



**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Integration Joint Board  
**MEETING DATE:** 7 December 2021  
**BY:** Interim Chief Finance Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Best Value Framework

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## 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to remind members of its duty to secure best value. A Best Value Framework for East Lothian IJB must provide a basis of demonstrating the IJB has made arrangements to comply with Best Value.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- i. Note that the IJB has a statutory duty to make arrangements to secure Best Value;
  - ii. Remind members of the appropriate monitoring procedures to ensure compliance with Best Value and continually reviewing of the Best Value Framework is a means of demonstrating compliance; and
  - iii. Note that the Annual Performance Report has outlined the basis of the IJB's best value assessment since 2019/20 but further development is required.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Local government bodies, including Integration Joint Boards, have a statutory duty to make arrangements to secure Best Value, through the continuous improvement in the performance of their functions. This Audit Scotland guidance note was published in March 2018 and aims to assist auditors assessing best value within IJBs. The IJB should secure best value similar to other public sector bodies including health and central government. This publication can be viewed at

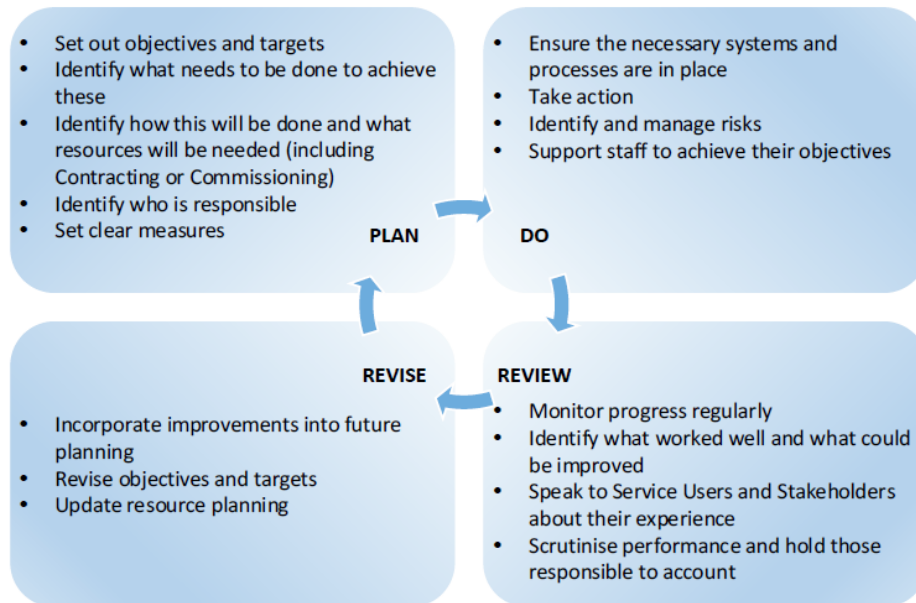
<http://www.dg-change.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Agenda-Item-10-Appendix-1-Audit-Scotland-Report-Guidance-on-Best-Value.pdf>

## Key Messages in the Best Value Guidance

- 3.2 The guidance note lays out the expectations that IJBs demonstrate achievement of best value within documents such as the strategic plan and the performance reports. That Auditors should assess best value reviews of parent bodies and whether this support the delivery of best value from the IJB. Finally an appendix of Audit prompts as follows.
1. Who do you consider to be accountable for securing Best Value in the IJB?
  2. How do you receive assurance that the services supporting the delivery of the strategic plan are securing Best Value?
  3. Do you consider there to be sufficient buy-in to the IJB's longer term vision from partner officers and members?
  4. How is value for money demonstrated in the decisions made by the IJB?
  5. Do you consider there to be a culture of continuous improvement?
  6. Have there been any service reviews undertaken since establishment – have improvements been identified? Is there any evidence of improvements in services and/or reductions in pressures as a result of joint working?
  7. Have identified improvement actions been prioritised in terms of those likely to have the greatest impact?
  8. What steps are taken to ensure that quality of care and service provided is not compromised as a result of costs saving measures?
  9. Is performance information reported to the board of sufficient detail to enable value for money to be assessed?
  10. How does the IJB ensure that management of resources (finances, workforce etc.) is effective and sustainable?
- 3.3 Best Value duties apply across the public sector although the arrangements by which achieving best value is demonstrated is not the same across NHS Boards and local authorities. While partner arrangements for securing best value will play a key part in receiving assurance that the services delivering the IJBs strategic plan are achieving best value, it is important going forward that the IJB is able to demonstrate appropriate arrangements are in place to meet and report on the delivery of best value.
- 3.4 The independent auditors on the IJB's 2018/19 annual accounts made a recommendation that the IJB should consider how it can report on best value within the 2019/20 Annual Performance Report. This recommendation was supported and the Annual Performance Report in 2019/20 introduced the concepts on how the IJB ensures best value is achieved. This showed that East Lothian IJB has governance and financial

management arrangements in place, as part of these arrangements, the IJB also needs demonstrate value for money in line with statutory requirements.

3.5 Best Value is achieved by building a culture of continuous improvements through setting out a logical approach to driving performance improvement as shown below.



*Source: Adapted from Audit Scotland*

3.6 Like all assessment tools, it is recommended Best Value Frameworks are reviewed every 2 years to take account of any ongoing developments. It is therefore recommended that members review the key principals outlined in 3.2 to ensure the Best Value Framework remains up-to-date and relevant.

#### **4. ENGAGEMENT**

4.1 The Committee is held in public and its papers are publicly available.

#### **5. POLICY**

5.1 There are no policy implications from this report.

#### **6. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

## **7. RISK**

- 7.1 The uncertainty surrounding COVID 19 may involve timing delays of implementing the Best Value Framework. The Chief Finance Officer will keep the members of the IJB informed of developments.

## **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Financial - none
- 8.2 Personnel – none
- 8.3 Other – Best Value in the use of resources is a key objective of the IJB and the proposed Best Value Framework will help provide assurance.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 None

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