

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Council – 31 October 2007

**Subject : General Services Revenue Budgetary Control Report : Period 5
(2007/08)**

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 15 September 2007.

2. Background

2.1 At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 8 February 2007, Members agreed the revenue estimates for 2007/08. A total net budget of £213.583m was approved.

2.2 This report covers service expenditure and loan charges, which are budgeted at £179.603m. 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 an adverse variance (overspend) of £0.027m (0.04% of the phased budget).

3.2 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.

3.3 Action has been taken by the Corporate Management Team to improve the forecast financial position in the current year by introducing a departmental supplies and services efficiency target. The new insurance contract identifies a saving during this year for General Services. Both are identified within the Contingency Fund noted within the appendices. The balance in the Contingency Fund is required to offset the increased cost of the single status provision as reported to Council on the 27 June 2007.

3.4 Although the report indicates that expenditure is broadly in line with 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. Personnel Implications

4.1 There are no personnel implications.

5. Financial implications

5.1 At 15 September 2007, the Council's revenue budget was showing a £0.027m overspend against budget and action has been implemented by the Corporate Management Team to help rectify this.

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. Conclusion

7.1 The report identifies an adverse variance against budget of £0.027m. The Corporate Management Team has taken action to improve the financial position of the budget. However, the position will be kept under review and further action will be introduced if required.

8. Recommendation

8.1 **This report is submitted for consideration and comment.**

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 22 October 2007

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Appendix: Budgetary Control Report Period 5

Variance Analysis

Background papers: Ledger Output
Revenue Estimates 2007/08

Wards affected: All