



<b>Title</b>	<b>Comments from the Executive</b>
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Amy Carnall Committee Services Officer 01926 456114 <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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006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>	n/a
<b>Background Papers</b>	

<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>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Deputy Chief Executive		
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 summarises the Executive's response to comments given by the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee on reports submitted to the Executive on 10 February 2015.

## **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 10 February 2016 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments**

Item no	3	Title	Waste Container Charging
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	<p>The Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report although there were concerns that the introduction of charging may only recover 50% of the costs incurred by the Council. In addition, it was felt that further work was needed to educate the operatives on acceptable service delivery but it was noted that the contractor could also be charged for any damage to the containers.</p>		
<b>Executive Response</b>	<p>In response to the comments from the Scrutiny Committees it was explained that the charging scheme would only recover around 50% of the costs to the Council and therefore a budget was required to fund the remaining 50%.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder agreed that further work needed to be done to train operatives to ensure boxes were not damaged and returned correctly to households. That said this work was ongoing and improvements had already been made due to the robust working relationship that the Council had with Sita. He welcomed the report back to Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee in 12 months and informed the Executive that he would be providing them with regular updates.</p>		

Item no	4	Title	Budget 2016/17 and Council Tax – General Fund Revenue and Capital
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	<p>The Finance &amp; Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report. In addition, having received the late information contained in the addendum Members agreed that the following recommendation be made:</p> <p>“that Warwick District Council should take advantage of the increased ability to raise Council Tax for 2016/17 by £5, to place the Council’s finance in a stronger position.”</p>		
<b>Executive Response</b>	<p>Councillor Whiting responded agreeing with Councillor Barrott’s concerns about the Chairman’s budget and recognised these should be addressed as outlined in the report.</p> <p>He therefore proposed the recommendations as laid out subject to amending recommendation 2.7, 2.9 and 2.10 to incorporate a £5 increase in Council tax rather than a 1.99% increase, with the extra council tax income being allocated to the Service transformation Reserve in 2016/17.</p>		

<b>Item no</b>	5	<b>Title</b>	<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2016/17 and Housing Rents</b>
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations although concerns were raised about the maintenance of safety measures being delayed by the Repairs Service. Whilst Members noted that this work was being brought up to date as quickly as possible, it was felt that the Executive should be aware of the high level of risk this posed to the Council.		
<b>Executive Response</b>	Councillor Phillips responded to the comments from the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee explaining that work was nearly completed on the corporate buildings and under way for all blocks of flats. Initial conclusions were beginning to arrive and a detailed report would be brought back in due course.		

<b>Item no</b>	6	<b>Title</b>	<b>Heating, Lighting and Water Charges 2016/17 – Council Tenants</b>
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.		
<b>Executive Response</b>	The Executive made no response.		

<b>Item no</b>	7	<b>Title</b>	<b>Treasury Management Strategy Plan for 2016/17</b>
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report although Members were concerned that in order to increase return, the level of risk also had to increase.		
<b>Executive Response</b>	Councillor Whiting explained that the increased level of risk was a concern but at the same time work was being taken to ensure this was mitigated. That said this small increased risk should provide greater rewards for the Council and help to provide a more robust budget for future years.		

<b>Item no</b>	9	<b>Title</b>	<b>Multi-Storey Car Parks Condition Survey</b>
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.		
<b>Executive Response</b>	Councillor Shilton provided assurance that a Working Party would be established to look at the future of Council car parks as a separate piece of work to the Task & Finish Group looking at Car Parking Charges.		