

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fe	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010			
Report By:	Chief Financial Officer	Report No: FIN/0	: FIN/03/10/AP/LM			
Contact Officer:	Alan Puckrin	Contact No: 01475 712223				
Subject:	General Fund Revenue Budget November 2009	2009/10 – Posit	tion as at 30			

## 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Committee of the latest position of 2009/10 General Fund Revenue Budget and to provide an update in respect of earmarked reserves and other relevant matters.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Appendix 1 shows that as at 30 November 2009 there is a projected underspend of £1,857,000 in the General Fund Revenue Budget which is an increase in underspend of £769,000 since the last report to Committee.
- 2.2 The underspend arises from a previously reported projected underspend in loans charges, a projected non-utilisation of part of the contingency and a £721,000 projected underspend by Service Committees.
- 2.3 All Service Committees are now projecting underspends albeit care will need to be taken to ensure this position is maintained to the year end.
- 2.4 Appendix 2 gives the position in respect of earmarked reserves as at 30 November 2009. It can be seen that expenditure is £9.05 million which represents 40% of projected spend 8 months into the financial year. The Committee can be assured that all earmarked reserves have been reviewed by the Lead Officers who have confirmed the projections reported.
- 2.5 Appendix 3 shows the latest projected position of the General Fund Reserve as at 31 March 2010. This shows a projected balance of £5.04 million which is £1 million greater than the minimum level of reserves recommended by the Chief Financial Officer. Proposals in respect of the Reserves will be considered as part of the 2010/11 Budget on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the current position of the 2009/10 General Fund Revenue Budget.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee note the position of the General Fund Reserves and the associated earmarked reserves.

Alan Puckrin Chief Financial Officer

# 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council agreed the 2009/11 Revenue Budget on 12 February 2009. This was the first two year budget agreed by the Council and included an estimated allowance for the prebudget efficiency saving announced by the Chancellor in 2008.
- 4.2 As part of the approved budget, the Council agreed the utilisation of General Fund Reserves with a result of reducing the non-earmarked General Fund Reserve of £4 million by 31 March 2010.

# 5.0 2009/10 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Appendix 1 shows that as at 30 September 2009 there is a projected underspend of £1,857,000. This is an increase in underspend of £769,000 since the last report, with the main reasons for the overall underspend being projected savings in loans charges, a saving in the contingency and the £721,000 projected underspend in Service Committees.
- 5.2 It can be seen from Appendix 1 that all Committees are projecting underspends. This is encouraging given the significant pressures on budgets but continued care will need to be taken to ensure underspends are maintained to the year end.

# 6.0 EARMARKED RESERVES

6.1 It can be seen from Appendix 2 that expenditure on Earmarked Reserves in 2009/10 is £9.05 million which represents 40% of projected expenditure. This level of expenditure is quite low compared to the proportion of the financial year which has passed, but Committee can be reassured that all Lead Officers have reviewed their Earmarked Reserves and have confirmed the projections contained in the report. In addition, the CMT review progress each month in order to ensure that there is appropriate challenge for the projections reported.

# 7.0 GENERAL FUND RESERVES

7.1 Appendix 3 shows the projected position in respect of the General Fund Reserve as at 31 March 2010. It can be seen that based on the current projected underspend and the previously approved utilisation of resources, there is a projected balance at 31 March 2010 of £5.04 million. This is £1 million greater than the recommended minimum level of free reserves of £4 million. Proposals in respect of the General Fund Reserves will be considered as part of the 2010/11 budget on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

# 8.0 FINANCIAL STRATEGY

8.1 Each Policy & Resources Committee highlights other issues not included in the projections which may impact on future revenue monitoring reports and future years' budgets. Issues to highlight in the report are as follows:

# Economic Outlook/Future Settlements

The economic situation remains largely unchanged with base rates expected to be at current levels for the next 6 months. However some commentators are warning of a sharp rise in inflation in the next quarter and any impacts will be reported to the relevant Committee.

