

FINANCE & AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S COMMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 23 JUNE 2010

ITEM No.	TITLE	REQUESTED BY	COMMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE
4	Final Accounts 2009/10	Chair	<p>Expressed considerable concern that there had been such a significant variance, even though it had been favourable. Sought reassurances from officers that budget monitoring would be significantly tightened up in future so that such high variants did not occur again. Requested a presentation on support services budget monitoring to the next meeting. Requested a paper on how the council will provide a more robust system for budget monitoring.</p> <p>Additional recommendation, that every relevant manager must be subject to a skills assessment and, where appropriate, receive financial training within the next twelve months.</p>	F&A's recommendation was declined but the intent behind it was incorporated into an amendment to recommendation (g) in the report.
6	Capital Programme and Capital Financing	Chair	Supported recommendations, but reiterated the importance of reviewing as soon as possible WDC's capital priorities & the level of provision of the Council's services. Requested a report on these issues as soon as was practicably possible. Also wished to be informed of whether housing capital receipts would continue to be used solely to finance the Housing Investment Programme (HIP).	Noted the comments but were mindful that timescales for the review had to be practicable to enable the work to completed, therefore the deadline for reporting the requirements from Service Areas on the Equipments Renewals Programme would be moved from 30 July 2010 to 30 September 2010. Confirmed that Housing Capital receipts would continue to be used to finance HIP.

9	Scrutiny of Partnerships	Chair	Supported the amended recommendations in the report. Agreed that members serving on boards on behalf of the Council should report to the Council annually.	Noted the comments.
10	Council Housing – A Real Future	Chair	Supported recommendations, but felt there was a need for government to provide greater clarity on possible effects of the proposal on the Council, its finances & tenants. Wanted government guarantees that there would be no changes mid-stream, or that no changes would occur outside of a prescribed set of circumstances, & wanted government to demonstrate it had considered alternatives, including smaller levels of borrowing. Felt that WDC should be reserved in responding in order to get the best out of the government.	Executive were mindful of F&A's concerns but felt that there was a need to respond in this manner at this stage.
16	S106 Contribution in Lieu of Affordable Housing for the Woodward's Development at 94-96 The Parade, Leamington Spa	Chair	Expressed concerned that WDC should not be seen as a soft target, but recognised that the issue had been handled well & supported the recommendations in the report.	Noted F&A's comments but were of the opinion that in this instance there was no alternative option for the Council.
Urgent Item	Wilton House Site Sale	Chair	Considered the report, was given details of best and worst case scenarios, received a verbal summary of advice taken by officers in relation to the sale, and supported the recommendations.	No response given.