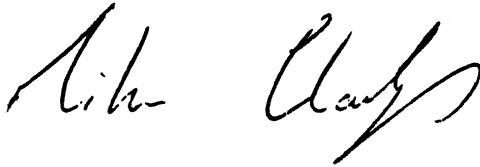


Executive

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 December 2007 at 4:30 p.m. for consideration of the undernoted agenda.



MIKE CLARK

Chief Executive Officer

Agenda

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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.

2. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY BOARD DEBATE

A list of items discussed at Scrutiny Board held on 4th December 2007 (to be circulated at the meeting)

3. MINUTES

To consider the minutes of the meeting held 8th October 2007.
(Herewith 'A')

Attached Documents:

[MINUTES \(A\)](#)

4. COUNCIL PERFORMANCE - REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE
SECOND QUARTER 2007/08

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

Attached Documents:

[COUNCIL PERFORMANCE - REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE SECOND
QUARTER 2007/08 \(B\)](#)

5. VEHICLE RENEWAL - CARELINE/COURIER SERVICE

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

Attached Documents:

[VEHICLE RENEWAL - CARELINE/COURIER SERVICE \(C\)](#)

6. 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 1 AND
3 OF PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 12(A) OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED).

7. MEMBER SUPPORT OFFICER - 85 YEAR RULE

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

8. REQUEST TO RETIRE UNDER THE '85' YEAR RULE

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

9. DERWENTSIDE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LTD -
MERGER PROPOSAL

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

10. LAND AT STATION YARD CONSETT

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

Agenda prepared by Gemma Donaghy, Democratic Services 01207 218249
g.donaghy@derwentside.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Consett on 8th October 2007 at 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Watson (Chairman)

Councillors: C.D. Christer, O. Johnson, D. Lavin, D.G. Llewellyn, M.J. Malone and A. Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors: T. Pattinson, W. Stelling and W.J. Tyrie.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor C. Marshall.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

34. 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.

35. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held 10th September 2007 be agreed as a correct record.

36. TYNEDALE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: SITE ALLOCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Councillor Johnson presented the report which advised that Tynedale District Council had published for consultation the Site Allocations Issues and Options document which formed part of its Local Development Framework. Representation had been required by 14th September and to comply with this deadline Officers had forwarded comments. The report explained those issues

relevant to Derwentside and sought Member's endorsement of the comments sent to Tynedale Council.

Scrutiny Board Comments: *The Scrutiny Board reviewed the report and there were no issues raised.*

Options: Whether or not to endorse the Officer comments forwarded to Tynedale District Council and agree the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Officer comments in respect of Tynedale Local Development Framework be endorsed as follows:

(i) Object to the allocation of the following sites for residential development; SA121; SA122; SA123; SA069.

(ii) Object to the allocation of the following site for economic development; SA123.

Reason: In order to take part in the consultation process and to make this Council's views on the sites known to Tynedale District Council.

37. CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2007-2010

Councillor Malone presented the report which requested Member approval of the Corporate Procurement Strategy 2007-2010. The new Strategy was an essential corporate strategy, as it will ensure that procurement can strategically contribute to the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives and the Corporate Plan and support the achievement of the Community Strategy.

Scrutiny Board Comments: *The Scrutiny Board received the report and welcomed the development of collaborative / partnership working. The report was considered to be appropriate and robust and Members applauded the progress made with regards procurement in general.*

Options:

(i) Agree to approve the Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2010.

(ii) Reject the need for a Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2010.

(iii) Suggest amendments and further study to the Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2010.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2010 be approved and that a regular review of the Action Plan items occurs to ensure that they continue to remain as relevant priorities in consideration of Local Government Review.

Reason: The Corporate Procurement Strategy 2007-2010 will be an important strategy to ensure that strategic procurement management continues to

contribute to the corporate objectives set out in the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy.

38. EXCLUSION

ON THE MOTION OF COUNCILLOR A. TAYLOR SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR D.G. LLEWELLYN THAT UNDER SECTION 100(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, THE PRESS AND PUBLIC 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 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT A1972 (AS AMENDED).

39. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MOORSIDE

Councillor Watson presented the report which advised Members of the situation regarding surplus land at Moorside shown on the plan attached to the report.

Scrutiny Board Comments: *Members noted that there was no opposition to the proposals from local Ward Members and agreed to the proposals contained in the report.*

Options:

- (i) Proceed with a sale as detailed in the report.
- (ii) Advertise the site on the open market.

