

 Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12 March 2013		Agenda Item No. 5
Title	Comments from the Executive	
For further information about this report please contact	Lesley Dury, Committee Services Officer, 01926 456114 or 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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	12 February 2013	
Background Papers	Executive Minutes – 13 February 2013	

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).		
	Date	Name
Relevant Director		
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 informs the Committee of the response the Executive gave to their comments regarding the reports submitted to the Executive in February.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The responses made by the Executive are noted.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 This report is produced to create a dialogue between the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It ensures that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are formally made aware of the Executive's responses.
- 3.2 Where the Overview & Scrutiny Committee have made a recommendation as opposed to a comment the Executive are required to respond to the recommendation(s) made, including whether or not they accept the recommendation(s).

4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 This report is not produced and presented to the Committee.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 All work for the Committee has to be carried out within existing resources.

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 new scrutiny process, the Committee is no longer considering the whole of the Executive agenda.
- 7.2 On the day of publication of the Executive agenda all Councillors are sent an e-mail asking them to contact Committee Services, by 09.00am on the day of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to advise which Executive items they would like the Committee to consider.
- 7.3 As a result the Committee considered the items detailed in appendix 1. The response the Executive gave on each item is also shown.
- 7.4 In reviewing these responses Committee can identify any issues for which they would like a progress report. A future report, for example on how the decision has been implemented, would then be submitted to the Committee at an agreed date which would then be incorporated within the work programme.

**Response from the meeting of the Executive on Overview and Scrutiny
Committee Comments –
9 January 2013**

Item no.	6	Title	HRA Rent Setting	Requested by	Labour Group
Reason considered	Members wished to discuss this item because of the importance of rent setting for WDC tenants and the District.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Overview and Scrutiny felt that the Executive might like to consider increasing garage rents at a higher level so as to encourage development of garage sites.				
Executive Response	<p>The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property thanked the scrutiny committees for their comments. He believed that the proposed increase for garage rents was appropriate because there were clearly people who required garages but an increase might deter those who did not from keeping them. Additionally, not all garage sites were appropriate and it would be difficult to have differential rates.</p> <p>While the Portfolio Holder applauded the sentiment of the Scrutiny Committee's suggestion, he felt that to increase rents at this stage would be premature and that over the next twelve months the proposals in the report would give a clearer indication of how increases would affect people. The Portfolio Holder recognised the need for a fine balance between affordability and maximising revenue schemes for the benefit of all.</p>				

Item no.	7	Title	Approval of Heating, Lighting and Water Charges 2013/14 – Council Tenants	Requested by	Lib Dem Group
Reason considered	In order to fully understand the implications for the Council and its tenants given the almost inevitable further increase in energy costs.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee felt that the full energy costs should be passed on as they have been in the past.				
Executive Response	The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services felt that, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the people in question and the current financial climate, it was right to make concessions this year.				