

Value For Money Report – Education Restructure (Primary Sector)

The Saint Helena Audit Service today publishes their report that concludes the Value For Money review of whether the analysis for restructuring the Primary Sector by SHG's Education Department, is soundly based.

The audit, undertaken at the request of the Education Committee, was designed to provide an independent assessment of the Education Department's financial forecasts and non-financial benefits of the two main restructuring options and to ensure that they presented a reliable platform on which a decision could be made. It was not the role of audit to make recommendations on the options identified and this report does not do so.

The conclusion drawn from this review is that the costing for each option is indeed reliable and realistically, the '2 school' option identified by the Education Department provides wider benefits and is financially the more attractive.

Acting VFM Audit Manager, Helena Bennett, writes:

'The forecast costings, cost savings, calculated 'one off' capital costs, and transport costs together with the non-financial benefits were all supported. Whilst there were some differences between the Education Department's figures and those prepared by Audit, these were justified during the course of the review. "

The full report is available for download at the Audit Service web site at www.audit.gov.sh/publications.htm, and a copy has also been placed for reference in the Public Library, Jamestown.

Background information for editors:

- 1) All Value For Money audit reports undertaken by the Saint Helena Audit Service in the public interest are issued into the public domain as soon as the final report is concluded. This has been the case since February 2006 and follows Audit Service recognition that the public are a primary audience for all of our Value For Money activities and conclusions.
- 2) A guide to Value For Money auditing can be downloaded from the publications page of our web site at www.audit.gov.sh
- 3) Any member of the public can put forward ideas and suggestions for future areas to be covered by VFM reviews simply by contacting the Audit Service and speaking to Helena Bennett (Acting VFM Manager).

Contact for more information: Helena Bennett, Acting VFM Manager, helenab@sainthelena.gov.sh, Tel 2109

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