

# GMB Agenda for Getting the Best out of Best Value ✓

For the GMB Best Value means delivering best quality services to the community. Yet we see a real danger that this new start for local government could degenerate into CCT Mark II. Our agenda sets out to avoid that:–

***IN-HOUSE SERVICES should be given the chance to improve without being exposed to competition because local authorities should have:***

- ◆ Accountability, continuity & control over front-line services
- ◆ Flexibility to respond to changing needs
- ◆ The benefit of any surpluses generated
- ◆ Co-ordinated committed teamworking
- ◆ Influence over local skill base & local employment standards

***In-house competitiveness can be achieved through:***

✓Benchmarking ✓Flatter management ✓Skills enhancement ✓Abolition of the client/contractor split ✓Pursuing new opportunities for providing services to neighbouring authorities. NHS Trusts and PFI contractors

***IF THERE HAS TO BE COMPETITION it should be fair and designed to achieve quality services. That requires quality employment standards. Therefore all contractors should bid on the basis of the GMB's 'Six Golden Principles':***

- 1. Commitment to continued recognition of the GMB***
- 2. Protection of all terms and conditions of transferred staff for lifetime of the contract***
- 3. New starters to have same terms and conditions as transferees***
- 4. The above commitments on terms and conditions to be written into the contract between authority and company***
- 5. Continuity in the Local Government Pension Scheme through admitted body status, with access for new starters***
- 6. Real negotiations on improving employment conditions at a contract, regional and national level (eg parental, leave, part-time rights)***