RESOLVED: That agreement be granted to proceed as detailed in 5.1 of the report.

Reasons: This enables early completion of a major redevelopment scheme and the Council receives a substantial capital receipt. This also allows the Doctors Practice the opportunity to acquire land to enhance medical services within the village but in the event of them not being able to proceed, there was a willing buyer who could integrate the site within their ongoing development.

40. LEASE OF HOBSON GOLF CLUB

Councillor Watson presented the report which requested authority to defer the implementation of an increased rent due to be paid by the tenants of Hobson Golf Club.

Councillor Taylor commented that this provided a good public sports facility which was used by children and young people as well as adults and therefore she supported the proposals.

Scrutiny Board Comments: *Members commented upon the opportunities to assist the golf club in developing the business by way of marketing etc. Members were advised of the details of the transfer of the facility to the club which restricted the development of the club as a private facility. Members also noted that the facility operated without public subsidy.*

Options:

- (i) Agree to the request.
- (ii) Refuse the request.

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to permit the continuation of the existing rent for a further year, and thereafter approval be granted to the Deputy Chief Executive to consider and determine any future rents under his delegated powers.

Reason: To enable the Club to continue in operation in a time of financial hardship.

41. CONSETT AND STANLEY MARKETS

Councillor Llewellyn presented the report which sought direction as to the future operation of the Consett and Stanley Street Markets.

Councillor Watson welcomed the report and requested that it be noted that concerns had been expressed by Councillor T.Pattinson regarding the current operator.

Councillor Taylor noted that it had been a number of years since the tender had been advertised and therefore welcomed the proposal. She also commented that although she had been disappointed that the workers co-operative market had declined, she was pleased that the Stanley Market was still vibrant.

Councillor Lavin commented that Chester-le-Street District Council had spent a lot of money on trying to improve their market and perhaps new ideas were needed which may help to invigorate Consett and Stanley markets.

Scrutiny Board Comments: *Members welcomed the proposal contained in the report which would hopefully invigorate the markets. Members accepted the need to agree to a flexible approach towards the letting of any future contract.*

Options:

- (i) Discontinue Market Operations.
- (ii) Negotiate revised terms with existing operators.
- (iii) Advertise for Tenders on the open market.

RESOLVED: That authority be granted to proceed with the option outlined in 3.11c in the report and advertise both market operations. A further report to be brought back to Executive for consideration of all offers received.

Reasons: This enables the Council to test the open market and hopefully increase revenue income. It also affords the opportunity to improve the retail offer within both towns.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 4.52 p.m.

TITLE:	COUNCIL PERFORMANCE - REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE SECOND QUARTER 2007/08
TO/ON:	EXECUTIVE - 10TH DECEMBER 2007
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 second quarter of 2007/08.

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 in comparison to other councils, but as the data is not available at present it is not possible to calculate the current quartile position for each indicator for 2006/07. As an interim measure a comparison with the 2006/07 outturn published figures from other authorities in our 'Nearest Neighbours' grouping has been calculated to give a more accurate measure of current performance against a set of comparable authorities.

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 second quarter of 2007/08. In addition full titles of the indicators are included along with the recommended risk rating for each indicator for the second quarter of 2007/08.
- 3.2. The report highlights the performance for the second 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 2 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 average performance rate for our nearest neighbours for 2006/07 is included in the tables in Appendix 1 along with a predicted quartile position for each indicator based upon the 2005/06 Audit Commission 'All England' quartile boundaries.

Red Rated Best Value Performance Indicators

- 3.4. There are currently seven BVPIs that have been allocated a red risk rating for the second 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 two of the red risk indicators BVPI 17a and BVPI 119e 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 for each indicator where appropriate.

The remaining five 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 has been 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 and 2 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.
 - **BVPI 119e** – The percentage of the population satisfied with open spaces is monitored every three years and has fallen from 59% in 2003/04 to 56% in 2006/07. This indicator was assigned a red risk rating at the beginning of 2007/08 to ensure that methods of monitoring future service delivery were investigated and developed.

A project developed and supported by the Planning Division to assess the needs of open spaces, sports and recreation facilities

has recently been completed. This research will provide information to support the Local Development Framework and associated Open Space Supplementary Planning Document and assists the local authority in the strategic development of open space across the district. In addition to this the strategy also suggests targets for the quality of sites and their management along with the prioritisation of strategic sites for enhancement. In view of this ongoing work to utilise open space to enhance accessibility and satisfaction with these areas BVPI 119e has now been given an amber risk rating for the remainder of 2007/08.

