

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education & Lifelong Learning Committee: 14th March 2012

Subject: 2011-12 Revenue Estimates – Budgetary Control Report for the Period 10 (1 April 2011 to 31 January 2012)

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report provides Members with the latest information on expenditure and income to date within the Educational Services approved probable for 2011-12.

2. Background

- 2.1** Reports submitted to the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee reflect the latest financial period for which information is available. This report covers the period from 1st April 2011 to 31st January 2012.
- 2.2** The original budget approved by members on 9th February 2011, has now been superseded with the Probable Outturn, as noted in the draft budget book presented to Members on the 14 December 2011.
- 2.3** This budget monitoring report therefore compares approved probable, with actual income and expenditure to date, as will remaining reports for 2011/12.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** There is an overall favourable variance of £144,840 which equates to 0.19% of the probable to date.
- 3.2** The attached appendices provide the following information for the period 10 from 1 April 2011 to 31 January 2012:
- (a) Total expenditure and income against probable, by type of expenditure (e.g. Employee Costs) and service area (e.g. Schools – Primary) are shown in **Appendices A, B and C**,
- 3.3** The most significant variances by **service area** are as follows:

Primary Schools – £39,348 Favourable

The main reason for the favourable variance is that the income from Sale of Meals is expected to be greater than anticipated for the year. Schools meals income can vary throughout the financial year and from one financial year to the next. In addition the cover costs for teachers are anticipated to be lower than originally budgeted. Cover is a reactive budget and varies from month to

month and can also vary from year to year. Cover is provided for many reasons, illness and maternity cover being the main reasons. This has been a milder winter so far compared to last year and this can be a contributing factor on cover required as there may be fewer incidences of illness during milder winters.

Secondary Schools - £32,313 Favourable

The main reason for the favourable variance is due to the income from Sale of Meals. Schools meals income can vary throughout the financial year and from one year to the next. Income received from Private Parties is expected to be greater than anticipated for the year. The majority of this income comes from school lets for pitches etc. and the up take on lets is higher than originally anticipated. This is a demand led service and therefore the up take can increase as well as decrease both throughout the year and from one year to the next. The milder weather may also have had a positive effect on leases this financial year.

Special Schools - £37,010 Favourable

The main reason for the favourable variance is a decrease in the number of children placed in residential care. This is partly offset by an increase in the number of children attending day placements and in the number of children placed by West Dunbartonshire with other local authorities. This is a demand led service and therefore the up take can increase as well as decrease both throughout the year and from one year to the next. Catering recharges are also less than anticipated.

Psychological Services - £35,730 Favourable

The main reason for the favourable variance is an under spend on staff cost due to an Assistant Psychologist post not been filled and one employee leaving the Superannuation Pension Scheme during the year.

4. People Implications

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The overall favourable variance as reported is £144,840 favourable.
- 5.2** Management action where possible will continue to be taken to ensure spend is contained in line with the probable outturn.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** The present variance should be viewed in the knowledge that there are a number of variable factors which could arise between now and 31 March and which could affect the year end results.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.1** No significant equalities issues were identified in relation to this report.

8. Strategic Assessment

- 8.1** The report is for noting and, therefore, does not directly affect any of the strategic priorities.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1** The report has compared year to date expenditure and income with the approved probable to date for Educational Services.
- 9.2** As stated at 3.1, there is an overall favourable variance of £144,840 or 0.19% of the probable to date.
- 9.3** Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

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Appendices: **Appendix A** Total expenditure and income against probable outturn, by type of expenditure

Appendix B Total expenditure and income against probable outturn, by service area

Appendix C Breakdown of expenditure and income against probable outturn, by service area

Background papers:	None
Wards affected:	All Wards