

ANNEX A-

Value for Money Template

Planning Service

Value for Money Scorecard
Self Assessment Proforma



Summary

Direction of Travel Risk Indicator	Cost Comparison	Cost Trend	Performance Comparison	Performance Trend	Current Assessment

The CIPFA assessment is based upon Audit Commission data for the Nearest Neighbour Comparison Group for 2010.

This group comprises sixteen non-Metropolitan Districts Councils

How well do the Council's Planning Service costs compare with others?		
Planning Service The net expenditure on the development control service including recharges as shown in the CIPFA returns for 2009/10 is £961k (line2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The published CIPFA figures for our comparator group show that in respect of the net cost per application, we were in the top quartile, 2 out of the 9 authorities that filed return (i.e. out of 17) in 2009/10 	Cost Comparison
		Cost Trend

Planning Policy

The net expenditure on the planning service including recharges as shown in the CIPFA returns for 2009/10 is £741k

- This year we have significantly reduced staff costs, and the number of applications have increased and so the trend should continue to be positive

Planning Policy

	Population	Cost/Head	New Homes	Affordable	Core Strategy
South Cambridgeshire	144,500	£5.13	610	350	2007
Uttlesford	75,600	£4.56	520	110	No
Stroud	111,100	£2.96	320	110	No
East Hampshire	111,900	£5.22	270	40	No
Test Valley	113,400	£8.34	440	130	No
East Hertfordshire	137,100	£4.57	470	190	No
Ashford	114,100	£4.47	500	270	2008
Sevenoaks	113,200	£6.01	210	70	No
South Northants	88,500	£7.57	260	10	No
Harrogate	157,900	£9.66	360	40	2009
South Oxfordshire	Incomplete	-	190	130	No
Vale of White Horse	118,700	£5.89	440	180	No
West Oxfordshire	Incomplete	-	380	90	No
Stratford-on-Avon	118,900	£7.24	200	80	No
Horsham	129,800	£6.76	230	80	2007
Mid Sussex	131,600	£7.01	240	180	2008

- The published CIPFA figures for our comparator group show that in respect of the net cost head, we are in the top quartile, 4 out of the 14 authorities that filed return (i.e. out of 16) spending £5.13 per head of population
- Since then salary costs have been held constant but costs on consultants and studies have been reduced by over £100k.

To what extent are costs commensurate with service delivery, performance and the outcomes achieved?		
Quality and standards achieved, including targeted investment to improve poorer services and quality of life.	Planning Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service met all the Governments' best value indicator targets in 2009/10 Relative to our comparator group of 17 authorities we were 11th for majors, 9th for minors and 13th for others. Our performance dipped during 2010 and an improvement plan is in place. The trend is now upward. 	Performance Comparison
		Performance Trend

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has focussed on working with parishes to improve their knowledge of the planning system and bring forward affordable housing (eg through the Parish Planning Forum). <p>Planning Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Cambridgeshire is the top performing Council by a considerable margin in terms of delivery of market housing (see table). • South Cambridgeshire is the top performing Council by a considerable margin in terms of delivery of affordable housing (see table). • South Cambridgeshire is the top performing Council by a considerable margin in terms of delivery of in plan-making (see table). • In addition to having adopted its Core Strategy in 2007, South Cambridgeshire has adopted 3 other Development Plan Documents, 4 Area Action Plans and 10 Supplementary Planning Documents with a further 3 in production. 	
<p>Results of service inspections</p> <p>Awards /Accreditations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal audits of s106 and planning completed. • Green Apple Award for River Cam Enhancement Project • Landscape Institute Award for Cambourne • Living Sport Award for Try Sport Women’s Netball 	
<p>Range of discretionary services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The duty officer system has proved to be highly valued, and the feedback on the system of 	

provided.	<p>pre-application charging has also been positive. The cost of the discretionary services provided will be identified as part of our work in setting new fees for planning applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the Councils transport policy aims by working with the County Council, the Highways Agency and other transport providers. • Planning policy advice service to Parish Councils, developers and the public. • Arts, Sports, Community and Economic Development, aspects of the Conservation service including tree planting
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Do procurement and other spending decisions take account of full long term costs?	
Identifiable savings achieved through procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service met the identified savings targets and cost was a significant weight in the process of acquiring a new IT system. • Parts of the evidence base for the production of Development Plan Documents have been procured jointly with neighbouring authorities, e.g. the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment procured jointly with Cambridge City Council • Parts of the evidence base for the production of Development Plan Documents have been procured with Growth Fund monies showing a budget saving e.g. Local Infrastructure Study which will provide the evidence base of a Community Infrastructure Levy.
Use of external funding to deliver Council priorities	<p>The service has performed very well in terms of its Planning Delivery Grant (£1.2m in 2009/10 with £356K for the planning service), relating to performance in Development Control and Planning Policy. The Council has also benefitted from Cambridgeshire Horizons funding including Joint Planning Budget and Housing Growth Fund (£650K in 2010/11) Going forward, the Authority is well placed to benefit from the Government's New Home Bonus payments, and the new planning fee regime.</p> <p>Fees are charged for Pre-Application Advice, Planning Applications and Building Control. The total income from fees was estimated at £1.3 m for 2010/11</p>

