

***SUMMARY OF COMMENTS MADE ON THE EXECUTIVE AGENDA FOR
2 JULY 2014***

3. Review of Warwick District Council / Waterloo Housing Group Joint Venture (W2)

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report. In respect of item 5.7.10 in the report, the Committee urged the Executive to closely monitor the Mortgagee in Possession clause for any impact on the Council and requested that the Finance Portfolio Holder kept close watch on this issue.

4. Service Area Plan/FFF Performance 2013/2014

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee broadly supported the recommendations in the report but had some concerns about the Finance Service Area Plan and that the report did not set out steps being taken to meet savings which the Council had to achieve as part of the Fit for the Future programme. With regards to the Finance Service Area Plan, the Committee was extremely concerned that a lack of resources had contributed to an increase in the number of days it was taking to reply to correspondence regarding council tax. The Portfolio Holder and Head of Finance did outline the reasons for this, but also emphasised the need to review staff resources moving forward. Additionally, with regard to the overall Financial Efficiencies, it was noted that while Cultural Services had met its savings target for 2013/14, there was no guarantee that this level of income could be found year on year. It was also noted that there were other savings which the Council still had to achieve in coming years and yet the report had not identified any actions as to how this could be done. Members did note that a detailed report including financial projections was due before the end of July.

The report raised other issues which concerned Members, including a lack of Warwick residents being involved in the "Sky Blues Community Project", the fact that a £5 charge was being made and also that the Warwick Folk Festival had talked about pulling out next year because of the lack of involvement from Warwick District Council. While the Portfolio Holder and officers had responded to these points, the Committee remained concerned about them.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the report and advise the Executive that it will be planning which issues to scrutinise at future meetings.

5. Creation of Digital Gaming Hub at 26 Hamilton Terrace, Royal Leamington Spa

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee fully supported the recommendations in the report. Members were pleased to hear that the contract from the LEP had been received and urged that the project be started as soon as practically possible.

Urgent Item – Bowls 2014 Additional Marketing

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report but with some reservations. The Committee was extremely disappointed with the lateness of this report and that the issues it addressed had not been considered earlier. Members expressed some dissatisfaction with the breakdown of costs for the items required and were concerned at how quickly the procurement process had been followed given the lateness of the request for the report.

The Committee felt that it had been presented with a number of piecemeal reports concerning the bowls event and requested that when the review of the event was concluded, Members be presented with the report in order to establish what lessons could be learned going forward.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee voted to discuss this late report at its meeting. The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and asked that the Executive recommend that the event be advertised in all four towns and that the budget be increased to facilitate this if necessary.