



Title	Comments from the Executive
For further information about this report please contact	Graham Leach, Committee Services Officer, 01926 456114 or committee@warwickdc.gov.uk
Service Area	Members' 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No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	13 December 2011
Background Papers	Executive Minutes – 14 December 2011

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).		
	Date	Name
Relevant Director		
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 informs the Committee of the response the Executive gave to their comments regarding the reports submitted to the Executive in November.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The responses made by the Executive are noted.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 This report is produced to create a dialogue between the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It ensures that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are formally made aware of the Executive's responses.
- 3.2 Where the Overview & Scrutiny Committee have made a recommendation as opposed to a comment the Executive are required to respond to the recommendation(s) made, including whether or not they accept the recommendation(s).

4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 This report is not produced and presented to the Committee.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 All work for the Committee has to be carried out within existing resources.

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 new scrutiny process, the Committee is no longer considering the whole of the Executive agenda.
- 7.2 On the day of publication of the Executive agenda all Councillors are sent an e-mail asking them to contact Committee Services, by 09.00am on the day of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to advise which Executive items they would like the Committee to consider.
- 7.3 As a result the Committee considered the items detailed in appendix 1. The response the Executive gave on each item is also shown.
- 7.4 In reviewing these responses Committee can identify any issues for which they would like a progress report. A future report, for example on how the decision has been implemented, would then be submitted to the Committee at an agreed date which would then be incorporated within the work programme.

**Response from the meeting of the Executive on Overview and Scrutiny
Committee Comments –
14 December 2011**

Item no.	4	Title	Technical Reform of Council Tax	Requested by	Labour Group
Reason considered	Members had questions about some of the proposals.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomed the flexibility that this provides to Local Government.				
Executive Response	The Portfolio Holder for Finance agreed with the comments from F & A and they thanked O & S for their comments.				

Item no.	6	Title	Peer Challenge	Requested by	
Reason considered	A joint meeting of the Scrutiny Committees received a presentation on this item, asked questions in relation to the process, timeframe and benefits, but did not pass comment.				
Scrutiny Comment	No comment.				
Executive Response	The joint meeting was useful.				

Item no.	8 / 12	Title	Retail Development in Leamington Town Centre	Requested by	Labour Group Lib Dem Group
Reason considered	Members had questions about future plans. Because of its importance of the health of Leamington Town Centre to the District.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended to the Executive that if there was a viable and suitable scheme going forward that the Executive consider public engagement to enable mature debate on the retail benefits or otherwise for retail development. (Two members had concerns about public engagement, stating that this might be viewed as the Council spending money to convince the population to come around to its point of view.) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the nine recommendations in the report. However, on recommendation 2.8, two members did not agree with spending £60,000 for this purpose.				
Executive Response	The Executive stated that if they believed there was a viable scheme, the Council would work with the Developer on an improved communication strategy which should address the Committee's concerns. They therefore decided to refuse the recommendation.				

Item no.	11	Title	Allocation of budget to deliver Voluntary Sector Services in Warwick District 2012-2015	Requested by	Labour Group Lib Dem Group
Reason considered	<p>Members had questions about the process.</p> <p>Because of the significant change in provision to the voluntary sector and its effect on the community.</p>				
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognised how difficult the process had been and congratulated the team that had done the work.</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended the following to the Executive that all councillors receive training for handling bids and potentially this could be provided by WCAVA.</p>				
Executive Response	<p>The Executive agreed with their comments and congratulated all those concerned.</p> <p>In response to the O & S's recommendation, they agreed with the sentiment of the recommendation, but amended it so that it reads that officers review the training plan for members to incorporate not only the handling of bids, but any other areas that require strengthening, in consultation with the Member Development Group.</p>				

Item no.	13	Title	Approval of Compensation Payment	Requested by	Labour Group
Reason considered	Members had questions about WDC procedures.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee noted the report.				
Executive Response	It was agreed to withdraw this item to allow officers sufficient time to investigate an issue raised at the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.				

Item no.	14	Title	Sale of the Art Gallery	Requested by	Labour Group
Reason considered	Members had questions about the implications of the decision.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee noted the report.				
Executive Response	The Executive thanked both the F & A and the O & S Committees for their comments.				

Item no.	15	Title	Gypsy and Traveller Sites Update	Requested by	Labour Group
Reason considered	Members had questions about how this would be taken forward.				
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were very concerned at the suggestion that money from the Disabilities Facilities Grant was going to be used. For this reason the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended to the Executive that this money should not be used as a source of funding for providing the transit facility at Harbury Lane and alternative funding should be found.</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also stated that they felt Harbury Lane was a good location for the transit site and encouraged the Executive to approve this site.</p>				
Executive Response	<p>In response to O & S's recommendation, the Executive stated that it did not envisage using the budget detailed in the report and a business case would be worked on showing full costings and how this would be funded. A further report would be submitted in Spring 2012 which would address these points.</p> <p>In response to their 2nd recommendation, and having taken into account Councillor Brookes's comment it was decided that additional wording should be added to recommendation 2.4 to read "Whilst continuing to look at alternative sites".</p>				