

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 7 FEBRUARY 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE COLLECTION

Report by the Executive Head of Finance

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

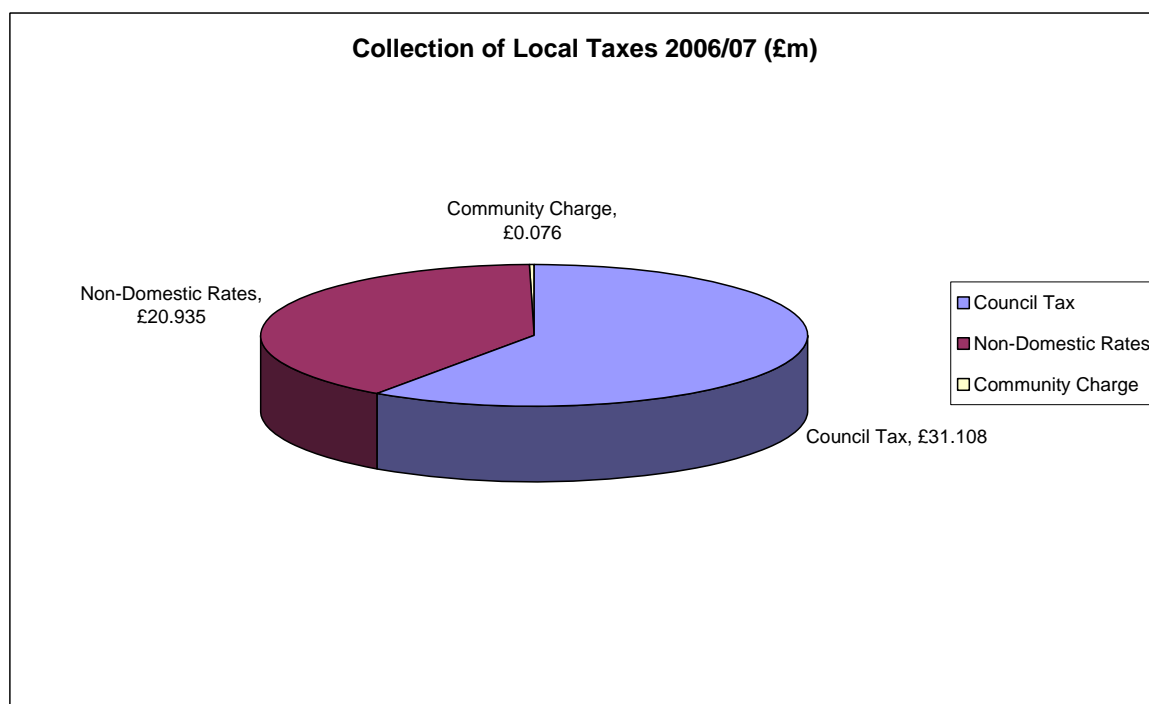
- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the billing and collection performance of local taxes as at 7 January 2007 (Period 10).

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Executive Head of Finance is responsible for the billing and collection of current year Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates, and for the collection of any arrears. Responsibility for the collection of arrears of Community Charge (Poll Tax) outstanding at 31 March 1996 also rests with the Executive Head of Finance.

3 GENERAL

- 3.1 Annual Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates bills were issued in March and April 2006.
- 3.2 The total 2006/07 income collected from local taxes at 7 January 2007 is £52.119m (£50.735m 2005/06). This is illustrated in the graph below:



4 COUNCIL TAX

4.1 82.8% of the Council Tax billed for 2006/07 was collected at 7 January 2007 (82.7% 2005/06).

4.2 In cash terms, the income collected at Period 10 increased on the same period in 2005/06. Details are shown in the following table:

Council Tax	2006/07 (Period 10) (£m)	2005/06 (Period 10) (£m)
Income Collected	31.108	28.966

4.3 The number of properties on the Council Tax database as at 1 April 2006 was 54,004 and this figure has increased in-year to 54,417. The majority of the additional properties are Band 'D' or above.

4.4 Previous years' outstanding balances have been reduced by £2.104m since 1 April 2006 as a result of recovery action taken during this period. The total balance outstanding at 1 April 2006 for previous years was £22.459m. Recovery action is continuing to reduce this debt.

5 NON-DOMESTIC RATES

5.1 As at 7 January 2007, 80.18% has been collected compared to 80.16% for the same period last year.

5.2 The number of properties on the Non-Domestic Rates database has increased from 3,880 at 1 April 2006 to 3,889 at 07 January 2007.

6 COMMUNITY CHARGE ARREARS

6.1 The total Community Charge arrears collected during 2006/07 to 7 January 2007 was £0.076m (£0.081m 2005/06). Although these debts are becoming increasingly more difficult to collect they continue to be pursued.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that members note the contents of this report.

Alex McPhee
Executive Head of Finance

17 January 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS NIL

Any person wishing further information should contact Joe McLachlan, Corporate Accounting Manager, Tel: (01563) 576484.