

REPORT

To: POLICY & RESOURCES (FINANCE) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: COUNCIL TAX PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE		
Date: 12 October 2005	Ref:- BC/TC/CTAXPROGRESS - OCTOBER 2005	

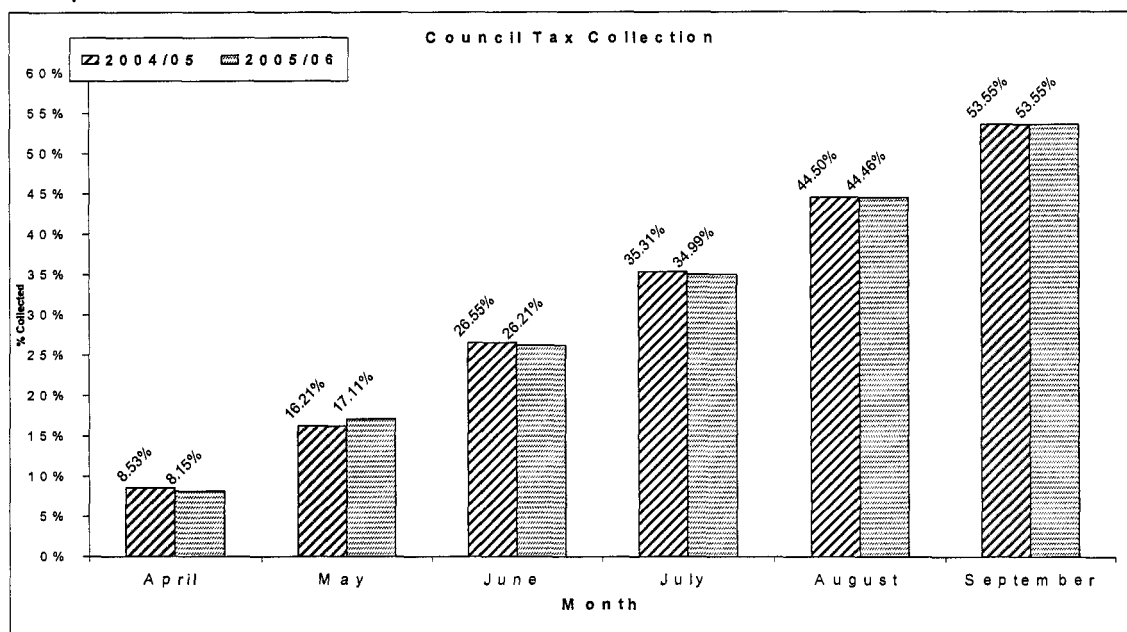
1 Introduction

1.1 This report provides an update on Council Tax Collection.

2 Performance

2.1 Details of the amount of Council Tax collected for the first six months of the current year together with collection figures for the same period for the last financial year are shown below (Graph 1). This shows a collection of 53.55% at the end of September 2005 compared with 53.55% for the same period last year, which maintains the performance achieved last year.

Graph 1

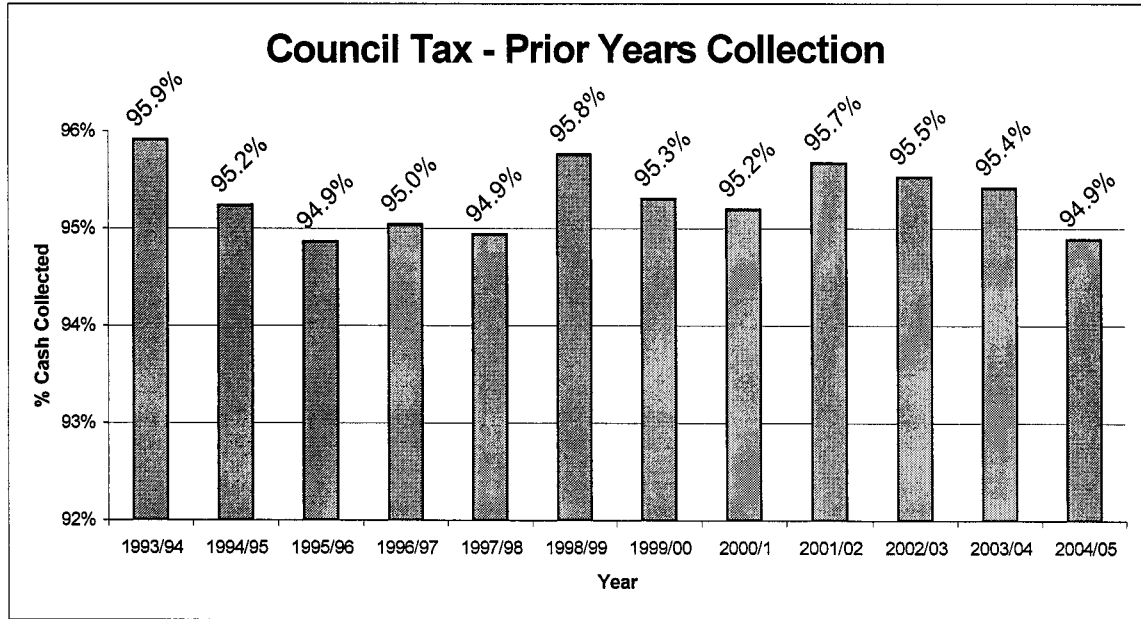


2.2 The number of Direct Debit payers continues to increase and there are now 51,016, a further 7% increase, which now accounts for 36% of all payers. This level of payees provides a consistent pattern of payment and contributes to the increases in collection experienced in recent years and the reduction in follow-up detailed in paragraph 2.3.

2.3 The Council has experienced a 3% decrease in the number of Warrants sought and this reflects the improvement in payment patterns being exhibited by our payees.

2.4 In addition to improved current year recovery the prior years are also showing steady improvement with 9 out of 12 of the prior years exceeding 95% collection. The remaining 3 years each have a collection of 94.9%.

Graph 2



3 Electronic Mail Processing

To date this year there has been 95,663 enquiries, an increase of 6% over last year. However, we have still maintained a high level of enquiries being dealt with within 10 days, see table.

	<u>1/4/05 – 30/9/05</u>	<u>1/4/04 – 30/9/04</u>
% of cases dealt with in 5 working days	97.88%	97.53%
% of cases dealt with in less than 10 working days	98.83%	99.1%
% of cases dealt with in less than 20 working days	99.62%	99.64%

4 Debt Recovery

Detailed below is a summary of the outcome of the recent exercises to recover arrears from non-payers with substantial debt.

Cases Targeted	2,000
Number Identified For Further Action via Legal Section	551
Number Sequestered	151
Number Paid In Full	98
Number With Payment Arrangement	179
Number With Debt Arrangement Scheme	36
Number Still Being Pursued by Legal Section	87
Total Recovered From The Initiative	£1.3M

5 Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.



Director of Finance

Members wishing further information please contact Mr Brian Cook, Head of Revenue Services, Tel:- 01698 – 30 2801.