

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 JUNE 2001

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE COLLECTION

Report by the Director 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 31 March 2001 (Period 12).

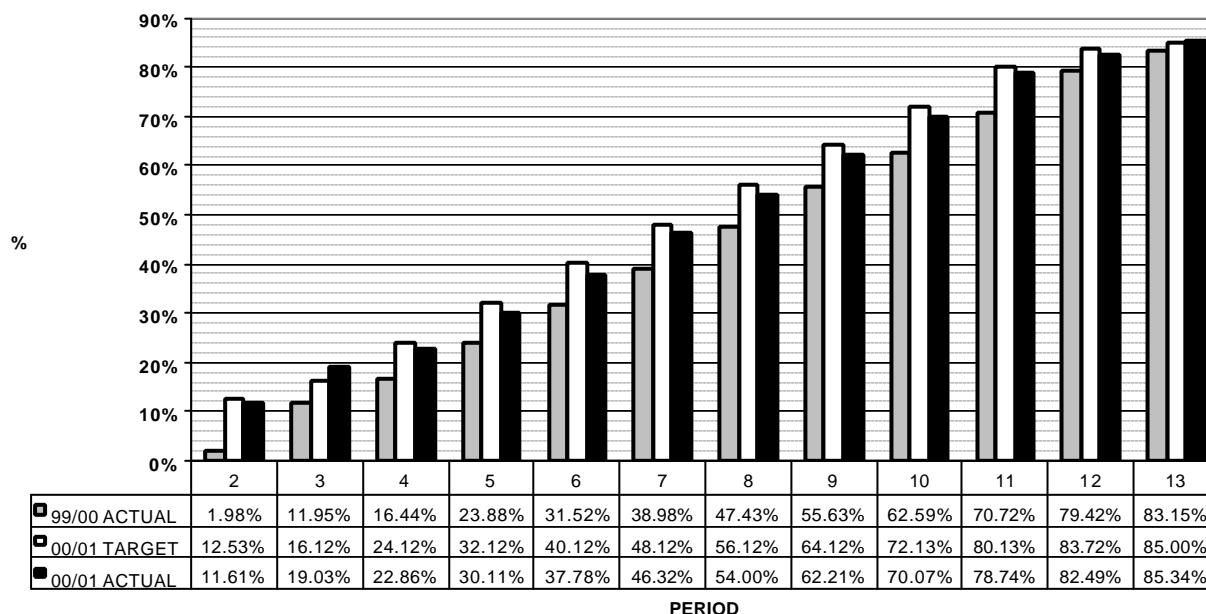
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Director 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 2000/2001 were issued in April 2000. Statutory Reminders and Final Notices have also been issued.

2000/01 COUNCIL TAX - % COLLECTION



4 COUNCIL TAX

- 4.1** The graph on the previous page indicates the target and actual collections for each financial period in 2000/2001. 85.34% collection was achieved against a target of 85%. A target of 87% has been set for 2001/2002 and at the end of Period 1 8.30% had been collected against a target of 8.24%.
- 4.2** Previous years' outstanding balances have been reduced by £2.580m since 1 April 2000 as a result of recovery action taken during this period. The balance outstanding at 31 March 2001 for previous years is £14.055m and recovery action is continuing to reduce this debt.
- 4.3** Following discussions with Legal Services recovery action for previous years is to be intensified over the next two months to ensure that all recovery action, including legal action, is effectively pursued. Members will be aware from previous Reports to this Committee that in common with many other Scottish Councils the introduction of a new computer system during 1998/99 affected recovery action for that year and this has impacted on recovery levels for this and subsequent years. In accordance with the national Accounting Code of Practice (ACOP), an appropriate bad debt provision has been made in the accounts to reflect the less effective collection performance relative to this period and successful recovery action would allow this to be reviewed in the future.

5 NON-DOMESTIC RATES

- 5.1** 89% of the total amount due for 2000/2001 was collected by 31 March 2001 against a target of 88%. A target of 90% has been set for 2001/2002.

6 COMMUNITY CHARGE ARREARS

- 6.1** Community Charge arrears collected during 2000/01 to Period 13 total £0.371m. The debt relates to the period from 1988 to 1993 and is becoming increasingly difficult to collect.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** Members are asked to note current Revenue Collection performance and that follow-up action on previous years is to be intensified over the next two months.

Alex McPhee
Director of Finance

IM/JP
30 May 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS NIL

Members wishing further information should contact Iain MacMillan, Head of Exchequer Services, Tel: (01563) 576443.

AGENDA