

 <b>Finance &amp; Audit Scrutiny Committee</b> <b>- 9 July 2013</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b>  <b>10</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Comments from the Executive</b>	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Peter Dixon Committee Services Officer 01926 456114 <a href="mailto:committee@warwickdc.gov.uk">committee@warwickdc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Service Area</b>	Civic & Committee 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006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>	Yes	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	N/A	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Finance & Audit minutes 18/06/2013 Executive minutes 19/06/2013	

<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>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Deputy Chief Executive		Andrew Jones
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Legal		
Finance		Jenny Clayton
Portfolio Holders		

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

## **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 19 June 2013.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the responses made by the Executive be noted.

## **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 18 June 2013, the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee considered the items detailed in appendix 1. The responses which the Executive gave are also shown.

**APPENDIX 1****Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 19 June 2013 on the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments**

<b>Item no</b>	4	<b>Title</b>	Final Accounts 2012/13	<b>Requested by</b>	Chair
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>		The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, while expressing frustration that the Capital Programme was continually underspent. Members felt there was a need to be realistic about the projects coming forward and the related costs, and therefore recommended to the Executive that a thorough analysis be carried out of capital projects coming forward in order to address the ongoing problems of slippage within the Capital Programme.			
<b>Executive Response</b>		The Executive accepted the Committee's recommendation that a thorough analysis of capital projects be undertaken.			

<b>Item no</b>	5	<b>Title</b>	Rural / Urban Capital Improvement Scheme – Amendment to Criteria	<b>Requested by</b>	Chair
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>		The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, while noting that the figure of £169,685.49 quoted in paragraph 5.2 of the report should read £30,000.			
<b>Executive Response</b>		-			

<b>Item no</b>	6	<b>Title</b>	Potential recreation of the Mere at Kenilworth Castle	<b>Requested by</b>	Chair
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>		The Committee noted that some residents supported reintroduction of the Mere on its own, but that they appeared not to be supportive of any other developments which might go with that. Members felt that in the current state of austerity, such spending was frivolous and therefore the Committee did not support the recommendations in the report and recommended to the Executive that, in light of the current economic climate and financial pressures on the Council, the project was not pursued at the present time.			
<b>Executive Response</b>		The Executive did not accept the recommendations from either scrutiny committee because it was vital to invest in the long term vision for Warwick District, to encourage tourism and look to the future for both residents and visitors to the town.			

<b>Item no</b>	8	<b>Title</b>	Review of Service Area Plans (SAP's) and FFF Measures for 2012/13 and new SAP's for 2013/14	<b>Requested by</b>	Chair
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
<b>Executive Response</b>	-				

<b>Item no</b>	9	<b>Title</b>	St Mary's Lands Business Strategy	<b>Requested by</b>	Chair
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Committee did not support £10,000 match funding at this stage until local residents had been given an opportunity to comment on proposals. It therefore recommended to the Executive that a decision on the report be deferred in order to allow for a one-off consultation exercise, such as a public meeting, in order to allow residents to express their concerns before any decision was taken.				
<b>Executive Response</b>	The recommendations proposed by the scrutiny committees were discussed at length and all were agreed as acceptable comments in part. However, the Executive did not agree that consultation should commence prior to the business strategy and master plan being in place, nor should the process be deferred whilst this was undertaken. Members agreed that it was important to have firm details to consult with interested parties on and hoped to encourage representatives from all bodies to work with them.				

<b>Item no</b>	10	<b>Title</b>	SAFE Project in Brunswick and Willes Wards	<b>Requested by</b>	Chair
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
<b>Executive Response</b>	-				

<b>Item no</b>	13	<b>Title</b>	Events Management	<b>Requested by</b>	Chair
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
<b>Executive Response</b>	-				

<b>Item no</b>	15	<b>Title</b>	Rural / Urban Capital Improvement Application	<b>Requested by</b>	Chair
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, while noting that the £169,685.49 figure in paragraph 5.1 and on the last page of appendix 2 of the report should read £30,000.				
<b>Executive Response</b>	-				

<b>Item no</b>	16	<b>Title</b>	Monetary Loan to Warwick Town Council	<b>Requested by</b>	Chair
<b>Scrutiny Comment</b>	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
<b>Executive Response</b>	-				

Three confidential items on the Executive agenda - item 19 "Development and Regeneration in Lillington", item 20 "Flexible Retirement Request" and item 21 (an urgent item) "Redundancy and Pension Payments – Housing and Property Services' Staffing Review" - were also considered and are detailed under a separate confidential appendix.