There is no change in the view of the Government in Westminster and Holyrood that the next spending review period 2011/14 will be one of the most challenging for a generation and the 2010/11 budget deliberations reflect the need for the Council to continue to manage its forward financial commitments prudently.

## Asset Management Planning

The December meeting of the Committee agreed a number of firm actions and some decisions in principle relating to Asset Management. Officers are beginning work on a detailed Financial Model which it is expected will require some one-off cashflow funding in addition to up to £1.5million Prudential funding.

## Pay Awards

The Pay Award for non teaching employees for 2010/11 has not yet been agreed. The Council has budgeted for a 2.5% increase in 2010/11, but given the current economic climate and the levels of pay award experienced elsewhere, it is anticipated that the final pay award for 2010/11 will be significantly lower than this sum. COSLA are currently developing a pay strategy and discussions with the Unions have commenced.

## Carbon Accounting

From 2011/12, all major users of electricity and gas will have to participate in a Carbon Accounting Trading Scheme developed by the UK Government. In simple terms, the aim of the Carbon Accounting Scheme is to reduce the carbon footprint of large organisations such as Inverclyde Council and it is intended that this will be achieved through a Carbon Allowance Trading Scheme backed by penalties for bodies which exceed their quota of allowances. This has the potential to result in costs for the Council, and further details will be brought back to Committee once they have been developed.

## 9.0 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no implications of a Legal, HR or Equalities nature over and above those highlighted in the report.

# 10.0 CONSULTATION

10.1 This report is produced in consultation with the CMT who have endorsed its comments.

## Policy & Resources Committee

## Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

## PERIOD 8 : 1st April 2009 to 30th November 2009

Committee	Approved	Revised	Projected	Projected	Percentage
	Budget	Budget	Out-turn	Over/(Under)	Variance
	2009/2010	2009/2010	2009/2010	Spend	
	£,000's	£,000's	£,000's	£,000's	5
Policy & Resources	30,311	31,078	30,338	(740)	(2.38%
Safe, Sustainable Communities	18,229	17,456	17,366	(90)	(0.52%
Regeneration & Resources	10,223	8,803	8,734	(69)	(0.78%
Education & Life Long Learning	76,170	76,802	76,695	(107)	(0.14%
Health & Social Care	51,212	51,416	51,265	(151)	(0.29%
Committee Sub-Total	186,145	185,555	184,398	(1,157)	(0.62%
Loan Charges	14,680	14,225	13,525	(700)	(4.92%
Revenue Support Grant	(134,349)	(135,408)	(135,408)	0	0.00
Allocation to Non General Fund Budgets	(278)	(278)	(278)	0	0.00
Council Tax	(32,900)	(32,900)	(32,900)	0	0.00
Community Charge	(20)	(20)	(20)	0	0.00
Non Domestic Rates	(34,125)	(34,125)	(34,125)	0	0.00
Contribution to General Fund Reserve	847	847	847	0	0.00
Earmarked Reserves	0	2,104	2,104	0	0.00
Net Expenditure	0	0	(1,857)	(1.857)	

Notes: This represents 2009/10 funding which is to be carried forward to future years.

1	
Riverside Inverclyde	1,065
Modern Apprenticeship	70
Landfill Tax	677
FSF	292
	2,104

### **Earmarked Reserves Position Statement**

### Appendix 2

### Summary

<u>Committee</u>	<u>c/f Funding</u> 2008/09 <u>£000</u>	<u>New</u> Funding 2009/10 £000	<u>Total</u> <u>Funding</u> <u>2009/10</u> <u>£000</u>	Actual Spend To 30 Nov 09 <u>£000</u>		Earmarked <u>2010/11 &amp;</u> <u>Beyond</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>2009/10</u> <u>%age Spend</u>
Education & Lifelong Learning	1,786	5,394	7,180	311	3,413	3,767	9.11%
Safe Sustainable Communities	2,977	4,463	7,440	1,042	2,929	4,511	35.58%
Health & Social Care	997	1,111	2,108	1,054	1,765	343	59.72%
Regeneration	2,344	9,614	11,958	5,239	9,406	2,552	55.70%
Policy & Resources	2,103	6,491	8,594	1,404	4,974	3,620	28.23%
	10,207	27,073	37,280	9,050	22,487	14,793	40.25%

