

Value for Money

Reviewed and agreed: Full Council Committee meeting 22nd April 2021- Agenda item 7

Sandgate Parish Council Value for Money Statement:

'Sandgate Parish Council (SPC) is committed to maintaining a balanced budget, predicated on VFM, while delivering an improved environment for the diverse residents of the parish'

What is Value for Money?

Value for Money (VFM) is defined as the relationship between economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In simple terms it is defined as achieving the right balance by spending less, spending well and spending wisely.

The efficiency of any service is closely related to the capacity of the system and the avoidance of waste in terms of time and money.

Two of the key objectives to provide VFM for Sandgate Parish Council

- Derive greater value from procurement and the negotiation of contracts.
- Maximise efficiencies and continue to make the parish council fit for purpose.
- Efficient management of all staff and contractors

Method for Improving VFM

There are a number of approaches used by the council to identify savings:

- Benchmarking.
- Procurement. Are the best contracts and supply frameworks being negotiated?
- Productivity. Are staff and other resources being used to the best effect? What strategies are in place for sharing best practice?
- Housekeeping. Are resources being unnecessarily wasted?
- Budgeting. Are the budgets fundamentally wrong and is there a built-in under-spending?

Improving community satisfaction outcomes

There clear link between the aims of the parish council and the outcomes that are sought in terms of resident satisfaction and VFM. This is achieved by

- gaining an improved understanding of the needs of the residents, through enhanced community engagement
- developing a VFM mechanism for meeting those needs

Arrangements to ensure delivery of VFM

- VFM is considered and demonstrated in all projects.
- Service and financial performance is reviewed regularly (against cost, performance and satisfaction)
- Customer satisfaction audit of communications, requests and outcomes
- Annual audit– contains an independent statement from the Council's auditors on the council's 'arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in our use of resources.'
- Transparency - VFM is communicated through the website & annual report