

***Summary of comments made on the Executive Agenda for Wednesday
8 February 2017***

Item 4 – Budget 2017/18 and Council Tax – General Fund Revenue and Capital

Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee raised concerns that the Right To Buy Capital Receipts were being utilised for functions unrelated to the supply of housing but noted that the Council was not restricted in its right to do so.

Concerns were also raised about the management fee likely to be offered to the successful Leisure Centre operators in recognition of the large upfront investments required including in gym equipment. However, the Committee noted the officers' assurances that this should result in significantly favourable concession payments in subsequent years, that risks would be adequately controlled and that information would be shared with Members once negotiations were concluded

Reviewing the Medium Term Financial Strategy, concerns were raised about increased spending on ICT equipment and software and some other specific large outlays. Conversely, it was noted that the projected income from Leisure Centres did not yet reflect the expected favourable outcome expected.

Overall, therefore the Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 5 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2017/18 and Housing Rents

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee raised concerns relating to the increase in garage rents and hoped that this would go towards funding the repair and maintenance of the garages. Members noted, however, that the strategy relating to garages had been delayed until a new Head of Housing was in post.

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 7 – Treasury Management Strategy

Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee fully supported the recommendations in the report along with the potential for encouraging other Financial Advisors to work with Local Authorities in the future. Members also noted that whilst the risk profile was increasing, the Council was doing all it could to mitigate this whilst strengthening Capital Security.

Item 8 – Housing Related Support Services

Members raised concerns about the impact to residents of changes to some housing designations but noted Officers' assurances regarding consultation and the option of adjusting designations. They commended the significant reduction in some charges as a result of the review.

The Committee therefore supported the recommendations in the report and noted that most residents were satisfied with the services being provided.

Item 9 – A new bridge over the River Avon on St Nicholas’ Park, Warwick and improvements to the Myton Fields car park

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

Item 10 – Recommendations from One Stop Shop (OSS) Review

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the report.