

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services**  
**Council – 24 March 2010**

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**Subject : General Services Revenue Budgetary Control Report : Period 10 (2009/10)**

**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 February 2010.

**2. Background**

2.1 At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 12 February 2009, Members agreed the revenue estimates for 2009/10. A total net budget of £243.941m was approved.

2.2 A revised budget (probable outturn) was reported to Members on 27 January 2010. This indicated a corporate underspend of £0.162m from original budget. This underspend assumes the £1m targeted savings from the spending freeze in place is met and the increased income anticipated from the revised sales, fees and charges is received. It does not take account of any additional spend necessary due to the recent weather conditions.

2.3 This report covers service expenditure and loan charges, which are now expected to be £208.787m. The balance of the budget comprises of requisitions, which are outwith the Council's control.

**3. Main Issues**

3.1 Appendix 1 notes the annual probable outturn and a comparison of the phased probable outturn against the actual spend to date on the departmental budgets, with Appendix 2 detailing explanation of the variances identified in excess of £25,000.

3.2 The summary report brings out a favourable variance (underspend) of £0.529m (0.3% of the phased probable outturn). When the current position is projected forward to the year end, the annual underspend against probable is likely to be £0.760m.

3.3 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 slightly lower than that anticipated during the recent budget update 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. This position is being closely monitored by the Corporate Management Team and corrective action will be taken, if necessary, to bring expenditure into line with the budget.

**4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** There are no personnel issues.

**5. Financial implications**

**5.1** At 15 February 2010, the Council's revenue budget was showing a £0.529m underspend against probable outturn, estimated to be £0.760m by the year end.

**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 probable of £0.529m (or estimated to the year end at £0.760m), which is in addition to the £0.162m identified in the probable outturn. This position will continue to be closely monitored by the Corporate Management Team and corrective action will be taken to bring expenditure into line with the probable outturn as necessary.

**8.2** The analysis within this report is submitted for consideration and comment.

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**Joyce White**  
**Executive Director of Corporate Services**  
**Date: 10 March 2010**

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**Appendix:** 1 Budgetary Control Report Period 10  
2 Variance Analysis

**Background papers:** Ledger Output  
Revenue Estimates 2009/10

**Wards affected:** All