

HM Treasury Green Book – Five Case Model

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Green Book

The Green Book is guidance for central government produced by the Treasury on how publicly funded bodies should prepare and analyse proposed policies, programmes and projects to obtain the best public value and manage risks.

It also covers the evaluation of policies programmes and projects after they have been implemented to find out how well they have achieved their original objectives and how well they have delivered within their original budgets and planned timescales.

Five Case Model

The Five Case Model is part of the Green Book and it refers to the preparation of Strategic Outline Cases (SOCs), Outline Business Cases (OBCs) and finally Full Business Cases (FBCs) in support of individual schemes and is comprised of the following key components:

- The Strategic Case
- The Economic Case
- The Commercial Case
- The Financial Case
- The Management Case

The production of business cases is a mandatory part of planning a public sector spending proposal and preparing it for approval. The Five Case Model is the best practice standard recommended by HM Treasury and has been used successfully by UK Government departments and the wider public sector for many years. Application of this methodology has been shown to:

- Reduce the costs and timescales associated with producing business cases and to improve the efficiency and throughput of the spending approval process through clearer structure and presentation;
- Raise the quality of spending proposals, both in terms of their scoping and delivery and public value, as a result of the more effective comparison of alternative options for the achievement of objectives;
- Support the prioritisation of spending proposals and the management of spending portfolios through provision of standard information.

Copies of the HM Treasury's Green Book and of related supplementary guidance can be accessed and downloaded from the Green Book pages of HM Treasury's public web site at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-appraisal-and-evaluation-in-central-government>.