### COMMITTEE: Education & Lifelong Learning

<u>Project</u>	Lead Officer/ Responsible Manager	<u>Funding</u> 2008/09	2009/10	<u>Total</u> <u>Funding</u> 2009/10	<u>Actual</u> <u>To Period 08</u> 2009/10	<u>Spend</u> 2009/10	Amount to be Earmarked for 2010/11 & Beyond	Lead Officer Update
		<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	
School Estate M P	Tom Reid	1,786	5,394	7,180	311	3,413		Total Funding for 2009/10 has been updated to reflect changes as result of the SEMP Funding Model review carried out in August 2009 and reported to the September Education Committee. Expenditure to date primarily relates to decants at Notre Dame and St Columba's. £2,572k of the projected spend relates to Loan Charges and will be incurred at end of Financial Year.
Interim Corporate Director	Albert Henderson	0	0	0	0	0		Part Funding for Interim Corporate Director of Education & Social Care. Funding is no longer required.
Total		1,786	5,394	7,180	311	3,413	3,767	

Appendix 2 (1)

#### COMMITTEE: Safe Sustainable Communities

Project	Lead Officer/ Responsible Manager	<u>c/f</u> Funding	<u>New</u> Funding		<u>Actual</u> To Period 08	Projected Spend	Amount to be Earmarked for	Lead Officer Update
					2009/10		2010/11 & Beyond	
		<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	£000	£000	
Community Investment Fund	Neil Graham	328		328	49	178	150	Due to delay in agreeing a lease deal with Ardgowan estates, $\pounds150k$ is set aside for the project at Lunderston Bay for 2010/11.
Maintenance of Trunk Road Network	Alan Barnes	59		59	0	0	59	Awaiting diversion of North Bound A78 trunk road traffic which is to be completed by Transport Scotland. Work is being held up due to objections to Traffic Regulation orders.
Strategic Housing Fund	Neil Graham	782	559	1,341	4	100	1,241	£100k spend projected for Private Sector House Condition Survey. The remainder is earmarked for Strategic Housing functions, especially Contaminated Land costs. There is a potential Employment Tribunal case involving former Sheltered Housing Wardens, the outcome of which would need to be funded from this fund.
National Accommodation Strategy for Sex Offenders	Fraser Williamson	33		33	24	33	0	Full spend projected by year end.
Private Sector Housing Grant	Fraser Williamson	447	1,178	1,625	762	1,423	202	Confirmation has been received from the Scottish Government that underspend can be carried forward. Earmarked reserves c/fwd from 2008/09 includes an overclaim of £50k which potentially has to be returned back to the Scottish Government and £16k to be written back to General Reserves.
Antisocial Behaviour Funding	John Arthur	30		30	20	30	0	Employee in post. Full spend projected by year end.
Food Waste Trial	Alan Barnes	104		104	78	104	O	Full spend projected by year end - trial expected to finish ir January 2010.
Support for Owners (Right to Buy Receipts)	Fraser Williamson	437	1,634	2,071	65	889	1,182	There is a potential underspend of £1,182k. Clarification received from Scottish Government that underspends cannot be carried forward. River Clyde Homes identified a maximum of £889k of spend based on their investment programme to 31/03/2010. At present the Council has to repay the Scottish Government the full £1,634k of new funding and then reclaim £452k, which along with the c/fwd funding of £437k will constitute the total spend of £889k. An updated report was provided to SSC Committee.

