

 Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee 28 July 2015		Agenda Item No. 10
Title	Comments from the Executive	
For further information about this report please contact	Amy Carnall Committee Services Officer 01926 456114 committee@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Civic & Committee 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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	Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee minutes 10/06/2015 Executive minutes from 16/06/2015	

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 <i>must</i> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Deputy Chief Executive		
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Legal		
Finance		
Portfolio Holders		

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

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 1 July 2015.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the responses made by the Executive be noted, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2.2 The Committee notes the comments made in Appendix 2 (Item 14 of the agenda) as set out in the confidential section of the agenda. (If members wished to consider these in detail then they would need to formally resolve to exclude the press and public).

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 30 June 2015, 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 30 June 2015 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments

Item no	7	Title	The Introduction of a Pre-Application Charging Regime for Development Proposals
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report, however, Members had concerns about the wording of the exemptions paragraph at the bottom of page 9. Members suggested that that discretion could be used when dealing with some of the larger charitable organisations and the final reference to the LEP should read 'or' not 'and'. It was also hoped that listed buildings and heritage assets would be identified as an exemption.</p> <p>The recruitment of agency staff to the Planning Officer vacancy was supported on this occasion to afford some protection to the Planning Reserve.</p> <p>In addition, it was suggested that interim, quarterly reports could be submitted to measure take up of the service.</p> <p>The Committee therefore recommended: That the following amendments be made to the recommendations: 2.1 ii) to include an additional FTE Senior Planning Officer <u>by flexible recruitment</u>; and 2.1 iii) to review the operation of the regime <u>on a quarterly basis</u>.</p>		
Executive Response	<p>In response, the Executive took the comments on board and suggested that when the regime was formalised, officers could emphasise the Council's support of small, local charities. It was proposed that Appendix 2 could be reviewed by officers in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to address the discrepancies relating to the concessions section.</p>		

Item no	8	Title	Funding for Bishop's Tachbrook Community Centre
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report. Members did raise concerns about funding aspects, the information still being awaited on the Business Plan and appreciated the timing issues relating to the building contractor.</p>		
Executive Response	<p>The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Whiting, addressed Members and reminded them that this had been a long running issue. He assured them that any financing would consist of phased funding and the Council would not be handing over the full amount all at once. He agreed that work was still required on the business plan and highlighted the risks outlined in paragraph 6.2 of the report.</p>		

Item no	10	Title	Request for Funding for Improvements to King George's Playing Field at Barford
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations with an amendment to the figure in bullet point 2 of recommendation 2.1 – this should read £81,000 not £71,000, & the subsequent changes to paragraphs 3.4 & 5.3.		
Executive Response	Having read the report and subject to the amendments to the figures detailed above, the Executive		