

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES - 31 MAY 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 during 2004/05 as at 31 March 2005.

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 2004/05 were issued in March and April 2004.

4 COUNCIL TAX

- 4.1 The final 2004/05 in year collection figure for council tax was 91.3%. Previous years' performance is shown below;

Year	Collection Rate
2002/03	88.3%
2003/04	90.1%
2004/05	91.3%

- 4.2 A total of £3.318m of previous years' outstanding debt was collected during 2004/05. The total of outstanding balances at 1 April 2005 for previous years' debt was £22.213m. Recovery action is continuing to reduce this debt.

5 NON-DOMESTIC RATES

- 5.1 The final 2004/05 in year collection figure for Non-domestic Rates was 93.4%. Previous years' performance is shown below;

Year	Collection Rate
2002/03	89.5%
2003/04	94.7%
2004/05	93.4%

6 COMMUNITY CHARGE ARREARS

- 6.1** Community Charge arrears collected during 2004/05 totalled £0.117m. 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/DMW
9 May 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS NIL

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