



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	Civic & Committee 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No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 11/12/2012 and Executive minutes 12/12/2012

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		Andrew Jones
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Legal		
Finance		Jenny Clayton
Portfolio Holders		

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 12 December 2012.

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 11 December 2012, 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 12 December 2012 on the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's Comments

Item no.	4	Title	General Fund Base Budgets latest 2012/13 and original 2013/14	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, including the additional recommendations detailed in the supplementary budget paper which was issued following publication of the agenda, subject to additional recommendation 2.2 which related to Parish Councils being amended to read "Parish and Town Councils on a non-recurrent basis".				
Executive Response	The Executive supported the comments from F & A and agreed the additional wording to the new recommendation 7.				

Item no.	5	Title	Housing Revenue Account Base Budgets latest 2012/13 and original 2013/14	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, but expressed concern that five Disabled Adaptations would not be completed within this financial year and that this should not have a negative effect on the lives of the people concerned. Members were assured that the adaptations would be completed within the first half of 2013/14 and that the Committee would be informed as soon as this had been done. Members requested that a presentation on Disabled Adaptations be added to the Committee's work programme.</p> <p>The Committee noted the reason for the increase in bad debts provision but was very keen to see debts recouped and therefore asked to be kept informed as the new benefit programme unfolds next year.</p>				
Executive Response	The Executive thanked F & A for their comments and felt that the observations they had made were reasonable. The Portfolio Holder for Housing & Property Services was happy to feedback reports regarding disabled adaptations.				

Item no.	6/19	Title	Proposed Regeneration LLP - Parts A & B	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Committee noted that it would be proposed to the Executive that paragraph 2.4 be amended to read "That Executive delegates authority to the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Legal Services and the Leader, to agree the Council representation on the LLP Board".</p> <p>Members asked a number of questions in relation to procurement practice and costs and explored what would happen if a project were not approved. The Committee supported the recommendations as proposed to be amended. Referring to Part B paragraphs 8.6 and 8.7, Members stressed that there should be clear identification of the kinds of costs which might arise. They also wanted clarity about who should be responsible for such costs especially if a project were dropped.</p>				

Executive Response	The Executive thanked F & A for their comments and agreed to amend recommendation 2.4.
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Item no.	9	Title	Joint Working with Bowls England	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee was delighted at Bowls England's decision to bring the Men's National Bowls Championships to Leamington Spa from 2014 and that Bowls England headquarters would be relocated to Riverside House with the aim of being in place by Easter 2013. The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	The Executive thanked F & A for their comments.				

Item no.	12	Title	Green Space Strategy	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report. Members were keen to see recommendations in 2.4 and 2.5 to identify specific sites and urged that the strategy be progressed as soon as possible.				
Executive Response	The Executive agreed with the comments made by F & A.				

Item no.	16	Title	Fetherston Court Development Options	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	Officers agreed to inform the Committee as to whether sprinklers would be provided at Fetherston Court. The Committee supported recommendations 2.1 to 2.6 in the report, but felt that the figure in recommendation 2.7 should be reduced as there were already other adequate contingencies built into the budget and therefore made recommended that the Executive reduce the figure to £100,000.				
Executive Response	The Executive thanked F & A for their suggestions, but rejected their recommendation. Members did not want timescales to be delayed and these funds would be used solely as a backstop to avoid officers having to request further permissions from Scrutiny. Members were assured that officers had evaluated this figure correctly and a 4% contingency was thought acceptable.				

Item no.	18	Title	Finance Review	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	The Executive thanked F & A for their support.				