Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name:

HTI Multi Academy Trust (Moor Green Primary School)

Academy trust company numbers:

DFE number: 3302078   Registration number: 08291981

Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of Moor Green Primary School, I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the academy trust’s use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

A) Improving Educational Results

Targeted Improvement

The staffing structure is clear and stable and allows funds to be spent carefully and with a clear focus and intention in mind.

The effectiveness of the structure is reviewed and this led to the appointment of an Assistant Headteacher and an Inclusion teaching assistant. Both have gone on to make a significant impact in their first few months at the school.

Focus on Individual Pupils

There is a non-class based Inclusion leader who supports pupils with specific needs across the school.

Groupings in KS2 allowed a greater focus on high-attaining pupils at the end of KS1 and those who have made rapid progress since this point. These pupils also benefit from collaboration between local schools in providing a range of workshops and activities for these pupils.
Funds dedicated to support pupils with specific learning needs and Pupil Premium funds are spent carefully and with a clear expectation of impact in mind.

**Collaboration**

The academy has remained as an active member of the local schools consortium. Through this, opportunities have been provided for staff to access training and development at a cost significantly below that which would be expected normally. Programmes included: NQT development; English subject leader development; Writing moderation; Early Years and SENCO networks and training for senior leaders and governors on the new arrangements for teachers’ pay progression.

**Quantifying Improvements**

School performance data for the period January to July 2013 showed that progress was at least satisfactory across all year groups in Reading, Writing and Mathematics and, in many cases it was good or better. This has consolidated the long-term projection of at least average standards being achieved at the end of each Key Stage in future years.

**B) Financial Governance and Oversight**

There are clear and robust systems in place to monitor the school’s financial performance with the presence of a governing body Staffing and Finance committee which receives regular reports from the school’s Financial Consultant. This in turn reports to the main governing body.

Funding required for large-scale financial commitments such as improvements to the school site are discussed in detail with the Headteacher challenged about the planned improvements and decisions made.

**C) Better Purchasing**

**Fitness for Purpose**

A number of contracts and services were reviewed in the first six months of operation:

- School Meals Contract renegotiated to span a three-year agreement with kitchen infrastructure projects included as part of this deal at minimal cost.

- Grounds contractor changed with a clear improvement in the quality of work carried out at a similar cost to the previous provider.
- Access to a wider range of companies for building projects and works in and around the school site.

- Engagement of a procurement service provided by the trust from September 2013.

- Change of provider for emergency repairs and works. The service provided by the new contractor is cheaper and of much higher quality than previously.

**Options Appraisal**

A competitive tendering process was used to appoint a contractor to carry out an extensive programme of works during summer 2013.

**Economies of Scale**

- The school works closely with other schools to share training costs where appropriate and seeks to build capacity in this area through school staff being members of city-wide and local bursar groups.

- In addition to this, through being a part of the HTI Multi Academy Trust, Moor Green Primary School financially benefits from savings in shared costs, such as insurance.

- It is important to stress that further economies of scale will be further realised in future years, as Moor Green had only been an Academy for 8 months at the end of August 2013.

**Better Income Generation**

The academy used the first 6 months of operation to prepare and formulate a bid for the next ACMF round which will be submitted at the end of January 2014.

The Headteacher and Financial Consultant are assiduous in chasing funds which may be owed to the academy by the Local Authority as part of its ongoing expansion of pupil numbers.

**Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks**

Senior leaders and governors receive regular budget reports and act decisively on the issues arising from these.

The school employs a Responsible Officer (RO) to guarantee the probity of its operations and controls. A governor has designation for reporting outcomes to the wider governing body.
We have very recently appointed a Governor with financial expertise which in turn will put us in an even stronger position. The new Governing Body will be attending regular training to ensure that they can support the school as fully as possible.

Signed: 

Name: Mr Stuart Smith

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 31st December 2013