

**Responses from the meeting of Cabinet 2 November and Council 15  
November on the O&S Committee's Comments  
from its meeting 31 October 2023**

Item 4 – Fees and Charges

**Budget Review Group Comment:**

The Budget Review Group had concerns about the increase in fees at the crematorium but were satisfied by the rationale behind the decision provided by officers.

The Group wished to draw Cabinet's attention to the following points regarding car parking charges:

1. The connection between car parking fees and other priorities such as the town centre economy and the climate emergency should be recognised. The Council's ambition to encourage net zero carbon methods of transportation should be reflected in the parking charges strategy. To understand the impacts of these connections better and define a way forward in achieving the Council's goals, the Group encourages officers to test hypotheses and pursue different avenues to find potential solutions;
2. the importance of having an aligned strategy with Warwickshire County Council in relation to transportation and car parking charges should be highlighted;
3. in future, the consultation for car parking charges should be widened to include all Town and Parish Councils and interested organisations such as the Chambers of Trade and Commerce for Leamington, Kenilworth, and Warwick; and
4. a review into car parking charges of all car parks linked to leisure facilities would be welcomed to ensure that they are fair and equitable across the District.

The Group welcomed the increase in charges for filming on Council land.

The Group wished to draw Cabinet's attention to the circa £170,000 of opportunity that had not been taken which could have been available had the projections of the last Medium Term Financial Strategy been followed.

**Cabinet Response:**

The recommendations in the report were approved.

(The above will form a recommendation to Council on 15 November 2023)

**Council Response:**

The recommendations of the Cabinet on 2 November, as updated by the addendum circulated ahead of the meeting were approved.

Item 5 – Corporate Strategy

**Scrutiny Comment:**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee had scrutinised the draft Corporate Strategy at length previously, so further scrutiny was not considered necessary. The Chair had liaised with the Leader of the Council and had informed him that he would be asking Members if they had any further comments to pass to Cabinet.

The Committee was pleased to note that how performance would be measured was defined in the Strategy but looked forward to receiving the actual targets and key performance indicators (KPI's). The Committee requested more clarity on review process because the "who, what, when and how" was unclear.

**Cabinet Response:**

The recommendations in the report were approved.

(The above will form a recommendation to Council on 15 November 2023)

**Council Response:**

The recommendations of the Cabinet on 2 November were approved.

Item 6 – Abbey Fields Swimming Pools Project

**Scrutiny Recommendation:**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee supports the recommendations in the report with the following caveats and conditions:

1. the project undertakes a review on the assurance of the environmental energy reduction measures;
2. an independent review of the costs is carried out; and
3. Cabinet should be provided with a full briefing on the previous site analysis that has been done so that they can be properly informed when making their decision.

**Cabinet Response:**

The recommendations in the report were approved, along with the following recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

1. the project undertakes a review on the assurance of the environmental energy reduction measures;
2. an independent review of the costs is carried out; and
3. Cabinet should be provided with a full briefing on the previous site analysis that has been done so that they can be properly informed when making their decision.

(The above will form a recommendation to Council on 15 November 2023)

**Council Response:**

The recommendations of the Cabinet on 2 November were approved.

Item 7 – Local Government Association Corporate Challenge Report and Action Plan

**Scrutiny Comment:**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee thanked Officers and the Peer Review Team for the work undertaken and welcomed their feedback and recommendations.

The Committee noted the importance of financial awareness for all Members and clarity on the Council's real financial position. It emphasised the importance of data in terms of managing and measuring performance of services to residents.

The Committee, as part of its remit, will be taking a role in shaping the performance data in a positive and constructive way (Appendix 2 to the report - Peer Review Action Plan, recommendation 6).

**Cabinet Response:**

The recommendations in the report and addendum were approved.