WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL	**Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 13 November 2012**	**Agenda Item No. 8**

Title	Comments from the Executive
For further information about this report please contact	Lesley Dury, Committee Services Officer, 01926 456114 or 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No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	9 October 2012
Background Papers	Executive Minutes – 10 October 2012

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 *must* be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
	Date	**Name**
Relevant Director		
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 informs the Committee of the response the Executive gave to their comments regarding the reports submitted to the Executive in October.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The responses made by the Executive are noted.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

3.1 This report is produced to create a dialogue between the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It ensures that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are formally made aware of the Executive's responses.

3.2 Where the Overview & Scrutiny Committee have made a recommendation as opposed to a comment the Executive are required to respond to the recommendation(s) made, including whether or not they accept the recommendation(s).

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 This report is not produced and presented to the Committee.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

5.1 All work for the Committee has to be carried out within existing resources.

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 new scrutiny process, the Committee is no longer considering the whole of the Executive agenda.

7.2 On the day of publication of the Executive agenda all Councillors are sent an e-mail asking them to contact Committee Services, by 09.00am on the day of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to advise which Executive items they would like the Committee to consider.

7.3 As a result the Committee considered the items detailed in appendix 1. The response the Executive gave on each item is also shown.

7.4 In reviewing these responses Committee can identify any issues for which they would like a progress report. A future report, for example on how the decision has been implemented, would then be submitted to the Committee at an agreed date which would then be incorporated within the work programme.

Response from the meeting of the Executive on Overview and Scrutiny Committee Comments –
10 October 2012

Item no.	4	**Title**	Fees and Charges 2013/14	**Requested by**	Labour Group
Reason considered	There were questions about the setting of charges, particularly in relation to Parking Services.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee reinforced its previous comments in respect of point 13.1.2 of the report and recommended that residents should receive a concession on the crematorium fees and charges.				
Executive Response	The Leader proposed that the reductions in fees be considered as part of the budget setting process and asked that the Section 151 Officer brought forward details in his December report of the impact on the Council's finances should a £25 concession be granted to local residents for Cremations and removal of the surcharge for former residents in respect of cemeteries. This was accepted by the Executive.				

Item no.	5	**Title**	Use of G4 Powers for Chase Meadow Community Centre Funding	**Requested by**	Labour Group
Reason considered	There were questions about the Council's support for community facilities.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee had no comments or recommendations to make to the Executive in respect of this report.				
Executive Response	Not applicable.				

Item no.	7	**Title**	Outcome of Warwick District Council's Peer Challenge	**Requested by**	Labour Group
Reason considered	This had been an important exercise; there were questions about the report and how some issues raised would be addressed.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Committee was concerned that the proposals in the Action Plan were insufficiently robust to tackle silo working. The Committee would like to see how the Council can develop community forums and clarify their role. It felt that the report did not fully reflect the range of issues relating to community forums and that the Action Plan should include a review of their role, including an assessment of the outcome of the WCC review of their effectiveness. The Committee recommended that the Executive include any necessary				

	proposals to address the highlighted concerns in respect of the capacity to deliver the FFF programme within the Action Plan. If it is not an issue, then there should be a statement saying this.
Executive Response	The Leader thanked the Committee for its comments and explained that there were no capacity issues at present but if councillors became aware of any issues they should report these to senior management. With regard to the community forums it was noted that Warwickshire County Council was currently reviewing community forums and therefore it was probably not the best time to consider the Council's position on these but councillors should share good practice to ensure that the forums in the district could be as effective as possible. The Leader informed the Executive that work was underway to demonstrate the cross portfolio work that was constantly undertaken within the Council and while this was going to be a complicated document it would provide a valuable amount of detail for all.

Item no.	8	**Title**	Review of Planning Committee – Issues Paper	**Requested by**	Labour Group & Lib Dem Group
Reason considered	The Labour Group requested this item as the effectiveness of the Committee is clearly significant for the District; members had other issues to add. The Liberal Democrat Group felt it was discussing the foundation of a significant change.				
Scrutiny Comment	In respect of point 3.6 of the report, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would ask Executive to satisfy itself that the arrangements to engage with external stakeholders are sufficiently to robust to inform the review. The Committee requested that the Executive should satisfy itself that the Planning Committee is sufficiently involved in the Peer Review. Appendix 1 – Attitudes and Behaviours, point 3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that the wording in this point changed to: "What is the cause of the divergence of views between officers and members?"				
Executive Response	The Leader accepted the meaning and intention of the recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee but proposed that this was not included at this stage and instead this response be considered by officers as part of the review.				

Item no.	9	**Title**	Play Area Improvement Programme	**Requested by**	Lib Dem Group
Reason considered	To discuss whether the scope was wide enough for our recreation areas.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.				
Executive Response	The Executive welcomed the support and approved the Play Area Improvement Programme, as set out in Appendix 1 and approved the release of £480,000 provisionally allocated in the Play Area Equipment Renewal Reserve for the refurbishment of existing play areas, drawn over the first five years of the plan.				