



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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No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 11/03/2014 Executive minutes 12/03/2014 Finance & Audit minutes 25/03/2014 Executive minutes 26/03/2014

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 and 26 March 2014.

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 meetings on 11 and 25 March 2014, the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee considered the items detailed in the appendices. The responses which the Executive gave are also shown.

APPENDIX 1

Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 12 March 2014 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments

Item no	4	Title	Treasury Management Strategy Plan for 2014/2015	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, thanked officers for attending and presenting the report so comprehensively.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no	7	Title	Corporate Property Repairs & Improvements Programme 2014/15	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee recognised that the Council was moving to a more strategic approach to how it managed its portfolio and supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	The Committee was thanked for its comments and support.				

Item no	8	Title	Rural / Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Criteria	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

Item no	9B	Title	Discretionary Rate Relief	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee was concerned that the Government had yet to confirm whether it would meet the costs of this relief. There was no legislation covering this to date. After discussing whether to recommend not implementing these temporary measures and to try to give business some incentive to locate to the District, the Committee recommended to the Executive that if it were minded to adopt the reliefs, the Executive only pursue Option B as detailed under paragraph 8.4. of the report.				
Executive Response	The recommendation was not accepted because Central Government intended that the award be covered in its entirety, although officers were still waiting for confirmation that this would include administration charges. Also, the Executive recognised that the relief would provide a valuable support to the local business community.				

Item no	9C	Title	Historic Buildings Grant Application Funding 2014/15	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	-				

On 11 March the Committee also considered the following Executive agenda items which are detailed in a separate confidential appendix:

- 11 - Lillington Area Action Plan
- 12 - Proposed Development, Warwick
- 13 - Housing and Property Services Contracts Update Report

Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 26 March 2014 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments

Item no	3	Title	Petition against High Speed Rail (London West Midlands) Bill	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee considered the financial implications of the report and noted that funding for the petition would be made from the monies set aside to oppose HS2. One Member expressed the view that the petition should be funded separately. Members highlighted the point that if further funding were required in respect of HS2 in future, another request would have to be made to the Executive. Nevertheless, the Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	In accordance with a recommendation made by the O&S Committee, the Executive agreed that all Councillors should be sent a copy of the final petition document, for information, before it was submitted.				

Item no	4	Title	Relocation of the Council's HQ offices – Part A report	Requested by	Chair
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Committee made a number of comments (under the Part B element of the report) and supported the recommendations in the report subject to the following changes, which it recommended to the Executive:</p> <p>Recommendation 2.4 - that authority needs to be delegated in accordance with procurement procedures.</p> <p>Recommendation 2.6 – that this recommendation should include an assurance that there would be no contractor appointed until the report to the Executive in February 2015 had been approved.</p>				

<p>Executive Response</p>	<p>The following amendments and additional recommendations were made:</p> <p>Amended 2.4 That Executive approves a WDC project budget of £100,000, separate from the LLP forward funding, to cover 'client' project costs, subject to any expenditure being compliant with the Code of Procurement Practice.</p> <p>Amended 2.6 That Executive notes, the proposed Project timetable, as set out at Appendix Four, and that this will require the presentation of a further report in February 2015 seeking final approval for the project once the financial appraisals have been undertaken and all necessary planning approvals gained, subject to a revision to Appendix Four to ensure that the award of the contract to a development partner is not made until after the Executive decision.</p> <p>New 2.10 That, in parallel with the LLP funded detailed financial and design appraisals of the Spa Centre site, Executive instruct officers to formally review the potential use of other WDC town centre landholdings as alternative relocation sites and to report back no later than May 2014.</p> <p>New 2.11 That Executive agree to establish a sub-group to the existing Member Reference Group, made up of 1 member of each Group who is not a member of Planning Committee (and will also become ineligible to be a substitute for any Planning Committee meeting relevant to this project) to review, with officers, the design specification and car parking arrangements for the proposed new HQ offices at the Spa Centre site.</p>
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On 25 March the Committee also considered the following Executive agenda item which is detailed in a separate confidential appendix:

- 6 - Relocation of the Council's HQ offices – Part B report