

Mendlesham Parish Council Best Value Policy

The Local Government Act 1999 placed a duty of “Best Value” for money spent or services provided by local authorities, including parish councils. There is a threshold, (revised 2006), of £1m budget income for any of three years, which exempts smaller parish councils.

Mendlesham Parish Council falls below the threshold, but follows the Best Value principles.

When considering any action/service, it considers the following “4 Cs.”

- Challenge: why, how, by, for whom a service is provided?
- Comparison: how will the service perform against the same service offered by other providers eg other parish councils, principal authorities, private and voluntary organisations?
- Consult: have the local residents/users of the service, partners or wider community been consulted?
- Competition: could someone else provide the service better?

Mendlesham Parish Council:

- Consistently reviews and asks if services are required and who is the best provider. Eg. A local Street Cleaner is employed because this provides a better, more regular service compared to the District Council service available.
- Obtains whenever possible, three quotes for work/services. General and Financial Standing Orders also detail specific requirements to ensure this. However, the local handyman can be cheaper and quicker for small jobs.
- Asks for public views on projects either by flyers, posters, the village newsletter, questionnaires or public meeting.

Principles adopted by Mendlesham Parish Council 21 March 2007, annually, last 8.3.23