



Executive – 10 June 2009

Agenda Item No.

Title	Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee – Scrutiny Update	
For further information about this report please contact	Councillors Mrs Knight and Gifford Theresa Goss & Peter Dixon, Committee Services Officers, 01926 456114 or committee@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Councillors/Members' 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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	Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee agendas and minutes 17 March 2009.	
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	27.05.09	Bill Hunt/Andy Jones
Chief Executive	27.05.09	Chris Elliott
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Legal	27.05.09	Peter Oliver
Finance	27.05.09	Marcus Miskinis
Portfolio Holders	27.05.09	Councillors Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Doody, Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Kirton, Mobbs and Shilton.
Others	27.05.09	Councillors Gifford and Mrs Knight
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 Executive on the scrutiny work being undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The report be noted; and
- 2.2 Any further comments the Executive make, be passed back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 This report is produced to create a dialogue between the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 This item on the Executive was previously the Scrutiny Committees' minutes from the previous cycle. However, producing a report was considered a more effective way of keeping the Executive informed of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' and Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committees' activities.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 This report is not produced and presented to the Executive. The Executive could receive the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' and Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committees' minutes for information, as there is a legal obligation for this flow of information. However this report gives brief and meaningful information on the scrutiny work and further details can be supplied if necessary.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 There is no impact on the budgetary framework because this is for the Executives' information only.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee helps the Council to improve in line with its priority to manage services openly, efficiently and effectively.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The following items were considered at the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 March 2009:

- (1) Engaging Young People Task and Finish Group – Report was approved for forwarding to the Executive.
- (2) Performance targets – The Committee noted the report, but were concerned about the staffing issues in Housing Strategy and asked for this to be brought to the attention of the Human Resources Portfolio Holder.

- (3) Forward Plan – the Committee examined the Forward Plan and it was noted.
- (4) Scoping Document – Maintenance of Trees – It was a Task and Finish Group be established.
- (6) Comments from the Executive – the Committee noted the Executive's response to comments the Committee had made on items which the Executive considered on 17 March 2009.
- (7) End of Term Report – The report on how the Committee had progressed since May 2008 was noted.
- (8) Future of Scrutiny 2009/2010 – The report on how the scrutiny process will hopefully develop in 2009/2010 was noted.
- (7) Review of the Work Programme – The work programme was agreed and reports were also requested for June 2009 on the Disabled Facilities Grants, the Business Improvement Programme and Portfolio Holder Areas.
- (8) Executive Agenda – the Committee passed comment on 6 items due to be considered by the Executive on 18 March 2009.

7.2 The following items were considered at the meeting of the Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committee on 17 March 2009, which adjourned after 4 hours and reconvened on 6 April:

- (1) Internal Audit Quarter 3 2008/09 Progress Report – progress was noted.
- (2) Internal Audit Strategy and Plan 2009/10 – 2011/12 – the Committee approved the Strategy and Plan.
- (3) Annual Audit & Inspection Letter – the Committee expressed a commitment to improving on 'limitation of scope' and supported the recommendations in the Executive's related report.
- (4) Data Quality Update – progress made in completing the initial action plan was noted, as was the Audit Commission's 2007/08 audit report and recommendations. Members approved the action plan and proposed monitoring arrangements for 2009/10.
- (5) Project Management Arrangements for Spencer Yard – arrangements were noted.
- (6) Treasury Management Activity Report for the period 1 October to 31 December 2008 – the Committee noted the contents of the report.
- (7) Key Risk Indicators – Members agreed on indicators to be reported to future meetings.

- (8) Finance Staffing – the report was noted and the Committee requested a progress report in 6 months time.
- (9) Comments from the Executive – the Committee noted the Executive's response to comments which the Committee had made on items considered by the Executive on 4 February 2009.
- (10) End of Term Report – the Committee noted a report on its progress and achievements since May 2008.
- (11) Scrutiny for 2009/10 – the Committee agreed that it be renamed 'Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee', taking its remit as set out in appendix 2 to the report, and agreed to review changes in a year's time.
- (12) Review of the Work Programme – the Committee updated its work programme.
- (13) Executive Agenda – the Committee passed comment on 12 items due to be considered by the Executive on 18 March 2009 and 1 item due to be considered on 14 April.

- 7.4 Engaging Young People Task & Finish Group – Their final report was submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 March 2009 meeting and is a separate item on this agenda.
- 7.5 Expenditure on Tourism Task and Finish Group – The Group have met on two occasions and have started interviewing witnesses including Councillors Mobbs and Mrs Blacklock, and will be meeting again at the end of the month to talk to Councillor Gill. In the future, the Group also wish to talk to further witnesses including Councillor Guest and Shakespeare Country's CEO. The final report will be submitted to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee in due course.
- 7.6 Royal Spa Centre Task and Finish Group – The Group has had numerous meetings and met with many witnesses. The final report will be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in August 2009 and the Executive in October 2009.
- 7.7 Maintenance of WDC Trees Task and Finish Group – This Group is due to meet for the first time in July/August 2009.