Improvements in Performance for Red Rated Indicators

- 3.7. Three of the five red risk indicators that can be monitored quarterly have demonstrated a rise in performance for the second quarter of 2007/08 and these are detailed below:
- **BVPI 12** – The average number of days lost to absence during the second quarter of 2007/08 is 4.42 days per employee and performance has improved in comparison to the same period in 2006/07 when the figure was 5.66 days. Initiatives undertaken during 2006/07 have included Performance Clinics to discuss absence issues and benchmarking with other district authorities to identify successful methods of addressing rising absentee rates. The current performance has significantly exceeded an anticipated Quarter 2 target of 5.22 days and now sits within the second best performing quartile nationally based upon the 'All England' 2005/06 quartile boundaries and should significantly exceed an anticipated year-end target of 10 days if the current rate of performance continues.
 - **BVPI 127a** – The rate of violent crime has demonstrated a steady improvement in performance throughout the second quarter of 2007/08 where a rate of 16.11 crimes per 1,000 population was recorded in comparison to 18.37 in Quarter 2 in 2006. As a result the indicator now falls within the second best performing quartile nationally based upon the 2005/06 'All England' quartile boundary data having done so for the first six months of 2007/08. 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 a number of successful drug seizures has also contributed to the reduction in violent crime as the supply and abuse of illegal drugs can often lead to violence. In view of the fact that this indicator has performed within the 2nd best quartile for the first six months of 2007/08 the rating has been amended from red to amber for the third quarter 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 4th October 2007 at which Members were given an explanation as to the actions being taken to prevent homelessness. These actions included the development of a preventative and proactive approach that would now be adopted in line with the government's agenda to prevent homelessness. This method of service delivery is undertaken in place of the traditional reactive approach to homelessness that the authority has used in previous years.

Performance for this indicator has demonstrated a steady improvement during the first half of 2007/08 but continues to sit in the worst performing quartiles nationally and in view of this 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 second 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 fallen from 19.23% in Quarter 1 to 15.38% in Quarter 2 in 2007/08. In addition performance has also significantly deteriorated in comparison to the same period in 2006/07 when the proportion of female employees was 20%. This situation has arisen due to a restructuring of the Corporate Management Team, which has changed the parameters of the calculation along with a number of staff transferring across to Leisureworks. 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 second 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 22 amber rated indicators where performance can be reported for the second quarter of 2007/08 and of these 12 have demonstrated an improvement in performance when compared to the same period last year, demonstrating that 55% of amber rated indicators have increased performance this quarter. This is a marginal fall from Quarter 1 where 57% of 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 with 50% 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 £12.94 in Quarter 2 in 2006 to £11.43 in Quarter 2 in 2007, representing an increase in performance of 11.66%. 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 183a** – The average length of stay in bed and breakfast accommodation has reduced from 3.45 weeks in Quarter 2 in 2006 to 0 weeks for second quarter in 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, b and c** – These three Best Value Performance Indicators measure the level of local street and environmental cleanliness across the district and are reported every 4 months. All three indicators have demonstrated improvement during the first four months of 2007 in comparison to the same period in 2006.

BVPI 199a that measures unacceptable levels of litter has improved from a rate of 18% in the first four months of 2006 to a rate of 12% for the comparable period for 2007. This accounts for a 33% increase in performance, which can in part be attributed to the changes in street cleansing practices carried out across the district.

BVPI 199b that measures unacceptable levels of visible graffiti has also demonstrated a significant improvement with a recorded percentage of 0% for the first 4 months of 2007 compared to 1% for the same period last year. **BVPI 199c** that measures the unacceptable levels of fly posting has remained at 0%, maintaining a top quartile performing position.

Significant deterioration in amber rated indicators

3.12. Indicators where performance has slipped by 10% or more either from an anticipated target for Quarter 2 or in comparison with performance for the same quarter in 2006/07 include:

- **BVPI 79i and ii** – These two indicators measure the average time taken to recover overpayments in Housing Benefit payments and include any write-offs. BV 79b i and ii have demonstrated a significant deterioration in performance for the second quarter of 2007/08 compared with the same period in 2006/07. **BVPI 79bi** has deteriorated from 99.44% in Quarter 2 in 2006 to 58.54% in the second quarter of 2007 accounting for a fall in performance of 41%. Similarly **BVPI 79bii** has also demonstrated a significant decrease in performance falling from a rate of 45.05% in the second quarter of 2006 to 17.74% this quarter.

