

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8 FEBRUARY 2005

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 update Members on the position of the Council with regard to billing and collection of local taxes as at 9 January 2005 (Period 10).

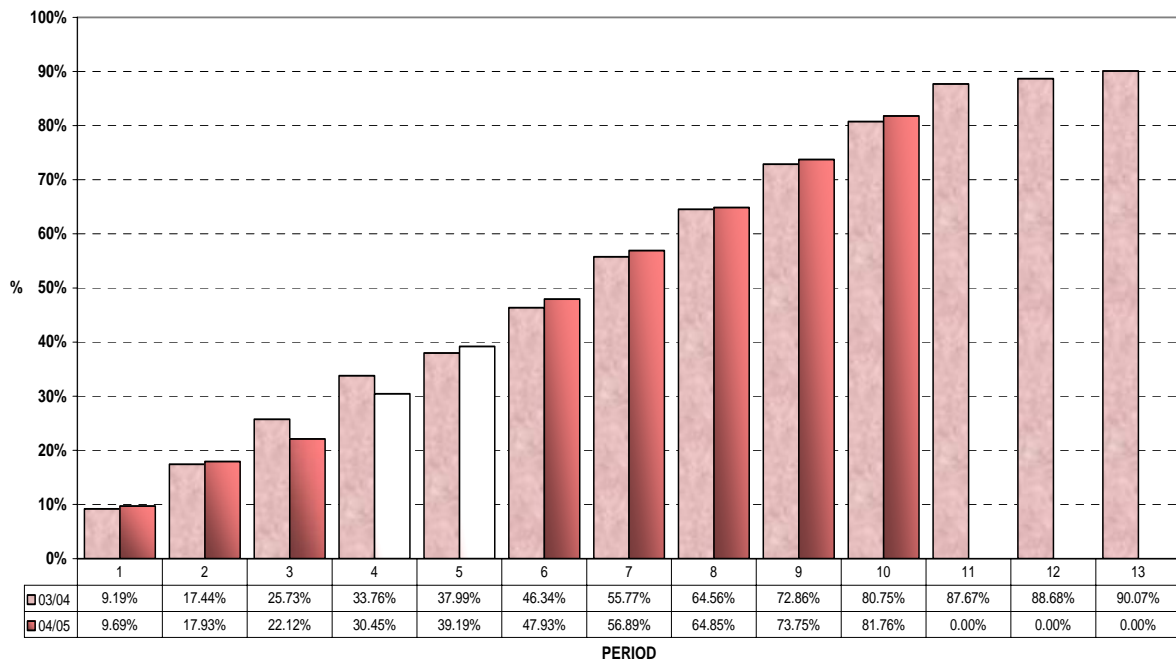
2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Executive Head of Finance is responsible for the billing and collection of the current year Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates and for the collection of arrears of these, and arrears of Community Charge (Poll Tax) which were outstanding at 31 March 1996, in respect of properties within East Ayrshire.

3 GENERAL

- 3.1 Annual Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates bills for 2004/2005 were issued in March and April 2004.

2004/05 COUNCIL TAX - % COLLECTION



4 COUNCIL TAX

- 4.1** The graph on the previous page shows that 81.76% of the council tax billed for 2004/05 was collected by 9 January 2005. This is an improvement of 1.01% on collection at the same period last year. The apparent anomaly in periods 3 and 4 where collection rates appear lower than last year is a timing issue explained by the fact that these periods last year included direct debit payments received on the 28th of the month which are excluded this year due to the period end date being different.
- 4.2** Previous years' outstanding balances have been reduced by £2.617m since 1 April 2004 as a result of recovery action taken during this period. The total balance outstanding at 1 April 2004 for previous years was £21.863m. Recovery action is continuing to reduce this debt.

5 NON-DOMESTIC RATES

- 5.1** As at 9 January 2005, 82.85% has been collected compared to 81.16% collected at the same period last year.

6 COMMUNITY CHARGE ARREARS

- 6.1** Community Charge arrears collected during 2004/05 up to 9 January 2005 total £0.092m. These debts are now between 12 and 16 years old and although becoming 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

LS/JB
10 Jan 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS NIL

Members wishing further information should contact Lorna Service, Finance Manager – Financial Accounting and Control, Tel: (01563) 576405.