

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services**

**Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee : 25 February 2009**

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**Subject : Corporate Services Budgetary Control Report : Period 9 2008/09**

#### **1. Purpose**

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

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 14 February 2008, Members agreed the revenue estimates for 2008/2009. A total net budget of £10.652m was approved for the Corporate Services Department. Due to corporate burdens identified to date and controllable savings targets to be met by each department, Corporate Services has a revised net budget being monitored at period 9 of £10.573m.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** The summary report brings out a favourable variance to date (underspend) of £0.042m (0.39%).
- 3.2** There are a number of variances identified at this stage:
- 3.2.1** Legal and Administration has an adverse variance of £0.028m mainly due to the downturn in the property market resulting in reduced legal fee income from property transactions. This is partially offset by salary savings due to higher than anticipated turnover.
- 3.2.2** Office accommodation has an adverse variance of £0.072m arising mainly from the higher than inflationary increases in the costs of heating oil and electricity.
- 3.2.3** The Licensing Board identifies a favourable variance of £0.088m. Under new Licensing legislation, all existing premises require to apply for new licences, resulting in a one-year increase in fee income.
- 3.2.4** Finance Service identifies an adverse variance to date of £0.040m mainly due to issues surrounding staffing turnover and higher than anticipated postages. The staffing variance requires to be viewed with contra favourable staffing variances elsewhere within the Finance & ICT Service.
- 3.2.5** Cost of collection of rates and council tax both highlight adverse variances of £0.057m and £0.038m respectively, mainly due to a reduction in statutory additions being collected.
- 3.2.6** Housing benefit/council tax benefit identifies a favourable variance of £0.072m mainly due to vacancies.

**3.2.7** Rent rebates and allowances identify a favourable variance of £0.081m to date due to allowances being less than anticipated, offset partially by government income on a proportionate basis.

**3.2.8** ICT has a favourable variance of £0.038m due to staff vacancies.

**3.2.9** Personnel identifies an adverse variance of £0.030m mainly due to issues surrounding staffing turnover.

#### **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**

**7.1** There is a favourable variance of £0.042m in the Corporate Services departmental budget to date.

#### **8. Recommendation**

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

**Joyce White**  
**Executive Director of Corporate Services**  
**Date: 12 February 2009**

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**Wards Affected:** All Wards

**Appendix:** Corporate Services Department - Budgetary Control Report  
Period 9

**Background Papers:** General Services Revenue Estimates and Council Tax –  
Report to Council 12 February 2008  
Budget Book 2008/09  
Ledger prints – Period 9

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