This fall in 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 within the bottom performing quartiles nationally based upon the 2005/06 'All England' quartile boundaries and if the current rate of performance continues in Quarter 3 then the amber risk rating for both indicators will be reviewed.

- **BVPI 82b** - The composting rate has demonstrated a fall in performance in comparison to the same period in 2006, decreasing from a rate of 9.61% in 2006 to 5.86% in 2007. Performance for this indicator has fluctuated significantly throughout Quarter 2 along with that of BVPI 82a that measures the proportion of waste recycled.

This fluctuation in the performance of both indicators is due to the proportion of recyclable materials waiting to be processed or waiting to be dispatched. The material is held at the Senrec processing plant, and there are two areas that have the potential to slow the throughput of material. 1) The material stored waiting to be sorted.

2) The sorted material held whilst sufficient is gathered to get the best price on the market. All recycled materials are not accounted for in the BVPI returns until they are classified as being 'dispatched'. The figures would look significantly better if each tonne collected could be processed and dispatched in the same month as collection, but unfortunately due to a large backlog of recycling material waiting to be dispatched this is not happening at present. It is estimated that 1200 tonnes of waste collected by the authority has not been processed and this will be accounted for in the Quarter 3 performance figures.

The monthly figures can therefore fluctuate significantly, as the materials flowing into the processing system is not a good assessment of current performance. However under the rules for the PI Calculation the authority cannot take the work in progress into account. We do, however receive a recycling output from the digester as well as the composting figure in that we get the benefit from the glass, plastic and metals, which are segregated as part of the digester process.

The reduction in the composting rate is a direct consequence of not being allowed to deliver material to the Digester at Thornley. Durham County Council has now stopped the authority getting access to the Digester at Thornley due to Premier having operational problems, which, has involved the Environment Agency. The problem is to do with the capacity of the transfer station not the digester. It has a licence for 60,000 tonnes and has been accepting 70,000 tonnes +. As a consequence the site is not being cleared by the end of each day and Premier have been suffering an infestation problem, which could have resulted in the Environment Agency shutting the facility down.

This has a significant impact on Derwentside's diversion rates (4,000 tonnes of performance). We are in discussions with the County Council to see if there are ways around this problem. We are also aware that the Thornley facility is currently accepting material from South Tyneside, while preventing Districts in County Durham using the facility.

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 106** – The percentage of homes built on previously developed land has fallen from 89.70% in Quarter 2 in 2006 to 67.00% in Quarter 2 in 2007. This situation has arisen due to a rise in the

number of completions for Green Field sites in comparison to the same period last year. The current performance rate however continues to exceed a Government set target of 65%.

- **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 2 was 54%, which is a 22% reduction in performance when compared to the same period during 2006 when 70% of minor applications were processed with eight weeks. There has, however, been a significant improvement in performance in ‘major’ and ‘other’ applications processed within the specified time period, which may have contributed to the fall in performance for minor applications. It is encouraging to note that this indicator exceeded the Government set target of 65% during the first quarter of 2007/08 and it is therefore anticipated that the annually set national target will be met for this indicator.

- **BVPI 127b** – The rate of robberies per 1,000 head of population has deteriorated from 0.19 in Quarter 2 in 2006 to 0.21 in the second quarter of 2007. The rate has improved, however in comparison to a year-end figure of 0.30 and remains significantly higher than the recorded robbery rate of our nearest neighbours, which for 2006/07 was 0.55 and retains a top quartile position nationally.

- **BVPI 183b** – The average stay in hostel accommodation has demonstrated a significant decrease in performance in comparison to the same period last year falling from 0 weeks in Quarter 2 in 2006 to 11 weeks in Quarter 2 in 2007. This decrease in performance is 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 2005/06 ‘All England’ quartile boundaries and if performance continues to deteriorate then the amber risk rating for this indicator will be reviewed in Quarter 3.

Green rated Best Value Performance Indicators

- 3.13. Performance for the second 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.

- 3.14. There are 24 indicators that have been assessed as green for the second 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 2 in comparison to the same period in 2006/07 or retained their high level of performance within the top performing quartiles nationally.

One exception to this trend is BVPI 128 that monitors the rate of vehicle crime per 1000 population, which has demonstrated a fall in performance throughout Quarter 2. The performance for this indicator in Quarter 2 is currently 7.16, having fallen from a rate of 5.84 at the start of the year. This situation has arisen as a result of an increase in recorded vehicle crime for the Consett area during the summer months.

