

# Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13 January 2015

# Summary of comments made on the Executive Agenda for Wednesday 14 January 2015

#### 3. Housing Appeals and Review Panel

It was with regret that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee recognised that this meets the Councils statutory requirement and that these changes must be made because they felt there is value in retaining councillor involvement in the appeal process for those items removed from the HARP process.

The Committee welcomed the agreement from the Portfolio Holder for, and Head of, Housing & Property Services that they will ensure that the correspondence for HARPs, especially with applicants and tenants, is put into plain English.

They also welcomed that Housing & Property Services officers will ensure that the tenant will be directed to their Ward Councillor about appeal matters and that Ward Councillors will be notified about appeals regarding applicants or tenants in their Ward.

#### 4. Council Procedure Rules

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked that:

- (1) Procedure rule 9(1) be amended to reflect in the main body that questions can be directed to portfolio holders about their specific remit; and
- (2) Procedure rule 13(1) be amended to enable that any Councillors can call for the motion to be in to be writing but the chairman takes the final decision.

#### 5. **Convictions & Cautions Policy**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee welcomed the report, but asked that officers include the normal enforcement steps (i.e. gentle reminder, warning letter etc) underneath the table of offences.

#### 7. **2014 National Bowls Championship Update**

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations but raised queries as to why the funding requested in recommendation 2.2 could not be covered by the remaining Bowls Championship budget.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee were extremely pleased with the way the whole championship ran and formally asked that all the staff involved in bringing this together be congratulated for all the hard work they put in to make it the success it was, not only for the bowlers, but for all the business' in Leamington and the District.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee passed their congratulations to all involved on a well organised national event and welcomed that the issues were being investigated and responded to.

#### 8. **Pre-Application Charging**

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee raised some concerns about Tiers 2a and 2b putting applicants off asking for advice but supported the recommendation to consult.

#### 9. Council's Strategic Approach to Sustainability and Climate Change

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee welcomed the report and looked forward to updates on this through the Portfolio Holder statements.

#### 10. Open Land at Chase Meadow

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee support the recommendation but highlight to the Executive that if they proceed with the land transfer they need to be satisfied that any additional maintenance costs, beyond that stated in the report, will not present an additional financial burden on the Council. Should these additional costs occur, then this needs to be highlighted to the officers who put together the S106 agreements as there could be a lot more over the coming years.

#### 11. Significant Business Risk Register

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report but highlighted that Appendix 2 did not marry up with the information supplied in Appendix 1.

## 12B. Options Appraisal tender process and service specification development Exemption to the Code of Procurement Practice – Sports Options

The Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee had no real option but to support the recommendations but were not satisfied that this issue could not have been foreseen when the original report came to Executive in November.

### 12C. Use of Emergency Powers in respect of authorising an Exemption to the Code of Procurement Practice

The Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

#### 12D. Rural / Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Application

The Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

#### P&C

## 14. Election 2015 Count Venue – Exemption to Code of Procurement Practice

The Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.