WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL	**Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8 May 2013**	**Agenda Item No. 5**

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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No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	16 April 2013
Background Papers	Executive Minutes – 17 April 2013

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 April.

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 –
17 April 2013

Item no.	5	**Title**	Review of Planning Committee – Outcomes of consultation	**Requested by**	Lib Dem Group and Labour Group
Reason considered	The Liberal Democrat Group requested that this item be discussed because it affects all Councillors, and for greater clarification of the role of Ward Councillors in Enforcement matters. The Labour Group requested that this item be discussed because this is clearly a key service of the Council and Members had some comments on the proposals.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended to the Executive that: (i) in respect of recommendation 2.4 in the report, an appropriate budget was set to ensure quality training which should lead to quality decisions. Also substitute members of the Planning Committee must also receive the training; (ii) on recommendation 2.8, the Vice Chairman of Planning Committee should not be paid a special responsibility allowance, and if such an allowance was granted, the Committee was wholly opposed to this being back-dated; (iii) in respect of recommendation 2.9, it should be emphasised that Ward Councillors would still have the power to call in an Enforcement item, and that Ward Councillors must be informed of these in good time to allow this to happen; and (iv) the report should make it clear that the independence of the Planning Committee must be preserved.				
Executive Response	In response, Members discussed the importance of relevant and cost effective training and were agreed that Ward Councillors should remain involved in all planning and enforcement issues that affected their Ward. Some concern was raised regarding the cost of specialist training for Planning Committee and the Chief Executive assured members that this would always aim to be provided en mass to all interested Councillors but highlighted the importance of attendance. He also felt that an independent budget provision could be considered. Overall, Members did not agree with recommendation (iv) from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and felt that the Committee was run with formality and respect. It was recognised that a certain level of commitment was needed to be an effective member of the committee and even more so for the Vice Chairman. The Portfolio Holder for Development Services, Councillor Hammon, hoped that the recommendations would help to modernise the Planning Committee process. Having read the report and considered the comments made by the scrutiny committee, the Executive agreed the recommendations as written with an amendment to recommendation 2.4 to read "training for all members of the Planning Committee and notes that persistent non-				

	attendance will result in a Member being barred from sitting on that Committee". Months previously, it had been agreed by Councillors that the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee should be given an allowance but it had not been implemented whilst the Planning Review was on-going. It was agreed that the latter part of recommendation 2.8 should be removed because it was agreed that the Special Responsibility Allowance should not be backdated but introduced from the start of the forthcoming municipal year, in May 2013.

Item no.	7	**Title**	The Way Forward for the Local Plan	**Requested by**	Lib Dem Group
Reason considered	The Liberal Democrat Group requested that this item be discussed in order to get a better idea of the cause of the delays to the Plan, and the implication of these delays on planning applications and appeals. Also to determine exactly how The District Council can ensure that its Local Plan is not unduly effected by Coventry City Council's requirements.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee accepted the recommendations in the report. It emphasised strongly that the co-operation between the District Council and Coventry City Council must be as open and transparent as possible to help ensure a good solid Local Plan. It is important that the position regarding the shared Head of Planning between the two Authorities is understood by members and the public. The Committee also stressed that all relevant parties should be consulted, and these would include the LEP and City Deal.				
Executive Response	The Executive agreed that the process should be as open and transparent as possible and felt that work done so far had been.				

Item no.	12 A	**Title**	Rural / Urban Capital Improvement Scheme	**Requested by**	Lib Dem Group
Reason considered	The Liberal Democrat Group requested that this item be discussed because of its importance to community groups around the district.				
Scrutiny Comment	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Finance works with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to obtain a cross-party view to produce the scheme.				
Executive Response	This item was withdrawn from the agenda.				