

**Ted Wragg Multi-Academy Trust**  
**VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT**  
**December 2014**

During the first year of its operation, the Ted Wragg Multi-Academy Trust adopted a variety of methods for ensuring value for money in our procurement, across all levels of operations. At present, the Trust has only one school (Isca) under its umbrella, thus value for money is related mostly to expenditure in this school. However, a new school is entering the Trust in 2014 which will create new opportunities for securing value for money, including across schools.

**Embedding Value for Money in Trust Operations**

The Trust is committed to ensuring that the maximum amount of funding it receives is directed to meet the educational needs of children in its schools. Therefore, the concept of value for money is embedded in the way it operates. We have a Competitive Tendering Policy to formalise value for money in procurement processes, and routinely, consideration is given to alternative possibilities for spending and procurement which would yield better value for money. For example, when introducing a new school uniform, the Headteacher actively negotiated a good deal with a uniform company, having evaluated the standard provider as both more costly and less responsive to our needs. Also, Isca now buys all its stationery in bulk, generating cost savings.

**PFI Service Contract**

By far the biggest expense to the Trust, other than staff salaries, is the PFI contract for building and site management and maintenance, utilities, cleaning and catering. The contract pre-dates academisation and was brokered between Devon County Council and Modern Schools Exeter Ltd, with current service provision delivered by Carillion. While terms of this agreement are too far removed from the Trust to be negotiable at present, the only way of ensuring value for money is by close scrutiny of performance on a day-to-day basis. This has been handled effectively by the Senior Leadership Team in Isca and resulted this year in a refund of £110,744 (excluding VAT).

**Central Services**

With only one academy operating under the Trust's control for the period under review, it has been impossible to apply the economies of scale that would otherwise be possible with two or more academies. However, Trustees and Members of the Trust have volunteered considerable time on a personal and professional basis in order to lead the development of the Trust in its first year. This has involved significant time investment by the Chair, Vice-Chair and School Improvement Lead, in particular, focusing on school improvement at Isca, establishment as a Multi-Academy Trust and school sponsor, and strategic vision and growth. This includes provision at zero charge both for an acting CEO and an administrator, to oversee activities, as well as zero cost legal support and financial leadership. As we move forwards with plans for expansion, in preparation for launching our second academy in September 2015, the Trust plans to appoint these positions on a paid basis, as resources to meet the cost will be drawn from both academy budgets. At the same time, financial coordination will be handled centrally and opportunities for shared resourcing of teaching services will be explored.

**Income Generation**

The Executive Principal at Isca is an NLE and consequently, she has been able to deliver consultancy leadership services to DPLS, successfully steering the service towards its own academisation. At the same time, this has contributed some £40,000 revenue to the Trust, which has been reinvested in the school.

D Myhill

Chair and Accounting Officer