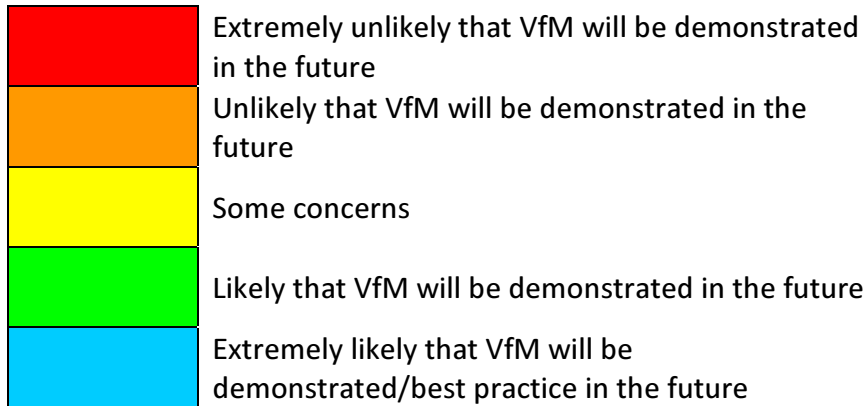
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Guidance Notes

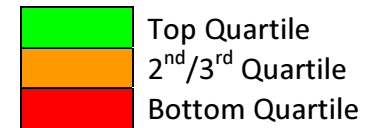
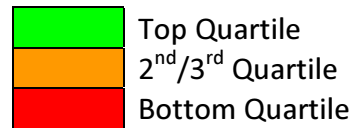
Value for Money Scorecard Self Assessment Proforma

Direction of Travel Risk Indicator

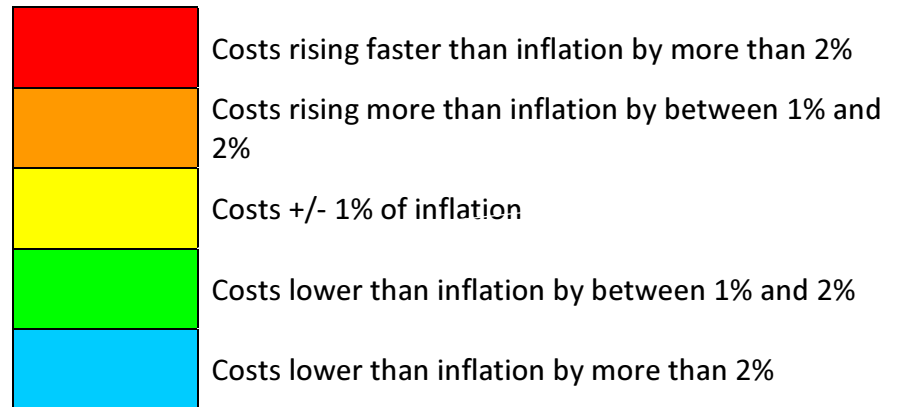


Cost Comparison

Performance Comparison







Cost Trend



(For inflation rate – assume rate of
2.5%)

Performance Trend

	Performance Strongly Improving
	Performance Improving
	Performance Worsening
	Performance Strongly Worsening

Value for Money Template

Building Control Service

Value for Money Scorecard
Self Assessment Proforma



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Summary

Direction of Travel Risk Indicator	Cost Comparison	Cost Trend	Performance Comparison	Performance Trend	Current Assessment

This assessment is based upon the Benchmarking survey of adjoining Building Control services in the LABC Cambridgeshire group

How well do the Council's Building Control Service costs compare with others?		
Current level of service costs. The total cost of Building control service in 2009/10 was £521142	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This compares to an average across Cambridgeshire of £602000 for BC services. This combined with application numbers means SCDC is well above the local average 	Cost Comparison <div style="background-color: #00FF00; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This year, we have significantly reduced staff costs lowering the overall cost of the BC unit by £90k including on costs and the number of applications have increased. 	Cost Trend
To what extent are costs commensurate with service delivery, performance and the outcomes achieved?		
Quality and standards achieved, including targeted investment to improve poorer services and quality of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service has met all the statutory targets but due to reduced staffing levels we are struggling to meet internal performance targets set against the adjoining authorities. We have put in place revised procedures to improve service delivery and in response to customer feed back. Relative to our neighbours we are carrying out 40% more inspections and have 10-15% more applications, although our applications are generally relatively small. Our performance remains steady despite staff reductions. 	Performance Comparison
		Performance Trend
Results of service inspections Awards /Accreditations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Range of discretionary services provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We provide a full advice service to all our customers to ensure the smooth execution of work on site. 	

Do procurement and other spending decisions take account of full long term costs?	
Identifiable savings achieved	The new software package for building control will reduce long term costs

through procurement	
Use of external funding to deliver Council priorities	na