

	Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 April 2014	Agenda Item No. 7
Title	Comments from the Executive	
For further information about this report please contact	Lesley Dury, Committee Services Officer, 01926 456114 or 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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	11 March 2014 & 25 March 2014	
Background Papers	Executive Minutes – 12 March 2014 & 26 March 2014	

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 March.

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 meetings of the Executive on Overview and Scrutiny
Committee Comments –
12 March 2014 & 26 March 2014**

12 March 2014

Item no.	5	Title	Housing Strategy 2014-17	Requested by	Lib Dem Group & Labour Group
Reason considered	<p>Lib Dem Group - Its importance to the District and to get greater clarification.</p> <p>Labour Group – Members had some questions about schedules.</p>				
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomed the report and commended it to the Executive.</p>				
Executive Response	<p>The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services, Councillor Vincett, endorsed the report and thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its support.</p> <p>Having read the report and having heard the representation from the Scrutiny Committee, the Executive decided to agree the recommendations as written.</p>				

Item no.	6	Title	Hackney Carriage Fare Increase – Request from Drivers	Requested by	Labour Group
Reason considered	<p>Members had questions about the process.</p>				
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that the Executive delayed any decision in respect of fare increases pending a complete review of the taxi drivers’ code of conduct to improve the standards of service and vehicles.</p>				
Executive Response	<p>Members were concerned about the comments raised at Overview and Scrutiny Committee and were uncomfortable with the proposed new fares, considering the level of service currently being reported. In addition, it was felt that a 50% increase in the soiling charge was too high.</p> <p>Councillor Coker also felt that further communication should take place between officers and the hackney carriage drivers, during the review of processes, to negotiate a more suitable fare increase, with a report to come back to Executive at a later date.</p> <p>Having read the report and having and in light of the comments from Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Executive refused the recommendations in the report and resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the recommendations in the report were refused. 2. The existing fares were confirmed at their current rate. 3. That the Executive fully supported the pending review of the policies and procedures relating to Taxi Licensing. 4. As part of that review, officers were asked to negotiate with drivers about fare charges, and report back to the Executive in due course. 				

26 March 2014

Item no.	3	Title	Petition against the High Speed Rail (London West Midlands Bill)	Requested by	Labour Group
Reason considered	This is a key issue for the Council and the District and members had some questions about how matters will be taken forward.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed with both recommendations in principle and recommended that the Council's representative on 51M was included in the named parties given delegated authority in recommendation 2.2. It also recommended to the Executive that all councillors see the final petition before it was submitted.				
Executive Response	The Executive agreed with the comments from the Scrutiny Committee. Members accepted that they could not name Councillor Illingworth or the Council's 51M representative within the decision because they did not hold a formal position relevant to this matter. However the Executive provided assurance that Councillor Illingworth would be involved in the formulation of the response.				

Item no.	6	Title	Relocation of the Council's HQ offices	Requested by	Labour Group
Reason considered	This is a key issue for the Council and the District and members had some questions about how matters will be taken forward.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that the Executive delayed the decision for a short period to confirm that the correct decision had been made on the relocation site.				
Executive Response	<p>In response to the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committees the Leader proposed the following amended and additional recommendations:</p> <p>Amended 2.4 That Executive approves a WDC project budget of £100,000, separate from the LLP forward funding, to cover 'client' project costs, subject to any expenditure being compliant with the Code of Procurement Practice.</p> <p>Amended 2.6 That Executive notes, the proposed Project timetable, as set out at Appendix Four, and that this will require the presentation of a further report in February 2015 seeking final approval for the project once the financial appraisals have been undertaken and all necessary planning approvals gained, subject to a revision to Appendix Four to ensure that the award of the contract to a development partner is not made until after the Executive decision.</p> <p>New 2.10 That, in parallel with the LLP funded detailed financial and design appraisals of the Spa Centre site, Executive instruct officers to formally review the potential use of other WDC town centre landholdings as alternative relocation sites and to report back no later than May 2014.</p>				

New 2.11

That Executive agree to establish a sub-group to the existing Member Reference Group, made up of 1 member of each Group who is not a member of Planning Committee (and will also become ineligible to be a substitute for any Planning Committee meeting relevant to this project) to review, with officers, the design specification and car parking arrangements for the proposed new HQ offices at the Spa Centre site.