

Qualifying Statements and Good Practice - 'Best Value' Expectation

Expectations Manual reference	Qualifying statements	Good practice	Yes	No	Part
<p>Section One – Achieving 'Best Value':-</p> <p><i>Performance.</i></p> <p><i>Strategies.</i></p> <p><i>'Best Value Reviews'.</i></p> <p><i>Targets, indicators and management data.</i></p> <p><i>'Best Value Performance Plan'.</i></p> <p><i>Inspections.</i></p>	<p>The introduction of the Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on fire authorities, from April 2000, to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way they carry out their functions. This includes reviewing their functions, publishing annual plans showing past and projected performance and provides for a rigorous programme of audit and inspection.</p> <p>The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) has produced guidance on how local authorities (including fire authorities), can achieve 'Best Value' in the interests of efficient and high quality public services.</p> <p>This DETR guidance will apply directly to those county councils that are fire authorities, and so far as is practical to single – purpose authorities in England and Wales, including the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority. The Home Office is supplementing this guidance through the issue of Fire Service Circulars on the key aspects of 'Best Value' as they affect the fire service. As a first step under 'Best Value' each fire authority will wish to set itself some strategic objectives and priorities.</p>	<p>The fire authority uses one or more of the four main quality schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EFQM Excellence Model R • Investors in People • Charter Mark • ISO 9000 <p>The fire authority has determined a strategy that sets clear parameters within which Best Value Reviews (BVRs) take place and include any government requirements for programming.</p> <p>BVRs should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take a sufficiently long term perspective • involve those currently delivering the service • question existing commitments • engage with users and potential users of services • address equity considerations (equality of fairness of service) • give effect to the principle of sustainable development <p>The programme of BVRs covers all the fire authority's functions within a 5 year period ending 31 March 2005.</p> <p>The BVRs programme is practical and realistic, taking into account the resources of the fire authority and is deliverable within the proposed timetable.</p> <p>The BVRs programme allows for cross-cutting issues to be tackled and takes account of the demands placed on the fire authority by other statutory, financial and contractual requirements.</p>			

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