

# How to work with local organisations when you have to make difficult decisions about money

Advice for local councils and other authorities



Easy Read version of:  
Best Value Statutory Guidance  
September 2011

# About this leaflet



This leaflet has been written by a part of the government called **Communities and Local Government**.



It is our job to make sure people have more choice and control about what happens in the areas where they live or work.



**Central government** in London is giving more power to **local government** in each area of England.



This leaflet gives advice to help **authorities** buy the best services for the money they spend. This is called **Best Value**.

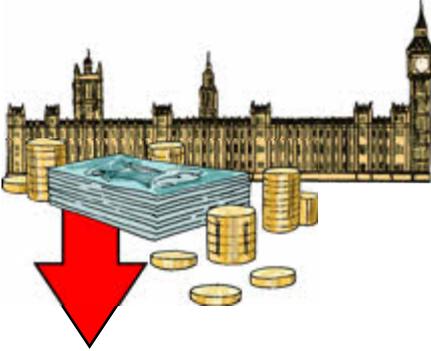


**Authorities** are groups of people with legal power to run public services like:

- local councils
- police and fire services
- transport services
- national parks.



## A few words from Eric Pickles, MP



Central government and local government all have less money to spend.



But having less money does not mean we cannot support local organisations that run services.

Best Value means getting the best services for your local community, not just saving money.



This is why we need to work with local community and voluntary organisations and small businesses when we make difficult decisions about paying for services.



This advice says how Central government expects authorities to work with local organisations who run services.

## About the advice



The government wants local people to get good services and local organisations often know more about the services they need.



We are making it easier for local organisations to run services.



Local organisations include community and voluntary organisations and small businesses.



The advice says how we expect authorities to work with these organisations when they make difficult decisions about money.



It does not replace the agreement that says how the government will work with local organisations.



It asks local councils and other authorities to think about:

- giving local organisations the same chance as other organisations to run services



- working with them to give local people the best services for the money they spend.

# Our Advice about Best Value



## The important things to think about

- saving money



- doing things well



- getting things done that local people need.

## Helping the local community



Best Value means thinking about the different ways it helps a local community when you pay local organisations.

For example, people having jobs or more money going into the community.

## Finding out what people think



When authorities are thinking about buying or stopping paying for services we expect them to find out what local people think by talking to:

- people who pay council tax in the area
- people who will use the service
- other people who might be affected
- local community organisations and small businesses.



Authorities should think about what different local organisations need and work with them to provide services to meet local needs.

## Paying less for services



If authorities have less money to pay for services they might pass this on to the groups and businesses they buy them from.

This might mean asking them to take less money for what they do.



Authorities should:

- not cut the money for local organisations by more than their own money has been cut



- tell local organisations at least 3 months before they do this



- talk to the organisation and people who use the service to find out how this will affect them



- ask the organisation and people who use it for their ideas about how to run the service differently.

# How to Contact Us

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