



<b>Title</b>	<b>Comments from the Executive</b>
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Graham Leach Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006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 29 November 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 29 November 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 29 November 2016 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments**

Item no	3	Title	General Fund Base Budgets Latest 2016/17 and original 2017/18
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	<p>The Finance &amp; Audit Scrutiny Committee noted the variation in figures for charging for replacement bins and asked when the review of this charging process would be brought to Councillors.</p> <p>While the Committee noted the 1% budget allocation for salary increases, should consideration be given to the impact of predicted inflation on costs and the recruitment and retention policy in some areas? However, the Committee would seek a firm date for when the staff benefits review would come forward to members so any costs of this could be built into budgets as appropriate.</p>		
<b>Executive Response</b>	<p>The Executive confirmed that the review on charging for replacement bins would be brought early in the new year.</p> <p>They also highlighted that recruitment and retention was not a problem that could be solved by money alone as money did not improve morale. There was work ongoing in this area which was being considered by the People Strategy Steering group and a report would be brought to members in due course.</p> <p>The Executive also reminded Councillors that it was for budget managers to think creatively in managing their budgets and only when they could not achieve what they needed to then come and seek further money.</p>		

Item no	4	Title	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets latest 2016/17 and base 2017/18
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	<p>The Finance &amp; Audit Scrutiny Committee was pleased to learn that Pay to Say as detailed at Para 8.3.5 had been withdrawn by the Government.</p> <p>The Committee was concerned at the increase in Supervision &amp; Management (para 10.4) of a further £150k for the reasons stated, on top of a budgeted rise in the current year of £255k or 10% and therefore requested clarification about these figures.</p> <p>The Committee was informed, as part of the Internal Audit Quarter 2 progress report, that the £637,600 in original and current budget for asbestos works was likely to be exceeded, and felt that this should be drawn to the attention of the Executive.</p>		
<b>Executive Response</b>	<p>The Executive welcomed the Scrutiny with regard to supervision and arrangement and detailed papers were provided at the Executive about this.</p> <p>With regard to Asbestos, a prudent approach was being taken on this but it was demand led based upon what was discovered in Council properties.</p>		

<b>Item no</b>	5	<b>Title</b>	<b>Housing Revenue Account Rent Arrears Policy</b>
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee found the report very encouraging and welcomed its work. It noted the comment within the budget that there was provision of £437,000 for bad debts both this year and next and while this was to make allowance for the introduction of universal credit, the Committee hoped this Policy would have a far more positive effect and looked forward to seeing this within future budget update reports.		
<b>Executive Response</b>	The Executive agreed with the comments of the Scrutiny Committee.		

<b>Item no</b>	6	<b>Title</b>	<b>Appointment of External Auditor</b>
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation in the report.		
<b>Executive Response</b>	The Executive thanked the Committee for their support.		

<b>Item no's</b>	11a & 14	<b>Title</b>	<b>Future use of Council land adjacent to 39 High Street, Kenilworth</b>
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation in the report.		
<b>Executive Response</b>	The Executive thanked the Committee for their support.		