

	Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee 31 August 2016	Agenda Item No. 8
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Title	Comments from the Executive
For further information about this report please contact	Amy Carnall 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No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	

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		
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Legal		
Finance		
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 26 July 2016.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the responses made by the Executive be noted, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

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 9 February 2016, the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee considered the items detailed in the appendices. The responses which the Executive gave are also shown.

Responses from the meeting of the Executive held on 27 July 2016 to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's comments

Item no	4	Title	Leisure Development Programme Update
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations but was concerned about the substantial increase in costs. In addition, Members highlighted to the Executive that they would be expecting Mace to make a firm commitment to deliver savings through the Value Engineering Exercises.</p> <p>However, Members were encouraged by the inclusion of the penultimate sentence of paragraph 3.1.3, relating to the standard of the end product and the experience that customers should encounter at the facilities.</p>		
Executive Response	<p>Councillor Coker took the opportunity to thank the Head of Service and her team for their work on this project, and highlighted that the purpose of using the RIBA project process was to ensure that costs were identified at the appropriate stage.</p>		

Item no	5	Title	Budget Review to 30 June 2016
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations and welcomed the inclusion of the detail at paragraph 6.5, relating to the mitigation measures being undertaken to effectively manage the Council's budgets.</p>		
Executive Response	<p>Councillor Whiting took the opportunity to thank the Head of Service and his team for delivering the report and their continued work to balance the budget, and reminded all of the continuing work necessary to ensure that capital repairs could be funded.</p>		

Item no	6	Title	Council Tax Reduction Scheme
Scrutiny Comment	<p>The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations but was concerned about the effectiveness of the consultation scheme, whilst noting that this was a mandatory requirement.</p>		
Executive Response	<p>The Executive agreed with the concerns of the Scrutiny Committee but accepted that at this time the consultation scheme was a requirement that had to be followed.</p>		

Item no	7	Title	Review of Support to Town and Parish Council
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee noted the report and was pleased that the consultation timeframe had been set taking into account the holiday period, with responses being requested by the end of September. Members look forward to the responses coming in.		
Executive Response	The Executive did not respond to this point but did explain that a risk assessment would be undertaken with respect to the cost involved should the relevant Council hand the service back to the District Council. This would be based on the outcome of the response to the consultation.		

Item no	9	Title	Procurement Exemption for WDC Copier Maintenance 2016/17
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation but was very concerned that the procurement process had yet again not been followed. Members requested further information as to whether other contractors had been approached about supplying the maintenance contract and if not, why not. In addition, Members were not content with the risks posed of a 3 month rolling contract & queried why the contract end date had not been flagged up on the contract register - as a result this demonstrated that the processes were not being adhered to.		
Executive Response	The Leader of the Executive explained that, in his opinion, the title of the report had sent hares running. He fully appreciated the work of the officer in ensuring proper procedure was in place. He highlighted paragraphs 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 of the report. That said, he had empathy with the concerns of the Scrutiny Committee but reminded all Councillors that scrutiny needed to scrutinise appropriately and therefore he would be discussing this point with fellow Group Leaders.		

Item no	10	Title	Significant Business Risk Register
Scrutiny Comment	The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.		
Executive Response	There was no comment made by the Executive.		