

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee : 30 September 2009

Subject : Financial Strategy 2009/10 to 2018/19

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the Council's Financial Strategy 2009/10 to 2018/19.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council has historically considered the revenue and capital finances (both for HRA and general services) relatively short term. The strategy provides the Council with a foundation on which to develop its longer term vision.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The strategy provides information - in a local and national context – on financial issues affecting both funding for the Council and its anticipated spend. It provides information on estimated revenue and capital balances (both for general services and HRA) to 2013/14.
- 3.2 The strategy also provides information in relation to treasury management, covering levels of debt and investments, together with average interest rates thereon. This should be considered in addition to the annual treasury strategy reported to Council prior to the start of each financial year.
- 3.3 It notes policies and specific strategies adhered to by the Council to ensure adequate financial controls are in place.
- 3.4 It identifies short, medium and longer term issues– strategic and operational – with action plans to minimise any such risks.
- 3.5 To provide clear and consistent direction for the organisation, the following objectives have been identified for the financial strategy:
- all key strategic decisions on the allocation and deployment of resources are made within the appropriate financial context, with due regard to levels of risk;
 - Members are able to take full account of the impact of decisions on the overall financial resources of the Council in the short, medium and long term;
 - the Council has flexibility to address new policy requirements, or significant changes to existing policies, within overall available financial resources;

- resources are invested effectively, efficiently and on sustainable basis;
- there is a significant improvement in the delivery of major projects;
- there is an ongoing focus on securing efficiencies across the organisation;
- there is an increased level of understanding on behalf of the wider community with regard to the finances of the Council.

3.6 The Council has consulted with key stakeholders during the development of this strategy, including CMT, external auditors (KPMG), Senior Manager Network and the Strategic Finance Working Group.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 In preparation of this report, there are no direct financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 The strategy notes a number of risks associated with local government finance and the forward planning of the Council's financial circumstances. It identifies action to minimise any such risks. The financial information will require to be reviewed and monitored on a regular basis.

7. Officers' conclusions and recommendations

7.1 The draft financial strategy was submitted to various stakeholders for comment prior to the final draft being approved by the Strategic Finance Working Group.

7.2 The financial information included within the strategy has been updated for the Council's year end revenue balances and current information held regarding the capital programme.

7.3 The financial strategy 2009/10 to 2018/19 is submitted for Committee's approval.

.....
Joyce White
Executive Director of Corporate Services

Date: 8 September 2009

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

Appendix: Financial Strategy 2009/10 to 2018/19

Background Papers: General Services Revenue Estimates and Council Tax and
HRA Revenue Estimates – Report to Council 12 February 2009
Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators
2009/10 – 2011/12
General Services Capital programme 2009/10 – 2011/12
HRA Capital Programme 2009/10 – 2010/11 & Housing quality
Standards
Financial working papers identifying burdens and inflationary
increase assumptions

Wards Affected: All Wards