regional and global markets.”

Yes - The current vision as drafted is supported but needs to go further to specifically include reducing the number of economically inactive residents in County Durham. This would make a clear connection between the need to create more jobs but also to provide more opportunities for residents living in County Durham.

If you don't agree, what do you think our economy should be like in 2023?

Comments:

Challenges

* Do you agree that low skills is the most important challenge facing our economy?

Yes - The biggest challenge is to improve the employability, skill levels and participation of all County Durham residents within a more modern, enterprising and knowledge based economy.

This requires an enterprising, skilled and motivated workforce that can meet the demands of increased numbers of businesses based

throughout the North East and County Durham, operating from modern premises within growing business sectors.

If you don't agree, what is the biggest challenge?

- Select from: too few new businesses
Loss of manufacturing and engineering jobs
Lack of modern industrial premises
Other

Employment

* The strategy suggests we should grow employment in manufacturing and engineering, environmental technologies, financial and business services and tourism. Do you agree?

Yes - The strategy correctly recognizes opportunities to grow employment in manufacturing and engineering, environmental technologies, financial and business services. The strategy does not however provide a sufficiently robust evidential basis to include tourism as a priority employment growth sector that could provide a high level of economic benefit to the County.

Derwentside provides an illustration of the continued importance of high value manufacturing and engineering to the local economy whilst at the same time showing the importance of developing a strategy to encourage and support more new businesses in more specific knowledge based sectors.

Are there any other sectors you would suggest as an alternative or as well?
Comments:

Location

* The draft strategy suggests that the main locations for employment growth should be Durham City, the areas along the A19 and the A1(M), the area between Bishop Auckland and Darlington and North West Durham. Do you agree?

Yes - but there should be more consideration given to issues within

the employment locations and the interaction of the employment areas with the city regions. This raises a number of issues for the Strategy to consider:

- Transport is a barrier to residents being able to access local job opportunities within local employment growth areas.
- Daily congestion on outward routes suggests there is already significant outward commuting from areas such as Derwentside.
- Derwentside for example has seen significant housing growth and now has an employment rate above the national average but there remains significant number of economically inactive residents and the need to create local job opportunities
- Derwentside has a VAT registration rate significantly above the regional average which has resulted from a combination of factors including new housing opportunities in Derwentside; accessibility to Tyne and Wear; modern business space and infrastructure; and targeted, quality business support.

The strategy does need a clear focus on local employment growth areas and the job opportunities that this could provide for local residents. At the same time, there needs to be greater focus on the opportunities of the City Regions as a route to employment growth and the increased economic prosperity this can bring to areas such as Derwentside.

The strategy suggests that Derwentside along with other districts needs to create 2-3,000 new jobs and a 100 new businesses a year to make a transformational shift in addressing the productivity gap of the County. Part of this equation is already happening in Derwentside through the creation of new businesses – the biggest challenge remains to provide significant new job opportunities within County Durham.

The main thrust of the strategy should be to support this challenge and it should not become deflected by identifying flagship projects such as Beamish and Barnard Castle with no evidence or justification on how they will meet this challenge and provide a level of economic benefit that justifies such recognition.

Derwentside has an economic model that is showing clear signs of improvement and stability in the local economy. Derwentside has also a number of challenges that remain including create new job

opportunities and supporting inactive residents into work.

The Strategy does not need to be distracted by “flagship projects” and the signal that this sends in terms of resource allocation. The Strategy should concentrate on the places that will generate substantial economic impact for the County in Derwentside and other industrial locations such as Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor.

Your Ideas

County Durham needs some big ideas for the future - what's your big idea for the County's economy?

Plan for growth not decline. All areas of the County economy need to grow in terms of population, businesses and employment.

Focus on what is already working. Need to grow more businesses that will add value to the economy. Need to meet the challenge to and major opportunities for growing business sectors across the County.

Use best practice but not “flagships”. A strategy should not be seen as an investment plan.

Appendix Two

A summary of comments on the Strategy made by the Derwentside Partnership at a meeting on 7th February 2008 are set out below and will be considered by the County Durham Economic Partnership as part of the consultation process:

- Getting people back into work is a priority; still significant numbers of residents not participating in the labour market in Derwentside.
- Need to recognise more fully the travel to work patterns and the inter relationship and connectivity with the Tyne and Wear Conurbation.
- Strategy must deliver a change of culture and mindset of those who are unemployed.
- The economy of Derwentside has improved dramatically with an employment rate above the national average, significant increases in new businesses and impact of new housing
- Derwentside has shown a number of innovative and successful ways of working to address long term economic and cultural issues but some concern on the Strategy in that it appeared that it would be 'all things to all people' and did not recognize many examples of good practice (the Engineering Diploma and AB@H) and successful and aspirational projects within Derwentside such as Enterprise Place and Emerge.
- Concern that an example of good practice such as Enterprise Place could be lost with and other examples of best practice that have received national acknowledgement but have not been included in the document.
- Strategy did not recognize the existing and future potential of the community and voluntary sectors
- Recognised that unless people's culture and aspirations changed, this strategy would never be successful.
- Major issues regarding transport within the County and Derwentside and it is hoped that Nexus would work with the new authority to extend links within the county.