

 Executive – 3 December 2008		Agenda Item No.
Title	Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Scrutiny Work Currently Being Undertaken	
For further information about this report please contact	Councillors Mrs Knight and Gifford Theresa Goss & Peter Dixon, Committee Services Officers, 01926 456114 or committee@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Councillors/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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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	Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee agendas and minutes 2 September 2008.	

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).		
	Date	Name
Relevant Director		Bill Hunt/Mary Hawkins
Chief Executive		Chris Elliott
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Legal		Simon Best
Finance		Marcus Miskinis
Portfolio Holders		Councillors Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Doody, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Kinson, Kirton, Shilton and White
Others		Councillors Gifford and Mrs Knight

Consultation Undertaken	
N/A	
Final Decision?	Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs the Executive on the scrutiny work being undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The report and any comments from the Committees' received since the publication of the agenda, be noted; and
- 2.2 Any further comments the Executive make, be passed back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 This report is produced to create a dialogue between the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 This item on the Executive was previously the Scrutiny Committees' minutes from the previous cycle. However, producing a report was considered a more effective way of keeping the Executive informed of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' and Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committees' activities.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 This report is not produced and presented to the Executive. The Executive could receive the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' and Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committees' minutes for information, as there is a legal obligation for this flow of information.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 There is no impact on the budgetary framework because this is for the Executives' information only.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee helps the Council to improve in line with its priority to manage services openly, efficiently and effectively.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 October 2008, the Committee considered the following items:
 - (1) Supplementary Planning Document – Sustainable Buildings – the Committee received a presentation from the Head of Planning.
 - (2) 106 Agreements – a report was submitted which provided a summary of current procedures operating in respect of Section 106 Obligations/Agreements under the Town and Country Planning Act, with

particular reference to the monitoring of compliance with the terms of the various agreements. The Committee noted the report but requested further information on the current status of each agreement.

- (3) Executive agenda – the Committee passed comments on four items which were submitted to the Executive.
- (4) Comments from the Executive – the Committee noted the response which the Executive had made and thanked the Executive for expanding their feedback comments.
- (5) Review of the Work Programme – the Committee raised their considerable concerns with regard to the current difficulties officers were having with supporting the scrutiny process because of the lack of dedicated scrutiny resources. The Acting Strategic Director for Housing and Development advised that he would be raising the issue with CMT and the Committee endorsed this way forward.

7.2 The following items were considered at the meeting of the Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committee on 14 October 2008:

- (1) Draft External Auditor Governance Report – the Committee approved the draft report and made recommendations to the Executive.
- (2) EDRMS Project – the Committee supported the proposal to de-scope the original project into 3 projects, but were concerned about costs incurred in relation to the original project, and requested a report giving further details.
- (3) ICT Strategy – a progress report was received and noted.
- (4) Procurement Action Plan – Members noted action undertaken to date and expressed their desire to see the Executive produce a clear Procurement Policy document.
- (5) Executive Agenda – the Committee passed comment on 7 items due to be considered by the Executive on 15 October.
- (6) Comments from the Executive – the Committee noted the Executive's response to comments it had made on items which the Executive considered on 3 and 29 September.
- (7) Review of the Work Programme – the Committee updated its work programme, requesting a report on the current state of assets and current state of affairs in Legal Services and a report on Lexel Accreditation. A scoping document on tourism would be produced for the December meeting.

7.3 CCTV Task and Finish Group – The group have now had several meetings. The group met on 28 October to produce a list of questions for the witness sessions to be held in November. Then on 12 & 25 November, various witnesses attended the meetings and provided some valuable information which will feed into the draft report to be submitted to this Committee in February 2009.

- 7.4 Engaging Young People Task & Finish Group – a witness meeting took place in October at which young people gave a presentation, offered suggestions on how to engage young people effectively and responded to the Group's questions. A meeting on 27 November would provide an opportunity to question witnesses from Warwickshire County Council on the plans for future engagement mechanisms on which WDC and WCC are working jointly. The draft report would be submitted to this Committee in February 2009.