

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee: 22 December 2010

Subject : Corporate Services Budgetary Control Report : Period 7 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 31 October 2010.

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 August, there have been a number of restructures and budget reviews (e.g. targeted restructure savings, pay award, spending freeze) within the Council, some of which have been completed, quantified and budgets adjusted. The current annual departmental budget now stands at £11.835m. There are a number of further adjustments which will require to be made, as and when further restructures are agreed.
- 2.3 At the Special Council meeting on 14 October 2010, a number of savings were agreed for the 2011/12 budget, some of which have an impact on the 2010/11 budget. This report takes account of these savings.
- 2.4 At the Committee meeting on 25 August 2010, Members asked for further information to be appended to future reports, giving an update on the Cultural Activities of the Council.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The summary report brings out a favourable variance to date (underspend) of £0.146m (2.33%).
- 3.2 There are seven main variances highlighted in the report –
- a. Cultural Services - £44,987 Favourable
This favourable variance is due to the spending freeze.
 - b. Legal and Administration - £35,064 Favourable
This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies currently held.
 - c. Environmental Health - £55,767 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).

- d. Finance - £89,422 Favourable
This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies currently held.
- e. Cost of Collection of Council Tax - £134,025 Adverse
This adverse variance is due to the reduction in statutory additions anticipated, caused by (and offset by) a better than forecast council tax collection rate, together with a smaller top-up for bad debt provisions likely at the year end.
- f. Rent Rebates and Allowances - £72,753 Adverse
This adverse variance is due to an increase in the number of cases being dealt with, thus increasing spend. Spend is only partially funded from the Council's General Services budget.
- g. Human Resources and OD - £52,951 Favourable
This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies currently held.

3.3 Appendix 2 details the period 7 position on 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 Impact Assessment

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 of £0.146m in the Corporate Services departmental budget to date.

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

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Date: 23 November 2010

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Appendix: 1: Corporate Services Department - Budgetary Control Period 7
2: Summary of cultural Activity – Period 7

Background Papers: General Services Revenue Estimates and Council Tax –
Report to Council 28 January 2010
Budget Book 2010/11
Ledger prints – Period 7

Wards Affected: All Wards