

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services
Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee : 24 March 2010

Subject : Corporate Services Budgetary Control Report : Period 10 2009/10

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 15 February 2010.

2. Background

2.1 At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 12 February 2009, Members agreed the revenue estimates for 2009/2010. A total net budget of £11.578m was approved for the Corporate Services Department. This budget was subsequently reduced due to the imposed spending restrictions (to £11.450m)

2.2 A revised budget (probable outturn) of £11.057m was reported to Members on 27 January 2010. This indicated an underspend from original budget of £0.521m within Corporate Services.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The Appendix notes the annual probable outturn and a comparison of the phased probable outturn against the actual spend to date on the departmental budgets.

3.2 The summary report brings out a favourable variance to date (underspend) of £0.165m (1.27% of the phased probable outturn).

3.3 There are three main favourable variances highlighted in the report:

3.3.1 Environmental Health (£0.037m) – This variance is mainly due to lower than anticipated payment to the public analyst service.

3.3.2 Housing benefits/council tax benefits (£0.058m) – this variance is due to the level of staffing vacancies which continue to be held.

3.3.3 Human Resources & Organisational Development (£0.029m) – this variance is due to staffing vacancies which also continue to be held.

3.3.4 There are a number of further underspends being identified within services which are mainly due to the ongoing management action in relation to the current spending freeze.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct 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

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

8. Conclusions Recommendations

8.1 There is a favourable variance against probable of £0.165m in the Corporate Services department, which is in addition to the £0.521m identified in the probable outturn.

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

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Date: 5 March 2010

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Appendix: Corporate Services Department - Budgetary Control Report Period 10

Background Papers: General Services Revenue Estimates and Council Tax –
Report to Council 12 February 2009
Budget Book 2009/10
Ledger prints – Period 10

Wards Affected: All Wards