Forensic evidence has led to one of the perpetrators being caught during August and police initiatives to identify other person or persons responsible for this rise in crime continue. On a positive note the current rate is only marginally higher than the same period in 2006/07 when the recorded rate of vehicle crime was 6.88 and this indicator remains within the top performing quartile nationally. However in view of the significant increase in vehicle crime during Quarter 2 the risk rating for this indicator has been amended from green to amber for Quarter 3.

4. **Benchmarking and Comparison**

- 4.1. An analysis of the 2006/07 performance for all of our 22 nearest neighbours has been undertaken and the top performing authorities within the group identified for each of the red risk indicators.
- 4.2. 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 also now been referred to the relevant Scrutiny Panels during September and October 2007 in line with the timetable given below:

BVPI	Title	Scrutiny Panel	Date
11a	% women in to 5% earners	Learning and Economy	4 Sept 07
11b	% BME in top 5% earners	Learning and Economy	4 Sept 07
12	Days lost to absence	Learning and Economy	4 Sept 07
17a	% BME LA employees	Learning and Economy	4 Sept 07
127a	Violent crime/1000 pop	Com Safety/Strong Com	18 Sept 07
119e	% Satis parks/open spaces	Environment/ Health	4 Oct 07
199d	Street Cleaning fly tipping	Environment/Health	4 Oct 07
213	Homelessness prevention	Environment/Health	4 Oct 07

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 Quarter 3 are shown below:

BVPI	Title	2007/08 Q2 Current Rating	2007/08 Q3 Amended Rating
119e	% satisfied with parks & open spaces	Red	Amber
127a	Violent crime per 1,000 population	Red	Amber
128	Vehicle crimes per 1,000 population	Green	Amber

6. **Conclusion**

6.1. This is the second quarterly monitoring report for 2007/08 using the Risk Assessment Performance Management Framework. Performance has declined or remained static for two of the five red rated indicators that can be monitored for the second quarter of 2007/08. On a positive note all of the three remaining indicators have demonstrated an increase in performance in comparison to the same period during 2006/07. BVPI 127a that monitors the incidences of violent crime per 1,000 population has performed within the 2nd best 'All England' Quartile for the first six months of 2007/08 and as a result the red risk rating for this indicator has been amended from red to amber for Quarter 3. In addition the recorded levels of absence continue to improve in comparison to 2006/07 and if this continues then a year end target of 10 days will be significantly exceeded.

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 second quarter of 2007/08 with 55% percent of amber rated indicators demonstrating a rise in performance compared with the same period last year. Similarly 93% 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.

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

Table A

Best Value Performance Indicators – Red Risk Q2 2007/08												
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2005/06	Bottom All England Quartile 2005/06	Outturn Perform 2006/07	Predicted 2006/07 quartile position	Q2 Performance 2006/07	Q2 Target 2007/08	Q2 Performance 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	42.58%	22.22%	17.24%	4	20.00%	17.24%	15.38%	x	↘	24.63%	👎
11b	Percentage of top 5% of earners that are from BME communities	4.33%	0.00%	0.00%	4	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	x	↗	1.57%	👎
12	Number of days/shifts lost to absence	8.34 days	10.94 days	11.36	4	5.66 days	5.22 days	4.42 days	✓	↘	9.96%	👎
				10.44	3							
17a	% of LA BME employees	4.8%	0.9%	0.14%	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.						
119e	Percentage satisfied parks and open spaces	78.00%	68.00%	56.00%	4	This indicator is collected every 3 years as part of the General Survey. Due to low satisfaction rates an Action Plan is currently being prepared for BVPI 119e to investigate methods to monitor satisfaction rates on an ongoing basis.						
127a	Violent crime per 1,000 pop	12.50	22.90	18.34	3	18.37	Not set	16.11	✓	↘	17.24%	👎
213	Homelessness - Prevention	5	1	0.30	4	0.172	Year end = 2	0.175	x	↘	3.81	👎

