

	Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee 28 June 2016	Agenda Item No. 5
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Title	Comments from the Executive
For further information about this report please contact	Amy Carnall Committee Services Officer 01926 456114 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No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	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
Deputy Chief Executive		
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 summarises the Executive's response to comments given by the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee on reports submitted to the Executive on 6 April 2016, 20 April 2016 and 2 June 2016.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the responses made by the Executive be noted, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1 This report is produced to create a dialogue between the Executive and the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee, ensuring that the Scrutiny Committee is formally made aware of the Executive's responses.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The Committee receives and notes the minutes of the Executive instead.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 There is no impact on the budgetary framework. This is for the Committee's information only.

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 scrutiny process, the Committee no longer considers the whole of the Executive agenda.
- 7.2 Councillors are emailed at the time of the publication of the Executive and Scrutiny Committee agendas, asking them to contact Committee Services by 9.00 am on the day of the Scrutiny Committee, to advise which Executive items they wish the Scrutiny Committee to pass comment on and the reasons why.
- 7.3 As a result, at its meeting on 9 February 2016, the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee considered the items detailed in the appendices. The responses which the Executive gave are also shown.

Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 6 April 2016 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments

Item no	3	Title	Codes of Procurement Practice
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation in the report subject to minor amendments to the wording in paragraphs 3.2 and 10.10		
Executive Response	The Executive noted that the Intend System was a multi-purpose system and the report should specifically refer to it as a procurement system.		

Item no	4	Title	Whitnash Community Hub Update and Next Steps
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations but proposed that the words 'up to' be inserted in recommendation 2.7.</p> <p>It was suggested that approval should be subject to a suitable partnership arrangement being place and therefore made the following recommendation:</p> <p>That recommendation 2.6 be amended to read: That Executive agrees that DCX (AJ) continues to work with members of Whitnash Town Council and Whitnash Sports and Social Club (if applicable), officers at WCC on the production of a viable scheme and thereby gives its support to the development of a Community Hub for Whitnash subject to appropriate partnership agreements being agreed with the parties and WTC undertaking the project sponsorship role.</p>		
Executive Response	The Executive agreed the recommendation from the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee		

Item no	6	Title	Review of Staff Terms and Conditions
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations.		
Executive Response	The Executive made no response.		

Item no	10	Title	Replacement of motors and lighting dimmers – Royal Spa Centre
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.		
Executive Response	The Executive made no response.		

Item no	11	Title	Prosperity Agenda – Service Re-design proposals
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.		
Executive Response	The Executive made no response.		

Item no	12B	Title	Significant Business Risk Register
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.		
Executive Response	The Executive made no response.		

Item no	14	Title	Prosperity Agenda – Service Re-design proposals
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.		
Executive Response	The Executive made no response.		

Item no	15	Title	Customer Contact Role Review
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.		
Executive Response	The Executive made no response.		

Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 20 April 2016 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments

Item no	2	Title	Council HQ Relocation and replacement Covent Garden Car Park Project – Part A
Scrutiny Comment	The Joint meeting of the Finance & Audit and Overview & Scrutiny Committees supported the recommendations in the report. They also recommended that the Executive should seek to maximise the amount of affordable housing up to 40% before any disbursement of profit to the two partners.		
Executive Response	<p>The Leader proposed the recommendations as set out in the report, and that the recommendation from the Joint meeting of the two Scrutiny Committees be rejected because of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there was adequate protection on the affordable housing issue already; • Recommendation 2.8 proposed establishing a Member Reference Group on which all groups would be represented; • Recommendation 2.9 delegated authority to officers, in consultation with the Member Reference Group, to agree the terms of the planning applications the LLP would submit; • the Member Reference Group would be fully aware of the Council's policy position on affordable housing and would make its judgements in light of it; • the planning applications would be determined before the Council made a decision on committing to phase 2; • Planning Committee would make a decision on any applications, approved by the Member Reference Group, submitted with less than 40% affordable housing, as normal; • the LLP was committed to delivering a policy compliant scheme and the intention of the phase 1 work would be to examine whether this was possible and viable; • part of this examination would be to determine whether the Council foregoing its final profit share would assist in delivering a higher proportion of affordable housing; and • It was therefore unwise to fetter the LLP's discretion by adopting this recommendation given that this protection was already in place 		

Item no	4	Title	Council HQ Relocation and replacement Covent Garden Car Park Project – Part B
Scrutiny Comment	The Joint meeting of the Finance & Audit and Overview & Scrutiny Committees supported the recommendations in the report		
Executive Response	The Executive made no response.		

Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 2 June 2016 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments

Item no	2	Title	Final Accounts 2015/16
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations and were pleased to see that £900k was being allocated to the Covent Garden Multi Storey Car Park reserve.</p> <p>However, Members felt that the Executive needed to be mindful that the HRA was likely to come under pressure as/when the provisions within the Housing and Planning Act are fully known.</p> <p>In addition, concerns were raised that some of the budget setting had been over prudent and officers needed to be careful when making judgements using historical data.</p>		
Executive Response	<p>Councillor Phillips agreed with the concerns raised about the implications of the Housing and Planning Act and he would be monitoring the progress of the guidance as it was brought forward. He also agreed with the slippage regarding the Housing Revenue Account and anticipated a report would be brought to the Executive at the end of June 2016.</p> <p>Councillor Whiting thanked the Head of Finance and his team for their work in what they had achieved in delivering an underspend for the last 12 months. He emphasised the importance of not just having a balanced General Fund but also in making sufficient provision to fund capital expenditure as well. He recognised the need to improve on forecasting because while reviewing trends over time had a benefit, due regard had to be taken of specific events during the year. He specifically highlighted to the Executive that the budget out turn for this this year enabled £900,000 to be allocated to Covent Garden Car Park.</p>		

Item no	5	Title	Fit for The Future
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.</p>		
Executive Response	<p>The Executive made no response.</p>		

Item no	7	Title	Tourism Update
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report. Members felt that it was imperative to encourage close working relationships between event organisers and Neighbourhood Services to ensure that clean-up operations during and after events were carried out effectively.</p>		
Executive Response	<p>The Executive agreed with the comments of the Scrutiny Committee and explained that work was ongoing to improve the liaison between department through improved management of events.</p>		

Item no	9	Title	Local Plan Budget
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.		
Executive Response	The Executive made no response.		

Item no	10	Title	Repair of Listed Boundary Walls
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.		
Executive Response	The Executive made no response.		