

## Response from the meeting of the Executive on the Audit and Resources and Overview and Scrutiny Committee Joint Comments– 22 December 2008

Item no.	Title	Requested by	Reason	Comments to Executive	Executive Response and Decision
2	Responding to the Credit Crunch	N/A	N/A	<p>The Joint Audit and Resources &amp; Overview and Scrutiny Committees asked the Executive to consider the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Executive be asked to consider whether it is the best way to spend the money on distributing the leaflet District wide. The Council should be targeting where our resources are going and in the initial stages, should be directing them at businesses;</li> <li>2. The Executive consider making an offer to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) of £30,000 to aid their services during the economic downturn; and</li> <li>3. The Executive be asked to consider further ways of saving money so that future funding may be released to aid those affected by the credit crunch.</li> </ol>	<p>The Executive took into consideration the above comment under 1 above but felt that this could possibly miss out some businesses and individuals and therefore did not agree with this view.</p> <p>The Executive considered the comment within 2, but felt they could not support it because the CAB had not approached the Council for additional funding, however, it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Government and local Members of Parliament in support of CAB and their increased financial burden at this time during the 'credit crunch'.</p> <p>The Executive were in total agreement with the observation above within 3, and agreed to add it to their resolutions.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED</u></b> that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the use of £10,000 of unallocated 2008/2009 economic development revenue budget and £20,000 from the contingency budget, be approved, in order to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) prepare and distribute a 'credit crunch' guide to services which would be mailed directly to all business and householders within the District;</li> <li>b) establish a 'credit crunch' zone on the Council website setting out appropriate support and advice which would be available;</li> <li>c) make the 'credit crunch' guide available at Riverside House and in the One Stop Shops to ensure that customers can access advice and support quickly from one source;</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

					<p>d) support a 'credit crunch partnership' which brings all organisations together to ensure that there is an effective and co-ordinated response; and</p> <p>e) increase funding to enhance advice to businesses in general and in particular the small/medium sized, independent and rural businesses;</p> <p>(2) further ways of saving money be considered by the Executive, so that future funding may be released to aid those affected by the 'credit crunch';</p> <p>(3) the Citizens Advice Bureau's (CAB) situation, be monitored by the Executive and a letter be sent to the Government and local Members of Parliament in support of CAB and their increased burden during the 'credit crunch';</p> <p>(4) the expenditure for the production and distribution of separate 'credit crunch' leaflets for businesses and householders across the whole district, be approved;</p> <p>(5) the staff at Warwickshire Direct and One Stop Shops to be given full training to enable them to advise clients appropriately;</p> <p>(6) the potential for the next issue of the Corporate Focus magazine to be used to promote the message and for it to produced and distributed earlier than originally planned be investigated;</p> <p>(7) the Chief Executive be asked to investigate the possibility of collecting Business Rates over 12 months rather than 10 months as at present, to aid those businesses struggling to meet payments;</p> <p>(8) co-funding the printing and distribution of the leaflets across the whole District, be investigated; and</p>
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					(9) the Council should continue to make a positive reaction and lead the approach in response to the economic downturn affecting Warwick District.
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