

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Officer - Resources

Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee:
6 November 2024

Subject: Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Revenue Budgetary Control Report 2024/25 to Period 5 (30 August 2024)

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the revenue financial performance to 30 August 2024 of those services under the auspices of the Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee (IRED).

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i) note the contents of this report showing the revenue budget forecast to overspend against budget by £1.856m (14.60%) at the year-end taking into account that this is subject to change.

3. Background

Revenue

- 3.1 At the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on 6 March 2024, Members agreed the revenue estimates for 2024/25. A total net budget of £14.722m was approved for IRED services. The budget has been reduced to reflect the decrease in Strathclyde pension fund contributions in the year. This budget has been vired to a central reserve to be used to balance the budget over the next four years as agreed at the Council meeting on 6 March 2024.

	£m
Starting Position (including Office Accommodation)	14.722
Removal of Office Accommodation Budget from IRED as included within Corporate Services	-0.924
Adjust for Central Support Allocation as accounted for centrally	-0.147
Adjust for Revenue Support Grant which is accounted for centrally	0.580
Superannuation Saving	-1.517
Revised Budget	12.714

4. Main Issues

Revenue Budget

- 4.1 The current budgetary position is summarised in Appendix 1. A more detailed analysis by service is given in Appendix 2.
- 4.2 Of the 14 services monitored 4 are showing either a favourable or nil variance, with 7 services showing an adverse variance. Comments are shown in Appendix 3 when there are projected net annual variances greater than £0.050m and also where the net variance is below £0.050m but there are offsetting variances of over £0.050m within the service.
- 4.3 Appendix 1 shows the probable outturn for the services at £14.570m. As the annual budget is £12.714m there is currently a projected adverse variance for the year of £1.856m.
- 4.4 As reported to the IRED Committee on 14 August a working group has been established to review where any anticipated overspends can be reduced and where there may be the option for additional income generation.

The working group have developed an action plan to identify controllable forecast overspend and reduce this as much as possible. This has included a review of the roads capital programme to reduce spend on materials and plant, a move to essential safety spend only in relation to revenue works and a review of capital recharges. In relation to waste services there has been a review of anticipated income, vehicle spend and tonnage. A wider review of recharging continues within Transport and Fleet.

Further reduction in spend is anticipated as the action plan is delivered and will be reported to future IRED committees.

- 4.5 Appendix 4 to the report summarises the current position against the saving options agreed by council as part of setting the 2024/25 budget.

5. People Implications

- 5.1 There are no people implications.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Other than the financial position noted above, there are no financial implications of the budgetary control report. Officers are currently reviewing budgets and projections with a view to improving the position by financial year end and progress will be highlighted in future reports to committee.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1 The present variances 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.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 The report is for noting and therefore no Equalities Impact Assessment was completed for this report.

9 Consultation

9.1 The views of both Finance and Legal services have been requested on this report and both have advised there are neither any issues nor concerns with the proposal. As the report is for noting no further consultation is envisaged.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 Proper budgetary control and sound financial practice are cornerstones of good governance and support Council and officers to pursue the five strategic priorities of the Council's Strategic Plan. This report forms part of the financial governance of the Council. This report is for noting and, therefore, does not directly affect any of the strategic priorities.

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Date: 1 October 2024

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Summary Budgetary Position (Revenue)
Appendix 2– Detailed Budgetary Position (Revenue)
Appendix 3 – Variance Analysis (Revenue)
Appendix 4 – Efficiencies & Management Adjustments

Background Papers: None
Wards Affected: All

