



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	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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No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	Finance & Audit minutes 15/11/2011 & Executive minutes 16/11/2011

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	01.12.2011	Andrew Jones
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Legal		
Finance		Jenny Clayton
Portfolio Holders		Councillors Caborn, Coker, Doody, Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Mobbs, Shilton and Vincett

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 16 November 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 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 new 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 9.00am 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 15 November 2011, the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee considered the items detailed in appendix 1. The responses which Executive gave are also shown.

Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 11 October 2011 on the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's Comments

Item no.	6	Title	Budget Monitoring to 30 Sept 2011	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered	To consider the financial implications for the Council.				
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee noted that recommendation 2.1 had been amended following publication of the agenda and Members fully endorsed the addition of the words "...and request Heads of Service and Portfolio Holders ensure that expenditure on their respective Earmarked Reserves, and forecast savings from procurement and Fit for the Future, are on track, with details to be included in the December Budget Report".</p> <p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee suggested that, in light of the unit cost of Photovoltaic Business Panels dropping significantly, there was a need for the Executive to assure itself that there was no longer a business case for their installation. Members requested that the Head of Housing and Property Services confirm by email the rationale for cutting back the number of solar panels to a handful.</p> <p>Despite achieving better savings than if an alternative contractor had been selected, there were different interpretations of what the catering contract offered and as a result the contract was not exactly what had been expected. Members of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee expressed some dissatisfaction at the way the contract had been handled and suggested that its non-cash benefits should have been highlighted in the report. The Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) agreed to circulate via email further details of the contract process. Members noted that the Procurement Manager was already endeavouring to incorporate lessons to be learned from this experience into the procurement process.</p>				
Executive Response	<p>The amendment to recommendation 2.1 was accepted. The Head of Housing and Property Services agreed to email the Committee, as requested.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services addressed members with regard to the dissatisfaction felt about the catering contract. She was saddened by the dissatisfaction felt because it had been a difficult and complicated contract to coordinate. Councillor Mrs Gallagher highlighted the positive reintroduction of a cafe at Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre and the excellent service now being received across all four sites. She reminded members that this had been the most advantageous offer available in considerably difficult economic times.</p>				

Item no.	7	Title	Leamington Cemetery Burial Area Extension	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered	To look at the financial implications for the Council.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no.	8	Title	Strategic Principles for Tourism and the Visitor Economy	Requested by	Councillor MacKay
Reason considered	To consider the financial implications.				
Scrutiny Comment	In light of previous experience, the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee wanted to see a systematic and rational approach to tourism that would lead to financial benefit and therefore supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	Members were mindful of difficulties with the tourism industry at the present time and that it was a vital area of work to be supported and progressed. It was felt that member involvement in the creation of the strategy should be maintained and the scrutiny committees should be used to their full advantage.				

Item no.	10	Title	Corporate Property Repairs and Improvement Programme 2011/12 October Update	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered	To consider the financial implications.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no.	11a	Title	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Initiative Scheme	Requested by	Councillor Williams
Reason considered	To look at the Heritage Lottery element of the proposals.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no.	13	Title	Warwick Race Course Rent Review	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered	To consider the financial implications.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	Thanked the Committee.				

Item no.	**	Title	Disposal of 21 Church Street, Warwick (Urgent item)	Requested by	
Reason considered	To consider the financial implications.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee felt the proposal was sensible and supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	Thanked the Committee for its support.				