

 Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee - 11 October 2011		Agenda Item No. <div style="font-size: 2em; float: right;">7</div>
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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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 13/09/2011 & Executive minutes 14/09/2011	

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	29.09.2011	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 which the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee gave on reports submitted to the Executive on 14 September 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 13 September 2011, the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee considered the items detailed in appendix 1. The responses which Executive gave are also shown.

APPENDIX 1**Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 13 September 2011 on the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's Comments**

Item no.	6	Title	Proposal to install Photovoltaic Systems to suitable WDC Housing and Corporate Properties	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered	Significant financial implications for the Council.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, but expressed a desire for one supplier to install and maintain the Photovoltaic Systems, to minimise the risk of disputes over whether faulty systems were due to poor installation or lack of maintenance. If it was necessary to appoint a second supplier to maintain the systems, it was suggested that the supplier who installed the systems should set the maintenance schedule for the maintenance contractor.				
Executive Response	<p>Councillor Doody advised scrutiny chairs that a great deal of work had been done on the Council's housing stock including a rolling programme to carry out insulation works to properties. Councillor Mrs Grainger pointed out that a thorough thermal imaging survey was continuing and that many of the issues raised by the scrutiny committees were continually being worked on through the rolling maintenance programme.</p> <p>With regard to keeping the same contractor for installation and maintenance, Councillor Vincett agreed this would be a convenient solution but may not be practicable in the current economic climate.</p>				

Item no.	8	Title	Update on the Fit for the Future Change Programme	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered	Financial implications for the Council.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no.	10	Title	Equipment Renewal Reserve	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered	To consider the financial implications.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee noted that paragraph 2.1 should read "...recommendations 2.2, 2.3 and 2.5 below" and supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	Executive agreed and proposed amending the recommendation accordingly.				

Item no.	11	Title	Use of Delegated Powers	Requested by	Cllr Williams
Reason considered					
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee made no comment, recognising that a decision had already been taken and that Executive was being asked only to note the decision.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no.	14	Title	Wilton House – Affordable Housing Contribution	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered	To consider the financial implications.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee did not want action on Wilton House to set a precedent, but supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no.	15	Title	Request for Redundancy and Early Retirement Payment	Requested by	Chair
Reason considered	To consider the financial implications.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Additionally, at a meeting on 21 September 2011, the Committee commented on the Statement of Accounts 2010/11 report, due to be considered by Council on 22 September 2011. The Committee recommended that Council approve the formal Statement of Accounts for the year ended March 2011, which Council subsequently did.