#### COMMITTEE: Safe Sustainable Communities

Project	Lead Officer/ Responsible Manager	<u>c/f</u> <u>Funding</u> 2008/09	<u>New</u> Funding 2009/10	Funding	Actual To Period 08 2009/10	Spend	Amount to be Earmarked for 2010/11 & Beyond	Lead Officer Update
Play Areas	Neil Graham	<u>£000</u> 0	<u>£000</u> 250	<u>£000</u> 250	<u>£000</u> 40	<u>£000</u> 66	<u>£000</u> 184	This earmarked reserve has been set aside as funding for play areas. This work is currently being reported through
								Capital Programme as CFCR. A Play Area Strategy is being developed and this will be reported to the CMT in January 2010. Spend of £66k already committed for Overton Play Area and Quarriers Play Area. Note that £74k of the projected total spend relates to Area Renewal within the Capital Programme.
Implementation of Green Charter	Neil Graham	o	50	50	C	0	50	It is anticipated that the Green Charter reserve will be underspent by the full amount as the new post for Carbon Management Development Officer did not attract any suitable candidate. As a result it has not been possible to progress the Green Charter project works in 2009/10. The budget will be required in 2010/11 to meet the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme and the recently-approved Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
Traffic Study - George Rd/Larkfield Rd	Neil Graham	0	25	5 25	0	25	0	Meeting with 3 local Members on 17 December 2009 to agree works which will be completed by March 2010.
Landfill Penalty Scheme	Neil Graham	676	677	1,353	0	0	1,353	Spend is subject to Scottish Government deciding to levy the penalties.
Affordable HRA (Council Tax 2nd Home Discount)	Fraser Williamson	81	90	0 171	0	81	90	New funding for 2009/10 is subject to variation. Service is in consultation with the Scottish Government Housing Investment Division to finalise distribution of budget.
Total		2,977	4,463	3 7,440	1,042	2,929	4,511	

### COMMITTEE: Health and Social Care

Project	Lead Officer/ Responsible Manager	<u>c/f</u> Funding	<u>New</u> Funding	<u>Total</u> Funding	Actual To Period 08	Projected Spend	Amount to be Earmarked for	Lead Officer Update
		2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11 & Beyond	
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Telecare Grant	Gillian McCready	107	320	427	123	298	129	The underspend is mainly due to delays due to technical difficulties with the installation of the Telehealth Equipment. Match funding budget and expenditure being identified and transferred in.
Demonstrators Grant	Gillian McCready	113	0	113	43	90		£90k expenditure projected, balance requested to be earmarked to 2010/11. Service seeking permission from Scottish Government to carry forward. Expenditure. Spend Iow, Social Work have confirmed projection.
Homelessness Task Force Grant	Jim Anderson	224		224	180	199	25	Retention for 2010/11. Contract will otherwise be completed in 2009/10.
Financial Inclusion - FSF	Anne Feeney	224	112	336	125	336		Full spend anticipated prior to 31/3/10, confirmed with Service Manager. Spend still low, commitments being checked.
- Champions Fund	Anne Feeney	196	0	196	136	i 196		Contract runs to 2011, with further funding in 2010/11. Full spend expected.
FSF Social Care **	Colin Struthers	123	679	802	447	636		FSF funding to cover to March 2010. Detail of projects below. Underspend anticipated of £166k (breakdown below) in projects due to slippage and recruitment problems. FSF are aware of the project slippage and are currently in the process of deciding how this slippage will be dealt with.
Pilot to enhance job opportunities for care leavers	Sharon McAlees	10		10	Q	10	0	Report agreed at CMT. Full spend is expected in 09/10.
Total		997	1,111	2,108	1,054	1,765	343	
					.,	.,		
** Fairer Scotland Fund - Choose Life	B Young	3	25	28	1	11	17	
Fairer Scotland Fund - Drugs Carers Programme	D Carmichael	35	69	104	52	81	23	
Fairer Scotland Fund - YPAT Culture Change	C Park	20		185				
Fairer Scotland Fund - Road to Recovery	D Carmichael	18	173	191	90	191	0	
Fairer Scotland Fund - Homeless Detox	C Park	47	247	294	201	213	81	£95k of housing support to be charged included in actual
		123		802				

