

 Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee - 8 October 2013		Agenda Item No. <div style="font-size: 2em; float: right;">8</div>
Title	Comments from the Executive	
For further information about this report please contact	Peter Dixon 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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 minutes 10/09/2013 & Executive minutes 11/09/2013	

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).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Deputy Chief Executive		Andrew Jones
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Legal		
Finance		Jenny Clayton
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 11 September 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 10 September 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 11 September 2013 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments**

Item no	7	Title	Bowls England Project	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment		<p>The Committee recognised the benefits of the project, noted why the proposed costs differed from the original estimate and supported the recommendations in the report. Nevertheless, the Committee was staggered that the current estimate was ten times higher than the original and made the following recommendation to the Executive:</p> <p>That in the future, all projects be drawn up within an adopted standard framework, to be agreed, in order that projects be managed realistically and to give Members confidence in the estimated costs associated with those projects.</p> <p>The Committee also noted that timescales for the Bowls England Project were very short and therefore wanted assurances that the programme would not slip and, if at all possible, that it would come in under budget. Members were particularly concerned that costs should not increase further.</p>			
Executive Response		<p>The Scrutiny Committee's comments were discussed at length and the Executive noted their support. Members were in agreement that the project could not slip and were hopeful that it would come in under budget.</p> <p>The Executive accepted F&A's recommendation and added further recommendations to strengthen future monitoring of the project.</p>			

Item no	8	Title	New Homes Bonus – Government Consultation	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment		<p>The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, with the following recommendation:</p> <p>That the final sentence under Question 1 be amended to read "If funding is to be passed to LEPs, it should be ring-fenced to the lowest tier authority that the funding originated from".</p>			
Executive Response		<p>The Executive did not accept the recommendation because they did not feel that it was in the spirit of consultation. In addition, Members did not wish to jeopardise any potential benefits to the District, from the LEP, by making such a restrictive decision.</p>			

Item no	9	Title	Discretionary Partly Unoccupied Relief – Revised guidance notes	Requested by	Cllr Mrs Syson
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	The Executive thanked the Committee for its support.				

Item no	11	Title	Recruitment of Major Sites Monitoring Officer	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	The Executive thanked the Committee for its support.				