

**Summary of Comments made on the Cabinet Agenda for
Thursday 10 February 2022**

5 Review of Warwick District Council Members' Allowances Scheme - 2021

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee raised a question from one of the political groups about the rationale for adopting the recommendations of the independent review regarding the increase in Special Responsibility Allowances in the current economic climate. It received clarification about the decisions that the Council could take on the review, noting that the last review had been held in 2017 and there had been changes in the roles and expectations of those Councillors who held positions of responsibility and leadership subsequently as the review noted. It had no further questions on the review of the Scheme.

6 General Fund 2022/23 Budgets and Council Tax

The Committee noted the questions that had been raised in writing by Councillors regarding the Budgets and decision on Council Tax prior to the meeting. Some members expressed concern about the continuing impact of a freeze on Council Tax on the medium-term financial position for the Council. The Committee examined the rationale for the assumptions on inflation, wage increases and other factors, the reserves position, the need for further savings, and noted the financial pressures and risks in the medium-term financial statements, notwithstanding that a balanced budget was being proposed for 2022/23. It also noted the CFO's statement at Appendix 1. Overall, the Committee was satisfied that appropriate statements had been made about the assumptions in the Budgets and MTFs, and in the statements of risk and projections that lay behind the proposals.

7 Housing Revenue Account Rent Setting and Budget 2022/23

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report

9 Net Zero Carbon Development Plan Document

Appendix 4 - Net-Zero Carbon Development Plan Document: Revised Viability Study, a lengthy document, was only circulated late on the day of the meeting. This gave Members of Overview & Scrutiny Committee insufficient time to review it properly. The Committee was informed that the delay was due to unavoidable staff absence. The Director for Climate Change provided a brief verbal summary of the content.

It was explained that Recommendation 3 in the report, that delegated authority should be given to the Head of Place and Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change to make further non-substantive amendments to the draft DPD prior to consultation commencing, meant that Members would have the opportunity to feed through comments once they had

been able to properly review the Appendix. If the changes requested were substantive amendments, then these had to be approved through Cabinet.

The Committee supported the report.

The Committee expressed concern about maintaining the 40% affordable housing commitment when viability was questioned and asked that the Council investigated mechanisms to defend this through the planning process.

13 Decarbonisation of Council Assets

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended that:

- (1) Standards set out by the Government for de-carbonisation and retrofitting and those the Council would apply, should be included within the report.
- (2) The Climate Emergency PAB, within the terms of its remit, be involved more in developing some of the schemes outlined in the report.
- (3) A schedule/plan showing when stages of the process would be implemented, and the expected impact as a result should be produced.

The Cabinet is required to vote on this because it forms a recommendation to it.