Table B

Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q2 2007/08												
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2005/06	Bottom All England Quartile 2005/06	Outturn Perform 2006/07	Predicted 2006/07 quartile position	Q2 Performance 2006/07	Q2 Target 2007/08	Q2 Performance 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 available	Level 1	Level 2	Level 2	✓	↗	Level 2 = 50% Level 3 = 13.6%	👍
2b	Race equality checklist	79.00%	53.00%	73.68%	2	68.42%	73.68%	73.68%	✓	↗	64.29%	👍
8	% of invoices paid within 30 days	96.71%	89.24%	92.80%	3	93.97%	Year end 93.00%	95.99%	✓	↘	94.92%	👎
9	% of council tax collected	98.40%	96.39%	98.31%	2	58.44%	Year end 98.40%	58.14%	Ongoing ✓	↗	97.42%	👍
14	% employees taking early retirement	0.17%	0.78%	1.25%	4	1.06%	0.00%	0.44% (Acc) 0.00% = Q2	✓	↘	0.58%	👎
15	% employees retiring on ill health	0.10%	0.37%	0.54%	4	0.30%	0.00%	0.44%	✗	↘	0.26%	👎
76b	HB security – number of investigators per 1000 caseload	0.40%	0.24%	0.38%	2	This indicator is collected and reported annually					0.31%	👍

Table B

Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q2 2007/08												
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2005/06	Bottom All England Quartile 2005/06	Outturn Perform 2006/07	Predicted 2006/07 quartile position	Q2 Performance 2006/07	Q2 Target 2007/08	Q2 Performance 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	79.39%	58.98%	85.58%	1	99.44%	Year end 66.00%	58.54%	x	↔	77.98%	👍
79b ii	HB o/paymts recovered as a % of the total amount of HB o/paymt debt	39.69%	27.35 %	73.86%	1	45.05%	Year end 75.00%	17.74%	x	↔	35.41%	👍
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%	2	0.89%	Year end 2.00%	0.74%	x	↔	7.35%	👍
82a i	Percentage of waste recycled	20.87%	14.22%	19.47%	2	17.64%	Year end 21.00%	19.29%	x	↔	20.12%	👎
82b i	Percentage of waste sent for composting	13.05%	3.54%	9.54%	2	9.61%	Year end 11.00%	5.86%	x	↔	10.28%	👎

Table B

Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q2 2007/08												
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2005/06	Bottom All England Quartile 2005/06	Outturn Perform 2006/07	Predicted 2006/07 quartile position	Q2 Performance 2006/07	Q2 Target 2007/08	Q2 Performance 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	394kg	478kg	420kg	2	218.9kg	205kg	206kg	x	↔	422kg	👍
86	Cost per household of waste collection	District Quartile	District Quartile	£37.24	1	£12.94	Year end £47.40	£11.43	✓	↔	£46.09	👍
		£40.28	£52.61									
106	% of new homes built on previously develop land	96.47%	62.43%	85.00%	2	89.70%	Year end 65.00%	67.00%	✓	↔	73.15%	👍
109b	Minor planning apps determined 8 wks	81.07%	69.00%	71.69%	3	70.0%	Year end 70.00%	54.00%	x	↔	78.55%	👎
109c	Planning – other apps processed in 8 weeks	91.39%	83.37%	82.29%	2	78.00%	Year end 84.00%	81.00%	Ongoing ✓	↔	89.72%	👎
126	Domestic burglaries per 1,000 h/hlds	6.40	13.70	7.55	2	7.39	6.25	7.16	x	↔	11.13	👍
127b	Robberies / 1,000 pop	0.30	1.30	0.30	1	0.19	0.14	0.21	x	↔	0.55	👍

Table B

Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q2 2007/08												
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2005/06	Bottom All England Quartile 2005/06	Outturn Perform 2006/07	Predicted 2006/07 quartile position	Q2 Performance 2006/07	Q2 Target 2007/08	Q2 Performance 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
156	Buildings accessible to people with a disability	84.70%	44.67%	62.50%	3	This indicator is collected and reported annually					70.75%	
166a	Environmental Health checklist of best practice	100.00%	85.00%	86.5%	3	This indicator is collected and reported annually					90.01%	
174	No. of racial incidents per 100,000 pop	All England quartile data not provided by the Audit Commission		5.79	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%	4	93.80%	Year end 100%	(Accumulative year to date) 99.43% (Q2 = 100%)	✓		Not available	Not applicable
183a	Average length of stay in BB	1 week	4.27 weeks	2 weeks	2	3.45 weeks	2 weeks	0 weeks	✓		2.55 weeks	
183b	Homelessness – average stay in hostel	0	17	8 weeks	3	0 weeks	8 weeks	11 weeks	✗		4.43 weeks	
199a	Street & environmental cleanliness - litter	8.8%	21.0%	17%	3	For the 1 st 4 months 18.0%	Year end 14.0%	For the 1 st 4 months 12.0%	✓		9.77%	

