



<b>Full Council</b>	<b>Tuesday, 16 April 2024</b>	<b>Matter for Information</b>
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**Report Title:**

**Office for Local Government (OFLOG)  
Self-Assessment Against the Best Value Standards**

**Report Author(s):**

**Sal Khan (Interim Strategic Director)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To provide Council with the results from the OFLOG self-assessment undertaken against the Best Value Standards.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	The Best Value Duty relates to the statutory requirement for local authorities and other public bodies to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness". This report provides a self-assessment, which is set out in <b>Appendix 1</b> against the Best Value Standards.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>That the content of the report be noted.</b>
<b>Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):</b>	<p>Anne Court (Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service) (0116) 257 2602 <a href="mailto:anne.court1@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">anne.court1@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Sal Khan (Interim Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2635 <a href="mailto:sal.khan@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">sal.khan@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Teresa Neal (Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2642 <a href="mailto:teresa.neal@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">teresa.neal@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Strategic Objectives:</b>	<p>Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Environment (SO4) Our Partners (SO5)</p>
<b>Vision and Values:</b>	<p>"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Customer &amp; Community Focused (V1) Resourceful &amp; Resilient (V4)</p>
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	<p>Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Organisational / Transformational Change (CR8)</p>
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.

Human Rights:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
<b>Statutory Officers' Comments:-</b>	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	As the author, the report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	Senior Leadership Team
<b>Background Papers:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Report entitled 'Office for Local Government Best Value Guidance' to Full Council on 26 September 2023</a></li> </ul>
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1.</b> OFLOG Self-Assessment

## **1. Introduction and Methodology:**

- 1.1 The Best Value Duty relates to the statutory requirement for local authorities and other public bodies to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness".
- 1.2 Where, over a period of time, continuous improvement is not demonstrated sufficiently the Secretary of State has legislative powers to intervene to ensure compliance with the Best Value Duty. These powers include taking action to protect the public purse and ensure significant or long-term failings are corrected and performance is raised to an acceptable and sustainable level.
- 1.3 This report provides a self-assessment, which is detailed at **Appendix 1**, against the Best Value Standards. The following sections provides a table for each theme within the guidance.
- 1.4 The headings for the various sections are:
- Continuous Improvement
  - Leadership
  - Governance
  - Culture
  - Use of Resources
  - Service Delivery
  - Partnerships and Community Engagement
- 1.5 Each heading then has the descriptive text provided by Government along with our self-assessment score. There are many approaches that could be applied to the assessment so for consistency with the Council's other assessments, the approach taken for the Annual Governance Statement has been utilised and a score has been provided.
- 1.6 The assessment score is as follows:
- **Good** – Good governance exists and there are no improvements required.
  - **Fair** – Satisfactory governance exists but improvements are required to meet good governance.

- **Poor** – Significant issues with governance exist which needs addressing.

1.7 Each assessment then has evidence to support the score. It needs to be clarified that the Government guidance provides example of what it deems to be “Characteristics of a well-functioning authority” and “Examples of Indicators of potential failure”.

1.8 The evidence provided either supports the characteristics of a well-functioning authority or provides evidence that negates the indicators of potential failure.

1.9 Follow-on actions are then identified.

## **2. Future Activities**

### **OFLOG Activities:**

2.1 The Best Value Duty relates to the statutory requirement for local authorities and other public bodies to “make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness”.

2.2 OFLOG has very recently developed its ‘Data Explorer’ a performance monitoring database which will eventually cover the whole of Local Government. At the time of writing this report it is still in ‘BETA’ mode and can be accessed at <https://oflog.data.gov.uk/>.

2.3 It already includes historic data on Local Government performance which already exists in the public domain. It may have previously been reported to Government Departments such as DEFRA and DLUHC and covers Waste Management, Planning and Corporate and Financial data. It also has historic data on roads and adult social care which are not Borough Council functions.

2.4 OFLOG has plans to further develop this functionality, further increasing the datasets that are included and allowing for performance comparisons to be made with the intention of Councils, if necessary being able to learn from others about how to improve their performance.

### **OWBC Activities:**

2.5 The Council recognises the importance of the OFLOG and will continue to take performance management and monitoring very seriously. This is already demonstrated by the recent Customer Service Excellence Award; it is a member of the East Midlands Performance Management Network and will be looking at further benchmarking opportunities to seek continuous improvement where appropriate.

2.6 The Council will continue to monitor how it performs against the OFLOG “Characteristics of a well-functioning authority” and “Examples of Indicators of potential failure” and in the absence of any other reporting requirements the Self-Assessment will be carried out again at the end of 2024/25 so that it can be reported back to Council with further updates.