

***Summary of comments made on the Executive Agenda for Wednesday
30 November 2016***

Item 3 - General Fund base budgets latest 2016/17 and original 2017/18

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee noted the variation in figures for charging for replacement bins and asked when the review of this charging process would be brought to Councillors.

While the Committee noted the 1% budget allocation for salary increases, should consideration be given to the impact of predicted inflation on costs and the recruitment and retention policy in some areas? However, the Committee would seek a firm date for when the staff benefits review would come forward to members so any costs of this could be built into budgets as appropriate.

Item 4 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets latest 2016/17 and base 2017/18

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee was pleased to learn that Pay to Say as detailed at Para 8.3.5 had been withdrawn by the Government.

The Committee was concerned at the increase in Supervision & Management (para 10.4) of a further £150k for the reasons stated, on top of a budgeted rise in the current year of £255k or 10% and therefore requested clarification about these figures.

The Committee was informed, as part of the Internal Audit Quarter 2 progress report, that the £637,600 in original and current budget for asbestos works was likely to be exceeded, and felt that this should be drawn to the attention of the Executive.

Item 5 – Housing Revenue Account Rent Arrears Policy

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee found the report very encouraging and welcomed its work. It noted the comment within the budget that there was provision of £437,000 for bad debts both this year and next and while this was to make allowance for the introduction of universal credit, the Committee hoped this Policy would have a far more positive effect and looked forward to seeing this within future budget update reports.

Item 6 – Appointment of External Auditor

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Item 9 – Development Brief for King’s High, Warwick

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee stressed that the Council should aim for 40% affordable housing. It would also like Sustainable Transport Options mentioned in the report.

Item 11 – Notice of Motion

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the Motion.

Item 11a & 14 – Future use of council land adjacent to 39 High Street, Kenilworth

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation in the report.