Table B





Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q2 2007/08												
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2005/06	Bottom All England Quartile 2005/06	Outturn Perform 2006/07	Predicted 2006/07 quartile position	Q2 Performance 2006/07	Q2 Target 2007/08	Q2 Performance 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
199d	Environmental cleanliness – fly tipping	All England quartile data not provided by the Audit Commission for this indicator		4	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	N/A	This indicator is collected and reported annually					898.9	
216b	No. of sites insufficient info. is avail./remediation of land is necessary	Not available		29.00%	N/A	This indicator is collected and reported annually					15.75%	
219b	Conservation areas: character Appraisals	31.86%	0.00%	0.00%	4	This indicator is collected and reported annually					19.56%	
225	Domestic violence checklist	All England quartile data not provided by the Audit Commission for this indicator		63.64%	2	This indicator is collected and reported annually					63.88%	

Table B




Best Value Performance Indicators Amber Risk Q2 2007/08												
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2005/06	Bottom All England Quartile 2005/06	Outturn Perform 2006/07	Predicted 2006/07 quartile position	Q2 Performance 2006/07	Q2 Target 2007/08	Q2 Performance 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Performance comparison with Nearest Neighbours
226a	Advice and guidance services: total expenditure	All England quartile data not provided by the Audit Commission for this indicator		£78,527.33	N/A	This indicator is collected and reported annually					£102,392	
226b	Advice and guidance services: CLS quality mark			80.00%	N/A	This indicator is collected and reported annually					72.04%	
226c	Advice and guidance services: direct provision			£1167089	N/A	This indicator is collected and reported annually					£344,796	

Table C

Best Value Performance Indicators –Green Risk Q2 2007/08												
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2005/06	Bottom All England Quartile 2005/06	Outturn Perform 2006/07	Predicted 2006/07 quartile position	Q2 Performance 2006/07	Q 2 Target 2007/08	Q 2 Performance 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Comment
10	% of non-domestic rates due that were received	99.26%	98.10%	99.30%	1	60.38%	Year end 99.15%	60.35%	✓	↩	98.59%	👍
11c	Top 5% of earners: with a disability	4.93%	0.00%	10.34%	1	8.57%	10.34%	11.54%	✓	↩	5.13%	👍
16a	% of LA employees meeting DDA	3.86%	1.86%	4.05%	1	4.39%	4.05%	4.38%	✓	↩	3.88%	👍
64	No. of private sector dwellings returned into occupation	District Quartiles		33	2	This indicator is collected and reported annually					22	👍
		38	4									
76c	HB security – number of investigations per 1000 caseload	55.48	25.25	60.39	1	This indicator is collected and reported annually					40.72	👍
76d	HB security – number of prosecutions and sanctions per 1000 caseload	7.26	3.13	5.58	2	This indicator is collected and reported annually					5.30	👍
78a	Average time for proc new claims	26.4 days	39.1 days	25.53 days	1	24.61 days	Year end 25 days	27.16 days	✗	↩	32.02 days	👍

Table C

Best Value Performance Indicators –Green Risk Q2 2007/08												
BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2005/06	Bottom All England Quartile 2005/06	Outturn Perform 2006/07	Predicted 2006/07 quartile position	Q2 Performance 2006/07	Q 2 Target 2007/08	Q 2 Performance 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Comment
78b	Average time for processing change in circumstance	9.10 days	18.80 days	10.14 days	1	10.33 days	Year end 10 days	10.20 days	✓	↔	12.07 days	👍
79a	Accuracy of HB/CTB claims	99.00%	96.60%	99.40%	1	99.60%	99.00%	99.20%	✓	↔	98.00%	👍
91a	% of pop served by kerbside collection (one recyclable)	100.00%	93.50%	100.00%	1	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	✓	↔	98.30%	👍
91b	% of pop served by kerbside collection (two recyclables)	100.00%	90.10%	100.00%	1	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	✓	↔	97.91%	👍
109a	Planning applications processed in 13 weeks	74.90%	57.08%	74.28%	2	71.0%	Year end 62.00%	83.00%	✓	↔	71.99%	👍
128	Vehicle crimes per 1000 population	7.30	14.60	7.40	2	6.88	7.4	7.16	✓	↔	11.23	👍
175	% Racial incidents resulting in further action	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	1	This indicator is collected and reported annually					88.50%	👍
199b	Local street environmental cleanliness – graffiti	1%	6%	0%	1	For 1 st 4 months 1%	Year end 0%	For 1 st 4 months 0%	✓	↔	1.76%	👍

