

 Executive – 15 October 2008		Agenda Item No.
Title	Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Scrutiny Work Currently Being Undertaken	
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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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 2 September 2008.	

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 <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
	Date	Name
Relevant Director	01.10.08	Bill Hunt/Mary Hawkins
Chief Executive	01.10.08	Chris Elliott
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Legal	01.10.08	Simon Best
Finance	01.10.08	Marcus Miskinis
Portfolio Holders	01.10.08	Councillors Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Doody, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Kinson, Kirton, Shilton and White
Others	01.10.08	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 Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The report and any comments from the Committees' received since the publication of the agenda, be noted; and
- 2.2 Any further comments the Executive make, be passed back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Audit and Resources 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 & Audit and Resources 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 Audit & Resources 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 Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committees' minutes for information, as there is a legal obligation for this flow of information.

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 & Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee helps the Council to improve in line with its priority to manage services openly, efficiently and effectively.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 September 2008, the Committee considered the following items:
 - (1) Call-In - Two items which were 'called-in'. The report on the Improvement of the District was referred to Council for their comments and the Proposed Changes to Council Phone Numbers was referred back to the Executive.
 - (2) the 2008/2009 First Quarter Performance Results.

- (3) 2007/2008 Year End Performance Results – Feedback – Councillors Kinson and White attended the meeting and answered questions from the Committee.
- (4) Golf Working Party Scoping Document, was approved by the Committee
- (5) Bowls England – Future Partnership with Warwick District Council
- (6) Forward Plan for September to December 2008 – the Committee asked for a presentation to their next meeting on the SPD for Sustainable Buildings.

7.2 CCTV Task and Finish Group – The second meeting was held on Wednesday 3 September 2008 at the Town Hall and the group discussed the CCTV statistics which had been circulated to them and identified areas where they needed further information.

7.3 The third meeting was attended by the CCTV Manager, Neighbourhood Services Manager and Community Safety Manager who gave updates on the areas of concern for the group. There was also a tour of CCTV Control Room. The group intend to have 8 meetings in total, with the next one being on Tuesday 28 October 2008.

7.4 The following items were considered at the meeting of the Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committee on 2 September 2008:

- (1) Data Quality – the Committee received a report on the Strategy, action plan and its implementation. An update was requested for December 2008 with a full report in March 2009.
- (2) 2007/08 Annual Treasury Management Report – the Committee asked a number of questions of the Principal Accountant following the presentation of his report, and agreed that a smaller group of Members should convene at some time in the future to consider the assumptions and risks that had to be made in preparing forecasts of investment interest in the future.
- (3) Treasury Management Activity Report (1 April – 30 June 2008) – following a presentation, Members concluded that the Council was doing well considering current circumstances, largely thanks to it having invested money rather than borrowing it.
- (4) Internal Audit Quarter 1 2008/09 Progress Report – a report providing details of audits completed in the first quarter of the financial year was presented to the Committee, which also discussed whether the report's contents were appropriate and how Members could support the Audit and Risk Manager more effectively. It was agreed that the Chair, Lead Officer, Audit & Risk Manager and Councillor Vincett should meet to discuss the best way forward and report back to the Committee.
- (5) Benefit Fraud Investigation Function (Performance and Costs) – the Committee considered performance during 2007/08, current costs and indications of future performance and costs. Members were in favour of a session where they could meet the benefit fraud team and visit the benefits

office. They also requested that the Benefit Fraud Manager attend to present future reports.

- (6) Comments from the Executive – the Committee noted the Executive's response to their comments.
- (7) Review of the Work Programme – the Committee noted the reasons for a report on EDRMS being put back to the October meeting and that a report on the review of the Waste Contract was unlikely to be ready before December.
- (8) The Committee also considered 3 items on the Executive agenda for 3 September.

7.5 At the special meeting of the Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committee on 24 September 2008, the Committee were due to consider the External Auditor Governance Report, which was not available. The Committee did, however, consider an item from the Executive agenda for 29 September 2008.

7.6 Engaging Young People Task & Finish Group – the first meeting took place on 10 September, at which Members discussed the scoping document and a proposed way forward. The Group will meet again on 22 October to examine the Council's current approach and details of consultation. A member of the Youth Parliament and Councillor Mrs Bunker had been invited to attend.