

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2006

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE COLLECTION

#### Report by the Executive Head of Finance

## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

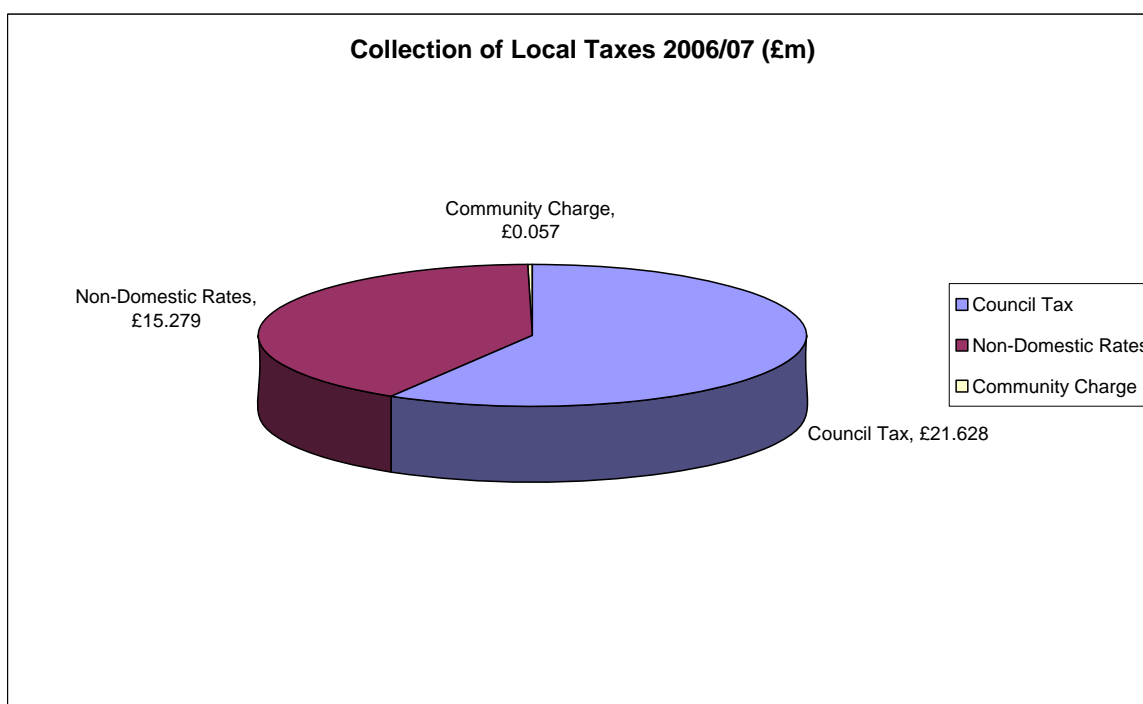
- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the billing and collection performance of local taxes as at 15 October 2006 (Period 7).

## 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 income collected from local taxes at 15 October 2006 is £36.964m (£36.595m 2005/06). This is illustrated in the graph below:



## 4 COUNCIL TAX

- 4.1 57.4% of the Council Tax billed for 2006/07 was collected at 15 October 2006 (57.5% 2005/06). The decrease is due in part to new properties which were recently added to the Council Tax system (see 4.3). These are now being absorbed into the recovery process and the collection rate is anticipated to improve as a result. Work within the Council Tax section is fully up to date and reminders have been issued in line with the previous year's timetable. The position is being closely monitored.
- 4.2 In cash terms, the income collected at Period 7 was higher than in the same period in 2005/06. Details are shown in the following table:

Council Tax	2006/07 (Period 7) (£m)	2005/06 (Period 7) (£m)
Income Collected	21.628	20.254

- 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 54,278. The majority of the additional properties are Band D or above.
- 4.4 Previous years' outstanding balances have been reduced by £1.728m 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 15 October 2006, 58.30% has been collected compared to 59.38% for the same period last year. This is principally a payments timing issue and collection rates are expected to outturn similar to 2005/06.
- 5.2 The number of properties on the Non-Domestic Rates database has increased from 3,880 at 1 April 2006 to 3,897 at 15 October 2006.

## 6 COMMUNITY CHARGE ARREARS

- 6.1 The total Community Charge arrears collected during 2006/07 to 15 October 2006 was £0.057m (£0.058m 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**  
30 October 2006

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL**