

FINANCE & AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S COMMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 13 JULY 2011

ITEM No.	TITLE	REQUESTED BY	COMMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE
7	Habitat Biodiversity Audit Partnership	Cllr Rhead	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report & agreed that whenever there was a bypassing of the tendering process, it would always like to see the business case.	Thanked the Committee for its comments.
8	Significant Business Risk Register	Chair	<p>Expressed concern that some risk ratings seemed not to be high enough, the point of risk registers being to move the risk down & manage it away. Members recognised that, in accordance with the recommendation in the report, the Executive was responsible for risk management. It was the F&AS Committee's responsibility to hold the Executive to account, & the Committee felt it was essential that all risks in the register should be monitored on a regular basis by portfolio holders, in order to manage risks effectively.</p> <p>Portfolio holders should take ownership of the risk register as part of their brief. This way they might ensure that, for example, such issues as succession planning, establishment of the Local Plan and effective management of all service risk registers, were handled appropriately. The Committee felt that the Executive should be involved in identifying, compiling and prioritising the risk register.</p> <p>It was also suggested that CMT should give further consideration to establishing an approach of tighter accountability by the Executive in respect of all areas for which they were responsible, not just risk.</p>	The Portfolio Holder for Finance requested an additional recommendation to read "the Executive recognise the importance of this register and will continue to review and identify risks on regular basis, primarily through individual Portfolio Holders and Heads of Service".

9	Financial Strategy and Budget Prospects	Chair	Supported the recommendations in the report. Councillors Mrs Knight, Pittarello and Williams put themselves forward for the fees and charges group.	Thanked for comments and nominations, but requested that Councillor Pratt be added to those already put forward.
13	Catering Contract	Chair	<p>The Committee hoped that other managers would take time to implement a careful procurement process as was demonstrated in this case.</p> <p>Questions were raised about how much income was sacrificed in order to save officer time versus the same figures put forward by other bidders. Members were assured that the balance between the two was favourable in the bid recommended in the report. Members were disappointed that the report had not included details of such savings and benefits of this contract in comparison to the alternatives which had been considered, and what those alternatives were, which would have reassured them in the first place. Nevertheless, given all considerations, the Committee supported the recommendations in the report.</p>	The Head of Cultural Services distributed comprehensive answers to questions raised by the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee the night before.
14	Approval of Funding Request	Chair	The Committee recognised that the request came from an organisation which had a noble purpose, but was concerned that approving the request might amount to a conflict of interest in that the organisation assisted voluntary organisations who might also want to tender for contracts with the Council. The Committee felt that approving the request might set a precedent, and was also concerned that the District Council was being asked to pick up requests that the County Council had turned down.	Thanked the Committee for its comments and approved the funding request.