

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee : 27 January 2010

Subject : Corporate Services Budgetary Control Report : Period 8 2009/10

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the performance of the Corporate Services budget for the period to 15 December 2009.

2. Background

- 2.1** At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 12 February 2009, Members agreed the revenue estimates for 2009/2010. A total net budget of £11.578m was approved for the Corporate Services Department.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The summary report brings out a favourable variance to date (underspend) of £0.317m (3.04%).
- 3.2** There are four main favourable variances highlighted in the report:
- 3.2.1** Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services (£0.047m) – this variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies offset by lower than anticipated legal fees being received.
- 3.2.2** Licensing – Licensing Board (0.048m) – this variance is mainly due to higher than anticipated income being received.
- 3.2.3** Housing benefits/council tax benefits (£0.189m) – this variance is mainly due to the level of staffing vacancies held at present and the notification of additional income due to the Council.
- 3.2.4** Rent rebates and allowances (£0.193m) - this variance is mainly due to allowances being less than anticipated, offset partially by government funding on a proportionate basis.
- 3.3** There are four main adverse variances highlighted in the report:
- 3.3.1** Environmental Health (£0.026m) – due to lower than anticipated income from services performed, partially offset by a general reduction in supplies and services and transport costs.
- 3.3.2** Cost of collection of rates (£0.035m) – due to the collection levels, the statutory additional income is less than the level budgeted.
- 3.3.3** Cost of collection of council tax (£0.026m) - due to the collection levels, the statutory additional income is less than the level budgeted, together with additional software maintenance fees.

3.3.4 Human resources & Organisational Development (£0.094m) – due to the centralisation of the actual cost of Occupational Health. This will result in savings within other departments, where the original budget is held. Net effect on the corporate budget is nil.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

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. Conclusions and Officers' Recommendations

7.1 There is a favourable variance of £0.317m in the Corporate Services departmental budget to date.

7.2 This report is submitted for Committee's consideration and comment.

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Date: 11 January 2010

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Appendix: Corporate Services Department - Budgetary Control Report Period 8

Background Papers: General Services Revenue Estimates and Council Tax –
Report to Council 12 February 2009
Budget Book 2009/10
Ledger prints – Period 8

Wards Affected: All Wards