

Searching for Best Value Panel Terms of Reference 2009/10

PURPOSE

The main purpose of the Searching for Best Value Panel is to take a strategic approach to Value for Money and efficiency.

The Panel will look at how the council can make significant and sustainable efficiencies.

This can be achieved:

- through the design and/or redesign of services from a user perspective
- linking efficiency programmes to corporate objectives for service improvement
- through member support for, and scrutiny of, efficiency programmes

TERMS of REFERENCE

The Searching for Best Value Panel is a formally convened Panel reporting to the Executive and has the authority to make recommendations to Executive, via Resource Planning Working Group, to ensure that:

- A methodology for undertaking service reviews is developed and kept up to date
- The methodology is used to undertake service reviews across all departments to seek Value for Money and efficiencies
- To oversee the service Reviews
- To assess the outcomes of the service Reviews and ensure that they are acted upon as appropriate
- To oversee and advise on corporate initiatives to help deliver Value for Money and efficiencies
- To ensure that key messages on Value for Money and efficiencies are communicated effectively to all members and staff
- To encourage and develop expertise among Councillors on Value for Money and efficiency
- To ensure that the panel is kept up to date on efficiency and the Value for Money agenda in the national context

The principles on which the Panel will work are to:

- Deliver outcomes (a new process is not an outcome in itself).
- Be able to show that the Council's services and functions flow from its priorities.
- Be able to show that comparisons of this Council's Value for Money with others has taken place, using approved sources such as the Audit Commission and the Council's Nearest Neighbour comparison group.
- Have a consistent, corporate approach.
- Challenge what the Council does and take decisions about what the Council can stop doing, based on Value for Money.
- Show that the risks of such decisions have been assessed.
- Set standards for service delivery.
- Show that Members are leading the Value for Money agenda.