Table C

Best Value Performance Indicators –Green Risk Q2 2007/08

BVPI	Title of Indicator	Top All England Quartile 2005/06	Bottom All England Quartile 2005/06	Outturn Perform 2006/07	Predicted 2006/07 quartile position	Q2 Performance 2006/07	Q 2 Target 2007/08	Q 2 Performance 2007/08	Actual V Target 2007/08	2006/07 V 2007/08	2006/07 Nearest Neighbour Outturn	Comment
199c	Local street and environmental cleanliness – fly posting	0%	2%	0%	1	For 1 st 4 months 0%	Year end 0%	For 1 st 4 months 0%	✓	⚠	0.33%	👍
200a	Plan making development plan	All England quartile data not provided by the Audit Commission for this indicator		Yes	N/A	This indicator is collected and reported annually					94.45% ans yes	👍
200b	Plan making – milestones			Yes	N/A	This indicator is collected and reported annually					50.00% ans yes	94.45% ans yes
202	Number of rough sleepers	0	5	0	1	2	0	1	✗	⚠	1.42	👍
204	Planning Appeals	25.00%	36.10%	20.00%	1	This indicator is collected and reported annually					30.17%	👍
205	Quality of planning service checklist	District Quartiles		94.44%	1	This indicator is collected and reported annually					91.25%	👍
		94.40%	83.30%									
217	Pollution control improvement	100.00%	83.00%	100.00%	1	This indicator is collected and reported annually					94.90%	👍
218a	Abandoned vehicles investigated	96.64%	73.00%	96.75%	1	95.52%	97.00%	100.00%	✓	⚠	95.40%	👍
218b	Abandoned vehicles - removal	95.00%	61.11%	100.00%	1	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	✓	⚠	87.70%	👍

TITLE:	Vehicle Renewal – Careline/Courier Service
TO/ON:	Executive – 10th December 2007
BY:	Director of Corporate Administration and Policy
PORTFOLIO:	Health
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 of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the requirement for replacement vehicles for the Careline and Courier service.

2. Background

- 2.1 The following vehicles are either at the end of their lease or have been short termed leased and after discussions with the Transport Manager it would be more prudent to acquire them on a longer term arrangement.
- 2.2 Careline use 6 vehicles for the mobile wardens, at present there are 5 Fiesta sized vans and one larger combi sized van.
- 2.3 The Courier uses a Transit sized vehicle for the deliveries.
- 2.4 This report identifies the options available and recommends that the vehicles are acquired through the most favourable financial options determined by the Finance Directorate.. In doing so, it is anticipated that the careline vehicles will be leased over a five year period (given the award of a Supporting People contract for the Council to provide warden services for up to 5 years) and an annual contract for the Couriers van. Given the report is proposing replacing vehicles within the Council's current fleet (as they are approaching the end of their contracts) funding is available within the Council's budget for their reprovision.

3. Material Considerations

- 3.1 Previously the Careline fleet has consisted of 5 small vans and one larger vehicle.
- 3.2 After reviewing the needs of the service it is proposed that 6 of the smaller Fiesta size vehicles are acquired as the larger one is no longer necessary.
- 3.3 After consultation with the staff it is also considered that cars rather than vans would be more user friendly than vans and after consultation with the Transport Manager there is no cost disadvantage.
- 3.4 In relation to the service the change to cars has no effect as the proposed vehicles seats can be folded which is the same as which makes the load area the same as a van.
- 3.5 The courier vehicle would remain as a Transit sized vehicle which allows the versatility to collect and delivery larger loads when required.
- 3.6 After consulting with the Transport Manager the preferred vehicles for price, economy and maintenance are Ford Fiesta 1.4 Tdci Studio 3dr for Careline and a Ford Transit 260 SWB 2.2 Tdci (85ps) Van.

4. Options

- 4.1 As explained the type and manufacturer of the vehicles has been subject to consultation with staff and the Transport Manager and the most appropriate vehicles have been selected. Therefore the options for procuring these vehicles are related to the way in which they are acquired financially.
- 4.2 The Financial options are Operating Lease, Finance Lease, Contract Hire or Outright Purchase. The Finance Directorate will determine the most advantageous method with the likelihood that an operating lease will be the best way forward in terms of affordability and best use of resources for the Careline vehicles with a hire option for the courier's van to retain flexibility of use.

5. Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the following:

- 5.1 The Members approve the acquisition of these vehicles.
- 5.2 The funding of these vehicles is subject to an options appraisal by the Finance Directorate and the most advantageous to the Council is selected over the specified period of time.

Gordon Elliott
Director of Corporate Administration and Policy

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:
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