

BEST VALUE REVIEW OF THE INSPECTION, ADVICE AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE SERVICE – STAGE 3 REPORT**Report By: Head of Inspection, Advice and School Performance Service****Wards Affected**

Countywide

Purpose

1. To consider the Stage 3 Report of the Best Value Review of the Inspection, Advice and School Performance Service (IASPS).

Financial Implications

2. No direct financial implications.

Report

3. A copy of the Stage 3 Best Value Report (37 pages in length) is enclosed separately for members of the committee and is available to the public on request.
4. The Best Value Review is chaired by Mrs Val Dann, currently Project Co-ordinator for the Excellence Cluster. The membership of the Best Value Review Team (BVRT) includes Councillor Thomas, Councillor Pemberton, Mr Lewandowski and Mrs Wright. In addition two headteachers, Mr Marson and Mrs Powell, are members of the team. The full list of the BVRT is published in the Stage 3 Report.
5. The Stage 3 Report contains information and statistical evidence required by the Best Value process. Of particular interest to Education Scrutiny Committee are sections 11.0, 12.0 and 13.0 of the report, namely:
 - Overall Summary of How Well the IASPS service is performing
 - Options Appraisal
 - Recommendations
6. Herefordshire Council must provide or secure a school improvement service as part of its duty to promote high standards in all schools. The BVRT concluded that IASPS is an effective and cost efficient service, which can demonstrate high levels of performance against external benchmarks set by the DfES and Ofsted, and a relatively low cost base in comparison with other school improvement services.
7. The BVRT considered three main options for IASPS.
 - (A) Outsourcing the service from the Council
 - (B) Retaining the service within the Council but operating it as a wholly delegated service to schools

- (C) Retaining the service within the Council but restructuring IASPS and managing it through a Local Partnership Board.
7. The BVRT opted for option C believing that it achieved the most appropriate balance of recognising the quality of the existing service whilst establishing the imperative, agenda and method for securing the improvements needed.
9. The Stage 3 Best Value Report, particularly sections 11.0, 12.0 and 13.0, outline the reasoning behind the recommendation of option C.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee consider the Report and recommendation contained at Section 13.0 with a view to making recommendations to the Strategic Monitoring Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- BVR Stage 3 report