WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee – 27 October 2010

Subject: Annual Efficiency Statement 2009/2010

1.   Purpose

1.1   The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with a copy of the annual efficiency statement for 2009/2010 prepared by the Council and to provide an update on the aggregated national position with regard to efficiencies achieved by Local Government.

2.   Background

2.1   From 2006/07 onwards there has been a requirement for all local authorities to produce an annual efficiency statement which identifies cashable and non cashable efficiencies achieved during the year.

2.2   The annual efficiency statement details progress in the five main workstreams (absence management, asset management, procurement, customer first and shared services) and identifies efficiencies achieved by delivering services more efficiently. Efficiencies are mainly identified during the budget process and can only be claimed if there is no adverse impact on the level or quality of service being provided.

3.   Main Issues

3.1   The statement for West Dunbartonshire Council for 2009/2010 was produced within the specified timescale and reported £2.2m of cashable savings and £1m of non cashable savings. Many of these savings were planned within the corporate budget process and made a major contribution towards allowing the Council to absorb a number of budget pressures.

3.2   The statement for West Dunbartonshire Council for 2009/2010 was provided to COSLA by 16 August 2010 to allow time for them to consider and amalgamate the total efficiencies in advance of their submission to the Scottish Government.

3.3   In total local government has reported £305.9m of cashable efficiencies during financial year 2009-2010 compared with Scottish Government's target of £174.7m. Councils also achieved £19.7m non cashable efficiencies over the same period.

3.4   While some performance and efficiency targets are included within medium term corporate financial plans, further work is required to fully embed and monitor this process throughout the Council.

3.5   Members' attention is drawn to paragraph 6.1 of the statement which outlines the key areas to be targeted for efficiencies in 2010/2011.

3.6 Work is progressing regarding populating this statement for 2010/2011. All savings options and management adjustments applied during the budget processes are being reviewed and, if appropriate and valid, categorised into the relevant efficient government theme. The next stage of work will be to supplement this detail with additional information arising out of Best Value Reviews and other initiatives.

3.7 Efficiency statements should be published separately from the annual accounts and it is proposed that the efficiency statement will be published on the Council's website.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no personnel implications.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There was no requirement to carry out a risk analysis.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

7.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report.

8. Conclusions & Officers' Recommendations

8.1 The Council's efficiency statement for 2009/2010 was produced within the timescale imposed by CoSLA and produced £2.2m of cashable savings and £1m of non cashable savings.

8.2 The Committee is asked to note the efficiency gains achieved by the Council in the efficiency statement for 2009/2010 as detailed in appendix 1 of the statement.

8.3 Endorse the key areas to be targeted for efficiencies in 2010/2011 as detailed in section 6 of the statement.

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Date: 4 October 2010

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Appendix: Efficiency Statement 2009/2010

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: None