

 Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee - 11 March 2014		Agenda Item No. <div style="font-size: 2em; float: right;">5</div>
Title	Comments from the Executive	
For further information about this report please contact	Peter Dixon Civic & Committee Services Officer 01926 456114 committee@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected		
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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		
Background Papers	Finance & Audit minutes 11/02/2014 Executive minutes 12/02/2014	

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
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	n/a

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy		
Head of Service		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)		
Consultation & Community Engagement		
N/A		
Final Decision?		No
Suggested next steps		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report summarises the Executive's response to comments which the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee made on reports submitted to the Executive on 12 February 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Executive's responses 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. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 The work carried out by the Committee helps the Council to improve in line with its priority to manage services openly, efficiently and effectively.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 There is no impact on the budgetary framework. This is for the Committee's information only.

6. RISKS

- 6.1 There are no risks directly associated with this report.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED

- 7.1 The Committee could receive and note the minutes of the Executive instead.

8. BACKGROUND

- 8.1 As part of the scrutiny process, the Committee no longer considers the whole of the Executive agenda.
- 8.2 Councillors are emailed at the time of the publication of the Executive and Scrutiny Committee agendas, asking them to contact Civic & 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.
- 8.3 As a result, at its meeting on 11 February 2014, the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee considered the items detailed in the appendices. The responses which the Executive gave are also shown.

APPENDIX 1**Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 12 February 2014 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments**

Item no	5	Title	Budget 2014/15 and Council Tax – Revenue and Capital	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no	6	Title	Housing Revenue Account Budget 2014/15 and Housing Rents	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Committee supported the recommendations, except to put forward an alternative to recommendation 2.2, which the Committee suggested as an incentive to encourage tenants to downsize.</p> <p>The alternative to recommendation 2.2 was; that if an existing District Council tenant transfers to a void property, the tenant should still be eligible for their current level of rent and not the capped formula ('target') social rent.</p>				
Executive Response	<p>Portfolio Holder Councillor Vincett was concerned that the alternative recommendation could result in a two tier rent system, with the Council having to advertise properties at two different rent levels.</p> <p>Housing and Property Services were in the process of revisiting their policies, including their Tenants Incentive Grant Scheme. Councillor Vincett assured Members that their suggestions and concerns would be taken on board during the review. He would report back to the Executive in May 2014 on the revised policies. Whilst he understood the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee's concerns, he did not feel that the recommendation would incentivise tenants any more than the existing Tenant Incentive Grant Scheme and the monetary assistance already available.</p> <p>Councillor Vincett therefore requested that the proposed recommendation be rejected because it could potentially complicate the administration process and increase the risk of the incorrect rent being charged or housing benefit being applied.</p> <p>Executive agreed the recommendations as written.</p>				

Item no	7	Title	Heating, Lighting and Water Charges 2014/15 – Council Tenants	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no	11	Title	Peer Challenge Improvement Plan Update	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no	12	Title	2nd Warwick Sea Scouts' Headquarters	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no	13	Title	Car Parking - National Bowls Championships	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	Considering the dispersal of traffic from Victoria Park, the Executive felt there was merit regarding the comments made by the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee under item 14.				

Item no	14	Title	Economic Development Action Plan – National Bowls Championships	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and suggested that officers consider looking at how the Council could incentivise use of Covent Garden Car Park in some way, perhaps by offering a free car park ticket in a leaflet to be distributed on the first day of the championships, or by including a free ticket in the championship programme.				
Executive Response	(See item 13 above)				

Item no	15	Title	Future delivery of off-street parking enforcement	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	The Leader requested that a note be added to ensure that when the Council informs the County Council of the decision, there is clarity about the changeover arrangements, especially with regard to TUPE to protect the Council's staff.				

Item no	16	Title	Public Service Network (PSN) Compliance	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee recommended to the Executive that recommendation 2.2 be amended to read "for up to 17 Councillors".				
Executive Response	The Executive accepted this amendment.				

Urgent Item	Title	Proposed exemption from the Code of Procurement Practice	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.			
Executive Response	-			

The Committee also considered 3 confidential Executive agenda items which are detailed in a separate confidential appendix:

- 22 - Housing with Care Opportunity at St Michael's Chapel and Master's House, Saltisford (Leper Hospital)
- 23 - 10, 12 & 14 Chapel Street, Warwick
- 24 - Extension of Adaptation Building Works Contract