

 Overview & Scrutiny Committee 25 August 2009		Agenda Item No.
Title	Consultation on Strengthening Local Democracy	
For further information about this report please contact	Graham Leach, Senior Committee Services Officer, Tel 01926 456114, email graham.leach@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Members' Services	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	N/A	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers		

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).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	14.08.09	Bill Hunt
Chief Executive	14.08.09	Chris Elliott
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Legal	14.08.09	Peter Oliver
Finance	14.08.09	Marcus Miskinis
Portfolio Holder(s)	N/A	
Consultation Undertaken		
Members of the Scrutiny Committees were emailed on 30 July 2009 advising them to read the online version of the report because it would be considered by the Scrutiny Committees in due course.		
Final Decision?	No	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		
The comments and consultation document will be submitted to the Executive in September to formalise the		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have produced a consultation document for all Councils called Strengthening Local Democracy which builds on the Commitment in the Building Britain's Future.
- 1.2 The DCLG have asked for comments from all Council's before 2 October 2009. This provides the Council with an opportunity to bring the Consultation Paper in full to both Scrutiny Committees for them to draft a response for submission to the Executive in September.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Committee forms a view on the consultation document and this is forwarded to the Executive in September 2009 in the form of a draft response to the Consultation Document.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Due to the deadline for responses being 2 October 2009, it was felt that the Scrutiny Committees should be given the opportunity to bring forward their views to form a draft response for consideration by the Executive. This enables non-Executive members to take ownership of scrutiny work.

4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committees could decide not pass comment and allow the Executive to respond on behalf of the Council. This was thought not to be advisable because taking the option suggested by officers, it allows for greater member lead scrutiny.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 There are no budgetary implications at this stage because this is a consultation document.

6. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 There are no policy implications at this stage because this is a consultation document.