Response from the meeting of the Executive on the F&A Committee's Comments – 17 March 2021

3. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Projects List for 2021/22

The Committee considered this report due to the significant funding that was being considered and the need for governance in the accounting and scrutiny of those projects.

The Finance & Audit Committee supported the report.

Executive Response:

Councillor Cooke felt that it was a good idea that in addition to the Development Programme Advisory Board (PAB), matters of the CIL list should also go to the Finance PAB, which was suggested at the 17 March Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee meeting. He recognised that a lot of good work had gone into producing the proposals.

The recommendations in the report were approved.

8. Review of Significant Business Risk Register

The Committee had considered this report as part of their standard business in ensuring the Executive were held to account and had considered the significant risks posed to the Council at the time.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

Executive Response:

Councillor Hales, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, stated that he had a meeting with the Strategic Risk Manager about the arrows on the risk register, which hadn't moved on the risk register because there had been no change in the risk levels, and these arrows would appear in future reports. At the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee meeting on 17 March, it was agreed that he would meet with Chair of Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee, Head of Finance and the Chief Executive in June to look at the strategy behind the risk. It was important to make sure the Council recognised the different challenges coming forward, and that the Council set a strategy that officers and Councillors could work through. Councillor Day felt that in the light of nearly 12 months since the first national lockdown, one of the best ways the Council had managed risks was the genuine shared working across political groups and extra efforts and goodwill officers had shown. In the most challenging of financial years, the Council had still managed to find money for the Climate Action Fund despite being prevented from holding the referendum as hoped. He welcomed Councillor Hales' work with officers, and the Chair of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee in making sure the Council remained sharp and focused on the strategic risks.

The recommendations in the report were approved.