

Blaby District Council
Audit & Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting 27 April 2026
Title of Report **Statutory Best Value Duty – Voluntary Self-Assessment**
Report Author Business Systems & Information Manager

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report provides an insight into the recent voluntary self-assessment of our performance in meeting the statutory 'Best Value' duty.

The 'Best Value' duty has been an obligation for local government since its inclusion in Part 1 of the Local Government Act published in 1999. However, in May 2024 the government published a 'Statutory Guide for Best Value Standards and Intervention' for local authorities which provided greater clarity to the local government sector on how to fulfil the duty.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 For members of the committee to review the appended 'Assessment Report' and consider the self-assessment and the methodology used.
- 2.2 For members of the committee to review the results of the voluntary self-assessment via the appended 'Opportunities for Improvement' document and note the potential next steps.

3. Reason for Decision(s) Recommended

- 3.1 This is the first voluntary self-assessment to be carried out since the publication of the Statutory Guide for Best Value Standards in May 2024. Therefore, officers are asking members to note the results of the assessment and the improvement areas where actions have been identified.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

Section 1 of the appended 'Assessment Report' provides an introduction and relevant background information relating to the Best Value Duty, the recently published Government guidance and the methodology used to carry out the self-assessment.

4.2 Proposal(s)

For Members to note the results of the voluntary assessment (shown below and included within the **best value** assessment report) and the improvement areas where actions have been identified (as shown in the 'Opportunities for Improvement' document).

Theme	Assessment Results against all Characteristics of a Well-Functioning Authority'											
Continuous Improvement	CI001 3	CI002 Exc*	CI003 Exc*	CI004 4	CI005 5	CI006 5	CI007 4	CI008 5	CI009 4	CI010 4	CI011 1	CI012 5
Leadership	L001 4	L002 4	L003 5	L004 5	L005 5	L006 3	L007 3	L008 4	L009 4	L010 5		
Governance	G001 4	G002 3	G003 4	G004 3	G005 5	G006 5	G007 5	G008 Exc*	G009 3	G010 3		
Culture	C001 3	C002 4	C003 4	C004 5	C005 5	C006 4	C007 4	C008 5	C009 5	C010 5	C011 5	
Use of Resources	R001 4	R002 4	R003 5	R004 5	R005 5	R006 3	R007 5	R008 5	R009 3	R010 5	R011 Exc*	R012 3
Service Delivery	SD001 3	SD002 3	SD003 3	SD004 4	SD005 5	SD006 3	SD007 3	SD008 3	SD009 4	SD010 3		
Partnerships & Community Engagement	PC001 4	PC002 4	PC003 3	PC004 4	PC005 2	PC006 6						

* Exc = Excluded as the characteristic is not relevant to Blaby District Council

To clarify, the self-assessment was an entirely voluntary process. It was not instructed or motivated by any external organisations. It represents 'best practice' and is intended to act as a broad 'barometer' of our organisational performance, providing assurance of aspects that are delivered well and an indication of where improvements could be made.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

The **best value** assessment report details the range of internal managers that took part in the assessment process which helped to ensure suitable scrutiny and challenge as well as a variation of views and knowledge.

4.4 Significant Issues

There are no significant issues to consider.

4.5 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

5. Environmental impact

- 5.1 There is no environmental impact arising from this report. This was a desk-based assessment resulting in a list of improvement opportunities for the Council.

6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 6.1 There were no direct costs associated with producing this report or carrying out the self-assessment.

	Current year	2027/28
Revenue	0	0
Capital	0	0

7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Blaby District Council are accused of non-compliance with their statutory Best Value duty.	The voluntary self-assessment demonstrates that the Council has given due regard to this duty and assurance that the duty is being met along with acknowledgement of areas for improvement.
The Council are unaware of how they can improve their compliance with the Best Value duty.	The self-assessment process produces a list of 'opportunities for improvement' which can be considered by senior officers and members

8. Other options considered

- 8.1 No other options were considered.

9. Appendix

- 9.1 Appendix A – Best Value 'Assessment Report'
9.2 Appendix B – Best Value 'Opportunities for Improvement'

10. Background paper(s)

- 10.1 There are no additional background papers. Section 1 of the appended 'Assessment Report' does include links to published government webpages that provide further context and background to the report.

11. Report author's contact details

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