



Minutes of the meeting of the BEST VALUE SUB-COMMITTEE of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2000 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Long (Chair)
Councillors Barton (substitute for Miles), I Henderson, Swepston, I Wilson, K Wilson and White

Officers: P Coveney (Strategic Director Resources), A Flack (Director of Education and Early Years Services), D Boobier (Head of Policy and Support Services), M Hood (Assistant Treasurer (Audit and Customer Support)), A Armes (Chief Architect), D Metcalf (Service Review Manager), G Snelson (Corporate Policy Manager), S Willson (Service Review Officer), and J Marshall (Committee Manager)

Apologies: Councillor Miles

BV18/00 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 17 January 2000 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

BV19/00 BEST VALUE REVIEW GUIDE

The Sub-Committee considered a report outlining the Best Value Review process. It was noted that the full Best Value Review Guide could be made available to Members who wished to see it.

The Sub-Committee discussed the prospect of using one set of evaluation criteria for different Best Value Reviews. Officers explained that although in some cases individual approaches would be adopted, it was helpful to conduct Reviews in a coherent manner and therefore in most instances the criteria set out in Annex B to the report should be used. The weighting of the criteria could be varied in order to fit the requirements of individual Best Value Reviews.

With regard to issuing a further report by 31 March 2000 which would detail member involvement in the Best Value Review process, Councillor K Wilson expressed the view that under the Council's new democratic structures the Best Value Review process should be an Executive function.

RESOLVED –

1. That the overall methodology and approach of the guide as set out in paragraph 5 of the report be agreed;
2. That the evaluation criteria set out in Annex B to the report be approved; and
3. That Members receive a further report by 31 March 2000 on Member involvement in Best Value Reviews.

BV20/00

PHASE TWO BEST VALUE PILOT REVIEWS

(a) Transport

The Sub-Committee considered the final report of this Best Value Review Pilot.

With regard to performance indicators highlighted in the report some Members felt that an indicator on transport arriving on time should be considered. Officers reported that monitoring information, which would be required to use this measure, was not available for contracted services. The Sub-Committee expressed the view that innovative solutions might be found, for example asking schools to record information about when transport arrived late. It was noted that the five performance indicators set out in the report were nationally determined and none of these could be excluded. It was also felt that it was important not to have too many indicators.

Officers reported that there was a lack of reliable, detailed information available about the pattern of usage of community transport. However the widespread dissatisfaction recorded, with regard to community transport, was noted.

It was noted that there had been an error in the production of the report which had resulted in inconsistent figures for community transport on pages 27 and 31 of the report.

RESOLVED –

That the report and its recommendations be received.

(b) Support Services to Schools

The Sub-Committee considered the final report of this Best Value Pilot Review.

The Sub-Committee noted that the report did not contain data from all the local authorities which had been identified in the past as being similar to Milton Keynes Council. Officers responded that each of these Councils had been approached, but only some had been forthcoming with information.

RESOLVED –

That detailed consideration of this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

BV21/00 BEST VALUE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

The Sub-Committee considered a report on a proposed Best Value procurement strategy.

RESOLVED –

1. That the statement set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report be agreed;
2. That the outline procurement strategy set out in paragraph 5.3 of the report be agreed;
3. That the following addition be made to the end of point (d) in paragraph 5.4 of the report:
“consistent with the other objectives”; and
4. That Members receive a further report in June setting out a more detailed procurement strategy.

BV22/00 FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

That the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held at 6.30pm on Monday 20 March 2000.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.28 PM