



Title	Comments from the Executive
For further information about this report please contact	Amy Barnes Senior Committee Services Officer 01926 456114 committee@warwickdc.gov.uk
Service Area	Civic & Committee Services
Wards of the District directly affected	n/a
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	n/a
Background Papers	Executive – 05.01.2017

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Deputy Chief Executive		
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Legal		
Finance		
Portfolio Holders		

Consultation Undertaken	
n/a	
Final Decision?	Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)	

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the Executive's response to comments given by the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee on reports submitted to the Executive on 5 January 2017.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the responses made by the Executive be noted, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1 This report is produced to create a dialogue between the Executive and the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee, ensuring that the Scrutiny Committee is formally made aware of the Executive's responses.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The Committee receives and notes the minutes of the Executive instead.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 There is no impact on the budgetary framework. This is for the Committee's information only.

6. Policy Framework

- 6.1 The work carried out by the Committee helps the Council to improve in line with its priority to manage services openly, efficiently and effectively.

7. Background

- 7.1 As part of the scrutiny process, the Committee no longer considers the whole of the Executive agenda.
- 7.2 Councillors are emailed at the time of the publication of the Executive and Scrutiny Committee agendas, asking them to contact Committee Services by 9.00 am on the day of the Scrutiny Committee, to advise which Executive items they wish the Scrutiny Committee to pass comment on and the reasons why.
- 7.3 As a result, at its meeting on 4 January 2017, the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee considered the items detailed in the appendices. The responses which the Executive gave are also shown.

Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 5 January 2017 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments

Item no	3	Title	Council Tax Property Exemption Period
Scrutiny Comment	Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee accepted the recommendations in the report and noted that there were appropriate exemptions in place for; reductions in Council Tax to enable major renovation works to be undertaken; or for second homes.		
Executive Response	The Executive thanked the Scrutiny Committee for their comment and agreed that it was welcome that other appropriate exemptions were in place to enable major works/renovations to take place.		

Item no	4	Title	Pre Application Charging Regime
Scrutiny Comment	Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation in the report and noted that the wording would be revised so the exemptions are amended to apply to schemes of 90% affordable housing or greater.		
Executive Response	<p>The Executive agreed with the concerns of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>It was for this reason that the proposed scheme, as set out at Appendix 1 should be amended so that only schemes that proposed 90% affordable housing or greater were exempt from pre-application charges.</p>		

Item no	6	Title	Consultation on draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule
Scrutiny Comment	<p>Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee had concerns about the proposed document as it was a technical document that was complicated and wished to ensure that the message was understood by the general public during consultation. They welcomed a further briefing/training session on CIL and the IDP for Councillors in the near future.</p> <p>The Committee were assured that prior to consultation the table in Paragraph 3.4 would be amended to reflect that it was a cost per sqm and would ensure that Whitnash was referenced as being included within Zones B&D, along with the inclusion of the appropriate map demonstrating the areas A-D.</p> <p>The Committee recognised there would be Section 106 agreements contributions as well and hoped the impact of these on strategic residential developments in particular would be clear in the consultation document.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the proposal, therefore, to include examples and scenarios within the consultation to show the true contribution from each development.</p>		

	<p>The Committee sought assurance that the Executive understood that this was for both Brownfield and Greenfield sites and that this also should be made clearer in the consultation document.</p> <p>However, the Committee at this time recognised that the important issue was to get this out for consultation to move the matter forward.</p>
Executive Response	<p>The Executive shared the concerns of the Scrutiny Committee that the final document needed to be clear and tidied up prior to consultation. The use of examples to illustrate points would be of value to all parties along with explanations as to why sites discounted within the local plan had been included in the revised assessment of CIL.</p>

Item no	7	Title	Cloister Way Affordable Housing
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Committee welcomed the report and recommendations.</p>		
Executive Response	<p>The Portfolio Holder for Housing & Property Services explained that officers had been emailed before 8.00am on 5 January 2017 to explain that three of the properties were leasehold and not freehold. The team had been surprised by this detail and that it had not been mentioned until this late stage. However, based on this it was necessary to propose amended recommendations so that it was clear the potential purchase was for freehold only and, if the properties remained as leasehold, a further report would be required back to the Executive.</p>		

Item no's	8	Title	Significant Business Risk Register
Scrutiny Comment	<p>Finance & Audit Committee regretted that the Leader was not present for this item and asked for an explanation as to why the significant project that members were briefed on earlier in the week was not included in the Risk Register.</p> <p>The Committee asked for a clear timescale as to when the review of Recruitment and Retention as set out as the mitigation measures identified in Risk 2, would be brought to Members, because this had now been raised for at least 11 months.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the risk for the Local Plan was likely to reduce in light of the Planning Inspectors notification to the Council.</p>		
Executive Response	<p>The Executive thanked the Scrutiny Committee for their comments and were reassured that the Chief Executive would write to them outlining the timetable for the review of recruitment and retention. They also recognised that, as a result of the letter from the Planning Inspector, the risks associated with the Local Plan were likely to have dropped significantly when this was next reviewed.</p>		

Item no	11	Title	Decision Made under Chief Executive's Emergency Powers
Scrutiny Comment	Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report. They raised two main questions and were assured that future proposals would address one and a robust process including Group leaders was in place for such situations which addressed the other.		
Executive Response	The Executive thanked the Scrutiny Committee for their comments and refreshed Councillors' memories that Members were present for determining Policy and Officers were responsible for the delivery. There was a Head of Paid Service in place, employed by the Council, and he was responsible for all staff.		