

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No. 9

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 8 JULY 2013

SUBJECT: ASSISTED CAR PURCHASE SCHEME, WITHDRAWAL OF SCHEME

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY,
THE FINANCE OFFICER AND PERSONNEL ADVISOR**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Authority currently has in place a provision whereby any person who is conditioned to the Essential, Casual or Occasional Car User Schemes and who wishes to change their vehicle, may first seek the approval of the Chief Fire Officer to apply for a loan under the Authorities' Assisted Car Purchase scheme.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Over time the scheme has become less viable for several reasons as follows:
- (a) The scheme has become very unpopular with only one individual accessing the scheme in the past year. There are no records of anyone accessing the scheme in previous years;
 - (b) There is a cost to the Authority as repayment interest rates are charged at less than the current market rates;
 - (c) There is a degree of additional workload attached to administering the scheme at a time when departments are shrinking.

3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The Chief Fire Officer is of the opinion that it is not in the Authority's interest to continue with the scheme. It is proposed therefore that the scheme is withdrawn.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 A risk assessment has been undertaken to ensure that the risk to the Authority has been minimised as far as practicable. The assessment has considered an appropriate balance between risk and control; the realisation of efficiencies; the most appropriate use of limited resources; and a comprehensive evaluation of

the benefits. The risk to the authority has been assessed as low utilising the standard risk matrix based on control measures being in place. The complete risk assessment is available on request from the Chief Fire Officer.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 All financial implications are included within the body of this report.

6 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members are recommended to:

- a) Approve the withdrawal of the 'Essential/Casual Car User Assisted Car Purchase Scheme 'Admin Procedure 3:2;
- b) Receive further reports as appropriate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The undermentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- Essential/Casual Car User Scheme and the Assisted Car Purchase Scheme Admin Procedure 3:2.