#### COMMITTEE: Regeneration

Project	<u>Lead Officer/</u> Responsible Manager	<u>c/f</u> Funding 2008/09	<u>New</u> Funding 2009/10	<u>Total</u> Funding 2009/10	<u>Actual</u> <u>To Period 08</u> 2009/10	Projected Spend 2009/10	Amount to be Earmarked for 2010/11 & Beyond	Lead Officer Update
		£000	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	
Riverside Inverclyde	Stuart Jamieson	1,052	1,513	2,565	826	1,500	1,065	A request for funding totalling £118k was received in period 8.
Modern Apprenticeship	Stuart Jamieson	50	100	150	46	80	70	The Trainee Accountant started mid November. Furthermore the Service has recently advertised for 2 part-skilled Apprentice Joiners with a view to them starting before the end of 2009.
Tall Ships	Aubrey Fawcett	70	150	220	0	20	200	The only expected spend is £20k on port fees which should be incurred in January.
FSF	Stuart Jamieson	1,150	6,125	7,275	4,172	6,983	292	Reflects the position reported to the Scottish Government in the FSF Mid- Year Expenditure Return.
FSF Community Hubs	Stuart Jamieson	22	306	328	176	328	0	After reviewing their spending profile it was decided that the Service would return £200k back to FSF for redistribution to Wellpark Community Centre (Capital).
								Previously FSF Community Hubs was accounted for as 4 individual projects; - Auchmountain; - Paton Street (£22k brought forward); - Central Greenock; and - Clune Park.
Arts Guild - Further Funding	Aubrey Fawcett	0	500	500	0	0	500	Report was presented to the September Regeneration Committee updating the timescales. As a result £500k will be carried forward.
Area Renewal Fund	Aubrey Fawcett	0	500	500	0	225	275	To date £430k has been allocated, however it is expected that only £225k of this will actually be spent in 2009/10 with £205k carried forward into 2010/11. The funding has been allocated as follows: - Retail Assessment for Greenock South West - £25k; - Master planning for Drumfrochar Road/ Broomhill Area - £30k; - Match funding for bid to Town Centre Regeneration Fund for Port Glasgow and Greenock Town Centre's - £200k; - Match funding contribution to Gibshill Community Centre project - £100k; and - Clune Park Resource Centre - £75k
								The remaining balance of £70k is expected to be allocated by the year end but not spent until 2010/11.
Hunter Place Toilet - Refurbishment	Joe Lynch	0	20	20	19	20	0	Public Convenience now opened
Facilities Management Efficiency Review	Joe Lynch	0	400	400	0	250	150	A first payment totalling approximately £83k was made in December 2009 and the second payment for £143k made in March 2010. Potential to return £150k to General Fund Reserves
Total		2,344	9,614	11,958	5,239	9,406	2,552	

