

The Highland Council

Best Value Audit Strategy Group

Minutes of Meeting of the Best Value Audit Strategy Group held in the Hospitality Room, Council Headquarters, Inverness on Wednesday, 3 June 2009 at 2.00pm.

Present

Dr M E M Foxley
Dr D Alston
Mr R Rowantree
Mr B Fernie
Mrs M Davidson
Mrs I McCallum

Mr J Gray
Mr I Ross
Mr H Fraser
Mr J Laing
Mrs C Wilson

Also Present:

Mrs D MacKay

In Attendance:

Mr A B Dodds, Chief Executive
Ms M Morris, Assistant Chief Executive
Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr A S Park, Mr J Finnie, Mrs J Urquhart, Mr T Prag, Mrs H Carmichael, Mr A Rhind, Mr W MacKay, Mr D Fallows, Mr G Farlow, Mr B Gormley and Mr R Balfour.

2. Appointment of Chairman

It was unanimously **AGREED** that Dr M E M Foxley should be appointed as Chairman of the Strategy Group.

3. Accounts Commission: Best Value 2: Proposals for Consultation

There had been circulated Summary Document on 'Best Value 2: Proposals for Consultation' which set out the background to Best Value, provided an overview and key aspects of Best Value 2 and contained information on how to respond to the consultation proposals.

The proposed response from the Council had also been circulated in relation to the information requested on Risk Assessment and Joint Scrutiny Planning, Self Evaluation, Good Practice/Support for Improvement, Single Corporate Assessment, Service Performance, Partnerships, SOAs and BV2, Citizen Focus, Peer Involvement, Grading Scoring, the Role of the Accounts Commission, Audit Fees, Sustainability and Equalities.

In addition, there was tabled at the meeting Suggested Amendment in relation to Question 17 – Audit Fees – for consideration.

The Strategy Group **AGREED** the proposed response from the Council as circulated, including the suggested amendment in relation to Question 17 – Audit Fees - which had been tabled.

The meeting ended at 2.15pm.