

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services
Council – 15 December 2010

Subject : General Services Revenue Budgetary Control Report : Period 7 (2010/11)

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 31 October 2010.

2. Background

- 2.1** At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 28 January 2010, Members agreed the revenue estimates for 2010/11. A total net budget of £249.179m was approved.
- 2.2** This report covers service expenditure and loan charges, which are budgeted at £219.446m. The balance of the budget comprises of requisitions, which are outwith the Council's control.
- 2.3** To date, departmental budgets have been adjusted for a number of items during the year, including transfers of expenditure due to restructures, spending freeze targets, etc. However, the consolidated budget report for period 7 still allocates the annual spend of £219.446m (per 2.2 above)
- 2.4** The report notes the budgetary position as at 31 October 2010 and, as such, takes into account the part year effect from Council decisions on 14 October 2010. The anticipated savings have now been transferred to the contingency fund.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The summary report brings out a favourable variance (underspend) of £0.558m (0.44% of the phased budget).
- 3.2** It has been agreed with the Pension authority to repay the outstanding balance of strain on the fund costs during 2010/11, which will reduce the General Services annual budget in 2010/11 onwards (£0.850m held within 2010/11 Sundry Services). The revenue position (as noted in 3.1) takes account of the year-to-date position in respect of this additional payment.
- 3.3** The contingency fund year to date position has been reviewed and is now phased into the current revenue position.
- 3.4** 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.

- 3.5 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 At 31 October 2010, the Council's revenue budget was showing a £0.558m underspend against budget.

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

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

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8.1 The report identifies a favourable variance against budget of £0.558m which will primarily be used to repay the outstanding balance on strain on the fund costs.
- 8.2 This report is submitted for consideration and comment.

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Joyce White
Executive Director of Corporate Services
Date: 30 November 2010

Person to Contact: Gillian McNeilly, Manager of Accounting, Garshake Road.
Telephone: (01389) 737194.
Email: gillian.mcneilly@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendix: Budgetary Control Report Period 7
Variance Analysis

Background papers: Ledger Output
Revenue Estimates 2010/11

Wards affected: All