



Wem Rural Parish Council

Value for Money

Wem Rural Parish Council fully understands that its main source of income is the Precept (tax payers' money) and therefore has a responsibility to provide value for money. Good value for money is the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcomes. 'Optimal' means 'the most desirable possible given expressed or implied restrictions or constraints'. Value for money is not about achieving the lowest initial price. This statement aims to outline how value for money is delivered with specific regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money and the Council's resources.

Economy: minimising the cost of resources used or required – spending less

The Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders outlines the financial procedures for procurement at all levels. The Clerk ensures, as far as reasonable and practicable, that for routine administration expenditure the cheapest prices are paid and works together with other Parish Council to obtain economies of scale. The Council obtained a grant from Shropshire Council to provide a bus shelter for children on the school bus route. The Council works with Shropshire Council and Wem Town Council as part of the Wem Economic Forum. and provides funds for WEF projects that improve the lives and wellbeing of its residents. The Council publishes a newsletter on a quarterly basis which is posted to every household in the Parish. When first published the Clerk would carry out the fulfilment. The Council has now been able to source a local firm to print and fulfil the newsletter at a cheaper price. The Council's website is hosted at a cheaper rate due to using the same IT company as other local companies, charity and councils under a specially negotiated arrangement.

Efficiency: the relationship between the output from goods or services and the resources to produce them – spending well.

The Council uses an insurance broker when reviewing its insurance requirements. Although there is a nominal charge for this it is more efficient than the Clerk obtaining quotes.

Effectiveness: the relationship between the intended and actual results of public spending (outcomes) – spending wisely.

The Parish Council aims to improve the wellbeing of its residents and through its grant programme it can sometimes achieve more by funding local organisation than by its own actions. Grants are followed to ensure positive outcomes are achieved. Training of both Councillors and the Clerk is considered wise investment as it increases skills for the benefit of the Parish. The Parish newsletter has achieved its intended results; keeping the Parish well informed of local and county issues/news and obtaining feedback prior to the Council making key decisions.

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