

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
Report by Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services
Council: 25 January 2012

Subject: General Services Revenue Budgetary Control Report: Period 8 (2011/12)

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the performance of the General Services revenue budget for the period to 30 November 2011.

2. Background

- 2.1 At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 9 February 2011, Members agreed the revenue estimates for 2011/12. A total net budget of £239.517m was approved.
- 2.2 At the Council meeting on 15 December 2011, the draft budget book 2012/13 was presented to Members, highlighting likely spend by the year end of £237.150m (indicating a forecast in-year surplus of £2.367m).
- 2.3 As per normal practice, the contingency fund forms part of the overall probable outturn review and is now held within the forecast surplus of £2.367m (noted in 2.2).
- 2.4 This report covers service expenditure and loan charges, which are projected at £210.564m. The balance of the budget comprises of requisitions, which are outwith the Council's control.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The summary report brings out a favourable variance (underspend) of £0.274m (0.2% of the phased probable).
- 3.2 At this time, the calculation of savings associated with the staff strike on 30 November 2011 has not been completed. At this stage savings have not been included within the report. Any savings attributed to the strike will be in addition to the current underspend of £0.274m and the probable underspend of £2.367m.
- 3.3 Notes on variances in excess of £25,000 are attached. The report collates a large amount of information and if any Member wishes further details on any of the variances, it would be appreciated if contact could be made with the undernoted officer prior to the Council meeting.
- 3.4 Although the report indicates that expenditure is favourable in comparison to that anticipated during the budget exercise, 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.

4. People Implications

- 4.1 There are no people implications.

5 Financial implications

- 5.1** As at 30 November 2011, the Council's General Services revenue budget identified a £0.274m underspend against probable. This is in addition to the £2.367m underspend within the probable outturn and excluding savings in relation to the recent strike.

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 issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of 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 identifies a favourable variance against probable of £0.274m for the period to the end of November 2011, in addition to the forecast probable underspend of £2.367m.
- 9.2** This report is submitted for consideration and comment.

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Date: 11 January 2012

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Appendix: 1: Budgetary Control Report Period 7
2: Variance Analysis

Background papers: Ledger Output
Revenue Estimates 2011/12

Wards affected: All