

 Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee - 6 August 2013		Agenda Item No. 5
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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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 09/07/2013 Executive minutes 10/07/2013	

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 10 July 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 9 July 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 10 July 2013 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments**

Item no	4	Title	Pump Room Gardens Parks for People Project	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no	5	Title	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but pointed out that a fair and robust consultation process was essential. Members also expressed a desire to see realistic verification of income for the self-employed.				
Executive Response	The recommendations were agreed as set out in the report and the comments from the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee would be followed up, particularly with regard to the assessment criteria for self-employed individuals.				

Item no	6	Title	Town Hall Repairs & Improvements	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Committee was pleased to note that LED lighting had already been identified to be installed where possible and supported the recommendations in the report, while also making the following recommendation to the Executive:</p> <p>That CAT5 cabling be installed throughout the Town Hall at the same time as the other proposed improvements in order to save money in the long run and to make the building ready to enable the use of much improved audio and visual equipment.</p>				
Executive Response	<p>The proposed recommendation was agreed in principle but expanded to ensure that all suitable options for improvement were considered to ensure the project moved forward. The additional recommendation was agreed to read:</p> <p>'that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Cultural Services and Finance to ensure that all suitable options for improvement, including identifying wi-fi 'dead spots' and adding any additional CAT5 cabling into the rewire project, were considered to ensure the project moved forward.'</p>				

Item no	7	Title	Upgrade of Royal Spa Centre Screening Equipment & Supporting Business Case	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, but did not fully understand the savings which would be made and therefore asked officers to email more information to Members.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no	9	Title	Mediation & Customer Support Advice	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.</p> <p>Members were concerned that although the Mediation and Customer Support Advice service was seeking funding from other sources, the current economic climate might affect the decision as to whether their applications would be favourably supported.</p> <p>Should this situation arise, how would the Executive react to further supporting this organisation given that the report stated this would be a one-off financial contribution?</p>				
Executive Response	The Committee's concerns were duly noted.				

Item no	11 B	Title	Significant Business Risk Register	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

A confidential item on the Executive agenda - item 13 "Use of CE (4) of the Council's Constitution" - was also considered and is detailed under a separate confidential appendix.