

		Executive – 4 February 2009	Agenda Item No.
<b>Title</b>		Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Scrutiny Work Currently Being Undertaken	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>		Councillors Mrs Knight and Gifford  Theresa Goss & Peter Dixon, Committee Services Officers, 01926 456114 or <a href="mailto:committee@warwickdc.gov.uk">committee@warwickdc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Service Area</b>		Councillors/Members' 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006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>		Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee agendas and minutes 2 December 2008.	
<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 <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).			
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	
Relevant Director	19.01.09	Bill Hunt/Mary Hawkins	
Chief Executive	19.01.09	Chris Elliott	
CMT			
Section 151 Officer			
Legal	19.01.09	Peter Oliver	
Finance	19.01.09	Marcus Miskinis	
Portfolio Holders	19.01.09	Councillors Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Doody, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Kinson, Kirton, Shilton and White	
Others	19.01.09	Councillors Gifford and Mrs Knight	
<b>Consultation Undertaken</b>			
N/A			
<b>Final Decision?</b>			Yes
<b>Suggested next steps</b> (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 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. However this report gives brief and meaningful information on the scrutiny work and further details can be supplied if necessary.

## **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 The following items were considered at the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 December 2008:

- (1) 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Performance Report – the Committee noted the report.
- (2) Section 106 Agreements - the Committee noted an updated a report from the Head of Planning on the current position with regard to 106 agreements made between 2005/2006 and 2007/2008.

- (3) Sponsorship of Floral Street Displays – the Committee noted a report on the sponsorship of floral displays in the District. The Committee also supported a review of the areas where floral planting currently takes place to establish where and how more cost effective and sustainable methods of planting could be introduced, without detriment to the quality of the District. The Committee also asked that the Town and Parish Councils be consulted on the review.
- (4) Forward Plan – the Committee noted the contents of the Forward Plan and agreed that at future meetings, the Committee will examine it in more detail and feed into the pre-decision scrutiny of Executive decisions,
- (5) Scoping Document for the Tree and Woodland Task and Finish Group – the scope was agreed and a Task and Finish Group was appointed as follows: Councillors Copping, Gifford, Gill and Mrs Sawdon,
- (6) Comments from the Executive - the Committee noted the Executive's response to comments the Committee had made on items which the Executive considered on 15 October 2008.
- (7) Review of the Work Programme – the report was noted by the Committee and it was requested that non-executive members be asked to be part of the Royal Spa Centre Task and Finish Group and the amended scoping document be submitted to the Committee in February 2009.

7.2 The following items were considered at the meeting of the Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committee on 2 December 2008:

- (1) Internal Audit Quarter 2 2008/09 Progress Report – the Committee noted the report and resolved to ask the Employment Committee to consider the cost of absence when doing their regular reviews.
- (2) Treasury Management Activity Report for period 1 July 2008 to 30 September 2008 – the report was noted.
- (3) Review Of Waste & Street Cleansing Budget – the Committee received a report from the Waste Finance Working Party detailing the outcomes of a review which had taken place following implementation of the new Integrated Waste Contract in April 2008. The working party were commended for their work and report, and the Committee asked the Executive to approve the 14 recommendations of the working party, plus an additional recommendation that priority be given to collecting recycling income from the Council's contractor.
- (4) Data Quality Update – the Committee received an interim progress report on implementation of the Data Quality Strategy and the associated action plan. Members requested that the update due at the March 2009 meeting include the latest Data Quality audit report from the Audit Commission relating to the 2007/08 financial year, and that a new action plan be submitted which addresses any recommendations contained within the audit report, along with any outstanding or continuing actions contained within the current action plan.

- (5) Comments from the Executive – the Committee noted the Executive's response to comments the Committee had made on items which the Executive considered on 15 October.
- (6) Review of the Work Programme – the Committee updated its work programme, suggesting that Members determine whether they wished to monitor the most volatile elements in the upcoming budget report on a regular basis. It was agreed that a list of matters to be monitored on income from recyclables would be included in the budget report. Procurement would be considered at the February meeting of the Committee. The Committee also considered a scoping document for Expenditure On Tourism.
- (7) Benefits Qualified Subsidy Claim 2006/07 – the Committee noted the contents of a confidential report and asked to be informed of progress.
- (8) Executive Agenda – the Committee passed comment on 6 items due to be considered by the Executive on 3 December.

- 7.3 CCTV Task and Finish Group – the Group had their last meeting on Monday 19 January 2009 and their final report is being submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 February 2009.
- 7.4 Engaging Young People Task & Finish Group – the Group met again on 27 November to question witnesses from Warwickshire County Council on the plans for future engagement mechanisms on which WDC and WCC are working jointly. It had been intended that the Group would also discuss its findings, conclusions and recommendations prior to producing a draft report for the Executive. However, as only 2 Members were present at the meeting, it was agreed that the Group should hold this discussion when more Members were available. A meeting was therefore arranged to take place on 27 January.
- 7.5 Royal Spa Centre Task and Finish Group – the Group had their first meeting on 5 January 2009 and have initially planned to meet eight times in total. The scope was amended slightly and was re-submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 February 2009. The second meeting is on 5 February 2009 and the Group are having a tour of the Royal Spa Centre.
- 7.6 Tree and Woodland Task and Finish Group – the Group had their first meeting on 21 January 2009 and a further update will be provided at the next meeting of the Executive.