

FINANCE & AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S COMMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 8 JUNE 2011

ITEM No.	TITLE	REQUESTED BY	COMMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE
5	Final Accounts 2010/11	Chair	The Committee was pleased with officers' outstanding performance in collecting council tax & business rates. Supported recommendations, while identifying a need for a simpler summary of the accounts. Councillors Edwards, Mrs Knight, Pittarello & Pratt agreed to look at ways of producing such information without compromising the transparency of the data. Members noted variances in the accounts, were pleased with improvements made in respect of departmental budgeting & looked forward to even greater improvements in the future.	Thanked the Committee for its comments.
8	Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership: 5 Year Strategy	Chair	Expressed concerns that this Council's voice might not be being heard at Partnership level and wanted assurance that the Partnership was not undermining the Council or its goals.	Agreed with comments, assured members that our representatives on the Executive Board would continue to work hard to make the Council's issues & aspirations heard. The Chief Executive advised that as a Council we were not alone in this position & that a number of other authorities felt a lack of representation. However, the District's position as an economic driver gave us some influence.
14	Arrangements to Manage the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Self Financing Project	Chair	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.	Thanked the Committee for its comments.

15	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme	Chair	Supported the recommendations. Felt there was a need for a future report to indicate how successfully the implementation of the 50-50 split worked and confirming the rationale and reasons why the budget had been so split.	Thanked the Committee for its comments.
17	Terms of the Warwick District Council / Waterloo Housing Group Development Joint Venture	Chair	Expressed some concerns about the risks involved, but recognised that the Executive had time to make an informed decision before committing to the project, and supported the recommendations. The Head of Housing and Property Services was congratulated on having such a good handle on the proposal, and for consistently offering Members a comprehensive answer to each question raised. The Committee suggested that 3.1 should read "will deliver at least 300 units" in line with the report.	Thanked the Committee for its comments and resolved that the wording of paragraph 3.1 of the Heads of Terms be amended to read 'to deliver at least 300 affordable accommodation units'.
19	Continuation of Employment Support Activities	Chair	The Committee strongly supported the recommendations in the report.	Thanked the Committee for its comments.
20	Contract Relet 2013	Chair	The Committee expressed some concern at the 8 year length of the contract, but subject to receiving evidence that this was good value for both the Council and for the taxpayer, supported the recommendations in the report.	The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services advised that this contract was the best value for money. Its length would open up more opportunities compared to a shorter contract & give time for better working relationships to be built up. He thanked the Member Working Group for their contribution. Executive thanked the Committee for its comments.

21	Proposed Enterprise Zone	Chair	The Committee felt it was essential that an additional meeting, at least a week prior to Council taking a decision, be arranged in order for the proposals to be presented properly to all Members (not just Scrutiny Committees) and to allow all Members to ask questions to enable them to debate the issues effectively at the Council meeting.	Executive agreed to hold a briefing prior to Group Meetings on 27 June 2011 to bring all members up to speed. If Group's felt they then had any questions that needed answering, they could request clarification from officers before Council on 29 June 2011.
22	Royal Spa Centre Seating Project	Chair	The Committee requested that officers present them with an update report in December on all aspects of the performance at the Spa Centre and supported the recommendations in the report.	Although she was understanding of the need to be adequately informed, the Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services was reluctant to keep requesting reports from officers. She did state, however, that the Spa Centre Manager was currently working on a Business Plan, due for completion mid to late July and that the Committee were more than welcome to see a copy of it. Executive thanked the committee for their comments.