

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services
Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee: 20 April 2011

Subject : Corporate Services Budgetary Control Report : Period 11 2010/11

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 28 February 2011.

2. Background

- 2.1** At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 28 January 2010, Members agreed the revenue estimates for 2010/2011. At that time, a total net budget of £11.390m was approved for the Corporate Services Department.
- 2.2** Between 28 January and 31 December there have been a number of restructures and budget reviews (e.g. targeted restructure savings, pay award, spending freeze, special Council meeting decisions) within the Council, which have been completed, quantified and budgets adjusted. The current annual departmental budget now stands at £10.428m.
- 2.3** A probable outturn of £10.204m was reported to Members on 21 December 2010. This indicated an underspend from the revised budget of £0.224m within Corporate Services.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The Appendix notes the annual probable outturn and a comparison of the phased outturn against the actual spend to date on the departmental budgets.
- 3.2** The summary report brings out a favourable variance to date (underspend) of £0.300m (3%).
- 3.3** There are six main variances highlighted in the report –

Cultural Services - £32,252 Favourable

This favourable variance is due to the restriction on non – essential spend

Licensing – Licensing Board - £26,807 Favourable

This favourable variance is due to a higher than anticipated number of applications for premises licences.

Environmental Health - £85,585 Favourable

This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies currently held, together with savings anticipated on payments to other bodies (through dog kennelling & public analyst, which are both demand led budgets).

Finance - £35,483 Favourable

This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies currently held

ICT and Business Development - £30,674 Favourable

This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies currently held being higher than anticipated during the probable exercise and savings now anticipated on software maintenance and licences due to management review and action.

Human Resources and OD - £63,816 Favourable

This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies currently held together with reductions in spending on both training equipment / materials and star awards .

- 3.3 Appendix 2 details the period 11 budgetary control position in relation to cultural activities of the Council.

4. People Implications

- 4.1 There are no people implications.

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. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8.1 There is a favourable variance against probable of £0.300m in the Corporate Services departmental budget, which is in addition to the identified £ 0.224m in the probable outturn .
- 8.2 This report is submitted for Committee's consideration and comment.

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Date: 28 March 2011

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Appendix: 1: Corporate Services Department - Budgetary Control Period 11
2: Summary of cultural Activity – Period 11

Background Papers: General Services Revenue Estimates and Council Tax –
Report to Council 21 December 2010
Budget Book 2011/2
Ledger prints – Period 11

Wards Affected: All Wards