



<b>Title</b>	Comments from the Executive
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Lesley Dury, Committee Services Officer, 01926 456114 or <a href="mailto:committee@warwickdc.gov.uk">committee@warwickdc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Service Area</b>	Civic & Committee Services
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	N/A
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006</b>	No
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	12 March 2013
<b>Background Papers</b>	Executive Minutes – 13 March 2013

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

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
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).		
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Relevant Director		
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Legal		
Finance		
Portfolio Holders		

<b>Consultation Undertaken</b>	
N/A	
<b>Final Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>	

## 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 meeting of the Executive on Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee Comments –  
13 March 2013**

<b>Item no.</b>	5	<b>Title</b>	<b>Requested by</b>	Labour Group and Lib Dem Group
<b>Reason considered</b>	<p>The Labour Group selected this item for scrutiny because of its importance to large numbers of tenants and families in the District.</p> <p>The Liberal Democrat Group selected this item because it is vital that the criteria for policy on how the money should be used including the extra £95,000 to some of those facing increased costs due to the "Bedroom Tax" should be fully discussed.</p>			
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It lobbied the Government to change the regulation so that:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. When two partners with individual medical needs share accommodation, they are both entitled to a separate bedroom; and</li> <li>b. Where a family is split but both parents share custody of the children, each parent is entitled to have spare bedrooms for the children.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. It requests that Housing &amp; Property Services ensure that rooms classified as bedrooms meet adequate size and space criteria to function as such.</li> <li>3. Council policy states that when a council tenant has applied to move into a smaller property that meets the needs of the new legislation, they will continue to receive money from the discretionary fund up until they receive a first offer from the Council.</li> </ol> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee suggested that the money spent from the fund was monitored closely and a report was sent to the Executive three months after the new legislation came into force.</p>			
<b>Executive Response</b>	<p>In response to the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and having heard the views of other Members, Councillor Mobbs agreed that the Council could lobby the Government on the issues stated as 1a) and 1b) above. In addition, he assured Members that along with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services, he would be investigating the size and space criteria for rooms classified as bedrooms.</p> <p>With regard to recommendation 3) from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Mobbs felt it would be prudent to defer approving payments from the discretionary fund until officers had had a chance to review the impact of the new policy and the implications for the Tenant Incentive Grant. The Portfolio Holder assured Members that a report would be submitted in three months time, allowing in-depth work to take place on a detailed strategy which would aim to assist claimants, including the most vulnerable residents.</p>			

