

Response from the meeting of the Executive on Overview and Scrutiny Committee Comments – February 2009

Item no.	Title	Requested by	Reason	Comment to Executive	Executive Response and Decision
4	Budget 2009/10 and Council Tax Revenue and Capital	Labour Group	We have a number of questions around the following items - Council Tax Capping, Inflation Assumptions, Expenditure on Housing Investment Program and Rural Initiatives Grant.	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the recommendations in the report.	

5	Housing Revenue Account Budget 2009/2010 and Housing Rents	Liberal Democrat Group	Various concerns.	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report and requested that the Executive writes to the Housing Minister, local MP's and the Local Government Association, requesting that the monies paid to the national rent pool be retained by the Council to enable building of more social housing in the District.	<p><u>RECOMMENDED</u> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) housing dwelling rents for 2009/10 be increased by an average of 6.44%; (2) garage rents are not increased; (3) Supporting People charges be increased by 2%; (4) the 2009/10 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget, updated with the Final Subsidy Determination information, as set out at Appendix 3 to the report, be agreed; and (5) the Executive writes to the Housing Minister, local MP's and the Local Government Association, requesting that the monies paid to the national rent pool be retained by the Council to enable building of more social housing in the District.
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7	Countering the Economic Downturn	Liberal Democrat Group	The importance of this item at this item.	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the actions that have been taken by the Council (following the resolution of the Executive 22 December, 2008) and the importance of planning positively for future economic opportunities, be noted; (2) the five priority actions established at the sub-regional level by Coventry and Warwickshire Economic Recovery Partnership (CWERP) and confirm the leadership role that the Council plays in the response to the economic downturn through the sub-regional partnership, be noted; (3) it be noted that an action plan is being developed by the Warwickshire Public Service Board to counter the impact of the economic downturn; (4) the officer group established to co-ordinate the Council's response to the economic downturn will evaluate its impact on the current Corporate Strategy, key performance indicators and other national indicators and establish a monitoring framework to assess any changes in service area workload. This work will assist the formulation of the 2009/10 Portfolio Holder statements and a review of the Corporate Strategy to ensure the continuing relevance and realism of all its targets, be noted; and (5) the proposed actions to ensure that Local Businesses can benefit from working with Warwick District Council, be noted.
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	<p>Countering the Economic Downturn</p>	<p>Additional report</p>			<p><u>RESOLVED</u> that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) an additional grant to CAB of £20,000 to cover staffing costs for the period March-May 2009, be approved; (2) a budget virement of £10,000 from Revenues – Postages and £10,000 from Payments Channels – Payments Processing to Benefits LPSA2 – Agency Services to cover CABlocal staffing costs at the CAB for three months, be approved; and (3) the award be made in the form of a loan rather than a grant, provided that the loan will only become repayable should CAB receive backdated reward funding from the Public Services Board covering the period March-May 2009. Should this option be considered CAB should be advised accordingly but a final decision need not be reached until the outcome of the Public Service Board decision is known.
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25	Retirements and Redundancies	Labour Group	Why have details of this confidential report been placed on the intranet system before it has been scrutinised by members?	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the recommendations in the report.	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the funding for the early retirement on the grounds of redundancy for the Head of Organisational Development and Performance Improvement with effect from 31 May 2009, be approved (2) the funding for the early retirement on the grounds of redundancy of the Personnel and Training Administration Officer with effect from 30 September 2009, be approved (3) the funding for the early retirement to the Head of Planning with effect from 30 June 2009, be approved (4) the funding for the early retirement to the Head of ICT with effect from 31 May 2009, be approved; and (5) the funding for the redundancy of the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance) if redeployment is unsuccessful with effect from 31 May 2009, be approved.
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