

**Response from the meeting of the Executive on Overview and Scrutiny Committee Comments – 29 September 2010**

<b>Item no.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Requested by</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Comment to Executive</b>	<b>Executive Response</b>
4	Fit for the Future	<p>The Labour Group</p> <p>The Liberal Democrat Group</p>	<p>Members looked forward to the presentation and had many questions about the important developments. There was a lack of detail on implementation. It was felt that the ideas of Lean Systems Thinking were based on individual customer experiences, while the Sustainable Community Strategy had key priorities for the District as a whole; it was not yet clear how the proper consideration of both would be co-ordinated and prioritised. Clearer reporting about changes to services was needed.</p> <p>Because of its importance to the workings of the Council and to the Community as a whole.</p>	<p>The Committee asked that the report be changed so that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be included in under the 'Managing the Programme' section of the report. Some members felt that the Annual Governance Statement (2009/2010) Action Plan was not very clear and that it was not easy to identify the priorities or time scales for the portfolio holders.</p>	<p>The Executive thanked Overview and Scrutiny for their comments and agreed that there was no issue with adding the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Managing the Programme section. It was also discussed that there was a new emphasis on the Service Area Plans being more customer focused rather than stating Portfolio Holder targets.</p>

5	Regional and Sub-Regional Working	The Labour Group	Members had questions about the proposed new arrangements including provision of involvement of elected Members (other than the Leaders) and the possibilities of looking at Shared services with other authorities sub-regionally.	Some members of the Committee felt that there should be more member involvement in any regional and sub-regional structure.	The Executive thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their comments.
6	Joint Working Committee with Stratford DC	The Labour Group	Members had questions, and concerns about the Joint Committee in the form proposed, given the proposal that Stratford would become a 'preferred partner' for all services and the Committee would have very wide powers to pass or alter the programme and approve employment terms.	The Committee were not happy with the recommendations in the report, and pointed out that a decision had already been made to allow the Council to make any decision and not a joint working party. They had concerns that it would be unconstitutional for Executive to agree with the recommendations following the decision already made at a previous meeting.	The Executive thanked the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their comments and in response, advised that these decisions should be taken by Council and not a Joint Working Party. They also suggested that the composition of the initial working party should remain the same.
7	Oakley Woods	The Liberal Democrat Group	Because of their concern about the considerable delay on this issue.	The Committee were concerned about the delays set out in the report and asked that in future all departments involved work closely together to stop mistakes or delays being made.	The Executive thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their comments.

8	Core Strategy	The Labour Group	Members were pleased to see a timetable for progress in this important matter but had questions including about the evidence being examined in preparing new strategy, the consultation process and the provision of strategic direction to officers.	The Committee felt there was a need to consult with all sections of the communities within Warwick District and that a debate should be held between Councillors to decide on the best approach on engaging and consulting with communities.	The Executive thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their comments.
		The Liberal Democrat Group	Because of its importance to the District and the potential risks.		
10	Free Swimming	The Labour Group	Since the issue was to be debated at Council on the 20 <sup>th</sup> October, members felt a decision should be deferred until the arguments had been properly heard. Members noted in particular under 16 attendance had risen significantly during the offer period	The Committee were in favour of this scheme continuing and the possibility of charging £1 per session for under 16's. However they felt that the decision should be deferred until a full debate could take place at Council where there would be young people present who could also make comments. The Committee did not think a decision should be rushed into as there was a good amount of time before it had to be made.	The Executive thanked the Scrutiny Committee for their comments. In response to the request for figures, officers reported that the cost for continuing the free swimming services for under 16's only would be £119k and the cost for charging under 16's £1/swim would be £50k. Therefore, members felt that neither of these suggestions were financially viable in the current climate.
		The Liberal Democrat Group	Because of their concern about losing the gains made in reaching the under 16'		