### COMMITTEE: Policy & Resources

Project	Lead Officer/	c/f	New	Total	Actual	Projected	Amount to be	Lead Officer Update
	Responsible Manager	Funding	Funding	Funding	To Period 08	Spend	Earmarked for	
		2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11 & Beyond	
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Early Retiral/Voluntary Severance Reserve	Alan Puckrin	799	2,800	3,599	923	2,599	1,000	Anticipated that the bulk of the earmarked sum will be committed by 31/03/10. £1.8 million added to reserves by P&R Committee 22/09/09.
Single Status	Alan Puckrin	309		309	33	80	229	Sum held for financing training of red circled employees and managing the appeals process.
Single Status Appeals Back Pay	Alan Puckrin	0	500	500	0	0	500	Allocation for back dating any appeals. No appeals yet considered but pre appeals process & training in progress.
MGF	Gordon McLoughlin	514		514	86	284	230	Modernisation and Efficiency programme extends over a number of years. Slippage in period 7 of £230k: £50k for Back Office Systems Integration and £180k for E-Procurement.
Modernisation & Efficiency Fund	Gordon McLoughlin	205		205	117	205	0	Modernisation and Efficiency Fund created in 2008/09. Anticipate full spend of original fund to be incurred in 2009/10.
Birkmyre Pavilion	Aubrey Fawcett	9		9	1	9	0	Final internal fee claim for £10k passed to finance for processing on 8 December 2009. The final invoice from the contractor for £40.6k was paid on 4 December 2009.
RVJB Capital Contribution	Alan Puckrin	30	26	56	0	30	26	Council invoiced at the year end.
Workforce Development Fund	Alasdair Moore	42	150	192	33	112	80	£112k committed to date on various projects with £48k to be spent by end of November 2009. Payments totalling £9k have been processed for payment in December 2009.
Short Term Cash Flow - Economic Downturn	Alan Puckrin	0	1,500	1,500	0	900	600	£850k approved to fund vehicle replacements 16/06/09. Part of balance to be used to cashflow delays in Capital receipts.
Future Operating Model Delivery	Gordon McLoughlin	0	1,000	1,000	139	452	548	Detailed budget approved by Committee, anticipate full spend of 09/10 budget.
One off Costs, Savings Implementation	Alan Puckrin	0	150	150	53	80	70	Funding to manage implementation of savings. Sums agreed to mothball Parklea Greenhouses pending future decision, carry out Office rationalisation feasibility work and progress Mearns Centre future feasibility work. The Head of PRFM has advised that approximately £80k would be spent on the office/depot rationalisation and other feasability studies.
Allowance for Elections to May 2012	Elaine Paterson	0	300	300	12	12	288	Projected 2009/10 spend allows for the possibility of further by-elections. No further spend in 2009/10 expected.

### COMMITTEE: Policy & Resources

<u>Project</u>	Responsible Manager	<u>c/f</u> Funding 2008/09		<u>Total</u> Funding 2009/10	<u>Actual</u> <u>To Period 08</u> 2009/10	Projected Spend 2009/10	Amount to be Earmarked for 2010/11 & Beyond	Lead Officer Update
		<u>£000</u>	£000	£000	<u>£000</u>	£000	£000	
Revenue Expenditure Transferred from Capital	Alan Puckrin	175	0	175	0	175	0	Sum set aside and utilised as part of the accounts closure process.
ICMS Security Upgrade	Alan Puckrin	20	0	20	3	20		Funding to make cash collection system fully credit card compliant. Server purchased and upgrade ongoing. £10k committed.
Taxi Study	Howard McNeilly	0	15	15	0	12		Survey now completed and a presentation by the consultant was made to the General Purposes Boa on 11 November 2009. An invoice for the full amoun of $\pounds 11.5k$ has still to be received which the service will request is submitted as soon as possible.
Waterfront Legal Fees	Elaine Paterson	0	50	50	4	4	46	Litigation costs. Final invoice for 2009/10 of £1k has been paid on 7 December 2009. Although £46k has been earmarked for future years, only £10k of this may be needed in the unlikely event of a claim bein submitted allowing potentially £36k to be written back to reserves at the end of 2009/10.
Total		2,103	6,491	8,594	1,404	4,974	3,620	

## APPENDIX 3

# GENERAL FUND RESERVE POSITION Position as at 30/11/2009

	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>
Balance 01/04/09		4590
Legal Fees - Waterfront Consultants Voluntary Severance Facilities Management Efficiency Review	(50) (1800) (400)	(2250)
Budgeted Contribution to Reserves 2009/10 Projected Surplus/(Deficit) 2009/10		847 1857
Projected Balance 31/03/10	=	5044