

***Summary of comments made on the Executive Agenda for Thursday 5
January 2017***

Item 3 – Council Tax Property Exemption Period

Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee accepted the recommendations in the report and noted that there were appropriate exemptions in place for; reductions in Council Tax to enable major renovation works to be undertaken; or for second homes.

Item 4 – Pre-Application Charging Regime

Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation in the report and noted that the wording would be revised so the exemptions are amended to apply to schemes of 90% affordable housing or greater.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee felt that this was a good scheme and appeared to be well worth pursuing, provided that full cost recovery was achieved at a minimum.

Item 5 – The Rental Exchange Project

The Overview & Scrutiny supported the scheme and looked forward to receiving information about the potential opportunity with Credit Union in the future.

Item 6 – Consultation on draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule

Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee had concerns about the proposed document as it was a technical document that was complicated and wished to ensure that the message was understood by the general public during consultation. They welcomed a further briefing/training session on CIL and the IDP for Councillors in the near future.

The Committee were assured that prior to consultation the table in Paragraph 3.4 would be amended to reflect that it was a cost per sqm and would ensure that Whitnash was referenced as being included within Zones B&D, along with the inclusion of the appropriate map demonstrating the areas A-D.

The Committee recognised there would be Section 106 agreements contributions as well and hoped the impact of these on strategic residential developments in particular would be clear in the consultation document.

The Committee welcomed the proposal, therefore, to include examples and scenarios within the consultation to show the true contribution from each development.

The Committee sought assurance that the Executive understood that this was for both Brownfield and Greenfield sites and that this also should be made clearer in the consultation document.

However, the Committee at this time recognised that the important issue was to get this out for consultation to move the matter forward.

Item 7 – Cloister Way Affordable Housing

The Committee welcomed the report and recommendations.

Item 8 – Significant Business Risk Register

Finance & Audit Committee regretted that the Leader was not present for this item and asked for an explanation as to why the significant project that members were briefed on earlier in the week was not included in the Risk Register.

The Committee asked for a clear timescale as to when the review of Recruitment and Retention as set out as the mitigation measures identified in Risk 2, would be brought to Members, because this had now been raised for at least 11 months.

The Committee noted that the risk for the Local Plan was likely to reduce in light of the Planning Inspectors notification to the Council

Item 11 – Decision Made under Chief Executive’s Emergency Powers

Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report. They raised two main questions and were assured that future proposals would address one and a robust process including Group leaders was in place for such situations which addressed the other.