

 Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee - 29 May 2012		Agenda Item No. <div style="font-size: 2em; float: right;">8</div>
Title	Comments from the Executive	
For further information about this report please contact	Peter Dixon Committee Services Officer 01926 456114 committee@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Members' 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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	Finance & Audit minutes 17/04/2012 and Executive minutes 18/04/2012	

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 <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Deputy Chief Executive		Andrew Jones
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Legal		
Finance		Jenny Clayton
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 18 April 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The responses made by the Executive be noted.

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 new 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 9.00am 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 meetings on 17 April 2012, the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee considered the items detailed in appendix 1. The responses which Executive gave are also shown.

APPENDIX 1**Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 18 April 2012 on the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's Comments**

Item no.	4	Title	Leamington Town Centre Initiatives	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered					
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report. Members were encouraged that this option would increase dwelling time within the town centre.				
Executive Response	The Executive noted that the proposal was solely for Leamington Town Centre at the present time and agreed the recommendations in the report.				

Item no.	5	Title	Fit for the Future Change Programme Update	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered					
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Committee supported the recommendations but felt that more consistency was needed across the Service Area Plans (SAPs), including layout, content and use of acronyms and abbreviations. Councillor Edwards highlighted that a good example was used in the Housing & Property Services SAP which compared previous years' customer measures.</p> <p>Members of Finance and Audit also raised concerns that by handing the overall responsibility of projects to Service Area Managers and Portfolio Holders, senior staff may struggle to combine the day to day running of their departments with any interventions.</p>				
Executive Response	<p>Councillor Caborn was confident that by working as 'One Council', it was possible to achieve the ambitions proposed and assured members that services would not be cut. He accepted the Committees' concerns and agreed to a more consistent approach to the formatting of SAPs.</p> <p>Supporting this, Councillor Mrs Grainger advised that as a Portfolio Holder, she met with officers every month and welcomed any issues that the Scrutiny Committees felt should be investigated further.</p> <p>The Executive agreed the recommendations in the report with additional wording to recommendation 2.8 to ensure processes ran as smoothly as possible.</p>				

Item no.	6	Title	Service Transformation Bid – Operational Property Lifetime & Condition Surveys	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered					
Scrutiny Comment		<p>The Committee was mindful that the Council should have some of this information already and was not totally satisfied that monies should be spent on collating data that we may already hold.</p> <p>However, the Committee supported the recommendations provided that reassurance could be given that the correct procurement procedures would be followed.</p>			
Executive Response		<p>With regard to information held centrally, Councillor Vincett explained that the Council did hold some of the information but it was not enough to make an informed decision about the lifetime of the properties.</p>			

Item no.	8	Title	Millbank Open Space Improvements	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered					
Scrutiny Comment		<p>The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.</p>			
Executive Response		<p>The Executive took the Committee's comments into account and agreed the recommendations.</p>			

Item no.	9	Title	Warwick Heritage Improvement Programme (Saltisford)	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered					
Scrutiny Comment		<p>The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but felt unable to comment further until it had received the Fully Costed Management Plan. It was mindful that this was the very beginning of the project and looked forward to reviewing the business cases in due course.</p>			
Executive Response		<p>The Executive took the Committee's comments into account and agreed the recommendations.</p>			

Item no.	13c	Title	Significant Business Risk Register	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered					
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Committee supported the recommendations but noted that there appeared to be disconnections between the ratings of some items on the Significant Business Risk Register compared to the Service Area Plans.</p> <p>Councillor Edwards also requested that the SAPs be formatted consistently to assist the Scrutiny Committees with their work.</p>				
Executive Response	<p>Councillor Doody stated that a number of Members had not found the charts easy to use and suggested that officers may wish to investigate a different layout, possibly using descriptions instead of grids or charts.</p> <p>The Executive took the Committee's comments into account and agreed the recommendations.</p>				