

 Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee - 10 December 2013		Agenda Item No. <h1 style="text-align: right;">8</h1>
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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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 12/11/2013 & Executive minutes 13/11/2013	

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 13 November 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That 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 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 9.00 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.
- 7.3 As a result, at its meeting on 12 November 2013, the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee considered the items detailed in appendix 1. The responses which the Executive gave are also shown.

APPENDIX 1

Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 13 November 2013 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments

Item no	4	Title	Council Tax Reduction	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee noted that all of the recommended changes had been taken account of in the Council's budget, and supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				
Item no	8	Title	Coventry & Warwickshire City Deal	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report as amended in the addendum, but requested clarification of the Council's expected long term financial commitment, which was unclear.				
Executive Response	Executive agreed recommendations 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.8 as written in the report and recommendations 2.3, 2.4 and 2.7 as detailed in the addendum.				
Item no	9	Title	Budget review to 30 Sept 2013	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee noted savings still to be achieved within 2013-14, detailed in Appendix F, sought reassurance those targets would be reached and supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				
Item no	12	Title	Access to Kingfisher Pools, Warwick	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	<p>No direct response to this Committee, but to ensure that all parties were sufficiently consulted with, it was agreed that authority to carry out the works could be delegated to the Head of Service in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.</p> <p>In light of a recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Executive amended the recommendation to ensure that relevant Ward Councillors and Warwick Town Councillors were consulted prior to works taking place.</p>				

Item no	13	Title	Working with Bowls England - Update	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report, but noted that although the Championships presented an opportunity to promote the district as a whole, references to Warwick and Kenilworth were lacking.</p> <p>The Committee also highlighted the point that car parking had been a major concern for Bowls England when the championships were held in Worthing and that Bowls England did not favour park and ride.</p>				
Executive Response	-				
Item no	14	Title	Auto Enrolment – Pension Scheme	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				
Item no	15	Title	Sustainability Officer	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report. Members requested further details of what this post had achieved to date.				
Executive Response	<p>The Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection outlined a number of projects that the officer had introduced, including a review of the Council’s overall work on Sustainability, the various renewable energy projects already carried out and scope for potential new projects. The officer also took on the Affordable Warmth work from Private Sector Housing and engaged with other services areas to begin to coordinate actions on climate change.</p> <p>In addition, a lot of the officer’s time involved coordinating HS2 issues and ensuring the Council was in a good position on the financial arrangements.</p>				

The Committee also considered a confidential item, Tree Preservation Order Insurance Claims, a summary of which is in a separate confidential appendix.