

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

BEST VALUE IN SCHOOLS

Introduction

The Best Value framework places a statutory duty on local authorities to deliver services to clear standards, covering both cost and quality, the most effective, economic and efficient means available. The legislation does not cover schools and their governing bodies but schools are encouraged to adopt the best value framework.

The Scheme for Financing Schools (paragraph 2.9) contains the requirement that “when submitting the annual budget plan, the Governing Body of each school must also submit a statement setting out what steps they will be taking in the course of the year to ensure that expenditure, particularly in respect of large service contracts, will reflect the principles of the best value regime.” To assist schools in doing this the attached Checklist should be considered and Statement should be completed as part of the budget preparation process.

Principles

There are 4 best value principles and these are contained at Annex B to the Scheme. They apply to schools as follows:

- Challenge –whether the school is doing what is required to achieve the best performance, why are the services or core operations of the school being provided and how;
- Compare – how a school’s performance compares with that of other schools;
- Consult – how the school ensures that it considers the views of stakeholders about the services provided;
- Compete –the processes undertaken to ensure that the school secures the most economic, efficient and effective services

Getting the Best from Your Budget

This joint Ofsted/Audit Commission document identifies the processes that schools could use to ensure that they are delivering services which meet best value principles. These are used in the checklist table provided. Further guidance on self-evaluation of resource management in schools is provided in the booklet and on the website www.schools.audit-commission.gov.uk .

Action Required

The attached Checklist should be considered and completed and returned with completed Statement as part of the budget preparation process to the Chief Finance Officer by 1st May 2009.

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

BEST VALUE STATEMENT 2009/10

SCHOOL.....

The Governors are committed to achieving Best Value in relation to all decisions. We use the principles of Best Value in securing continuous improvement in this school.

We will:

- Regularly review the functions of the school, **challenging** how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement;
- Monitor outcomes and **compare** performance with similar schools and within the school;
- **Consult** appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made; and
- Promote fair **competition** through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way.

We will strive to ensure that the school is using its resources effectively to meet the needs of pupils.

We have carried out a review of our Best Value processes and identified any actions we need to take on the attached Best Value Checklist. The progress of the annual budget and this Best Value statement will be monitored with the school improvement plan in order to determine the extent of continuous improvement.

Signed by Headteacher.....Date.....

Signed by Chair of Governors.....Date.....

Please return the completed Statement and Checklist to Chief Finance Officer, c/o Schools Accountancy Section, Building 4, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1 NP **by 1st May 2009**

