

To: POLICY & RESOURCES (FINANCE) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: COUNCIL TAX PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE		
Date: 16 August 2006	Ref:- AC/BC/CTAXPROGRESS - JULY 2006	

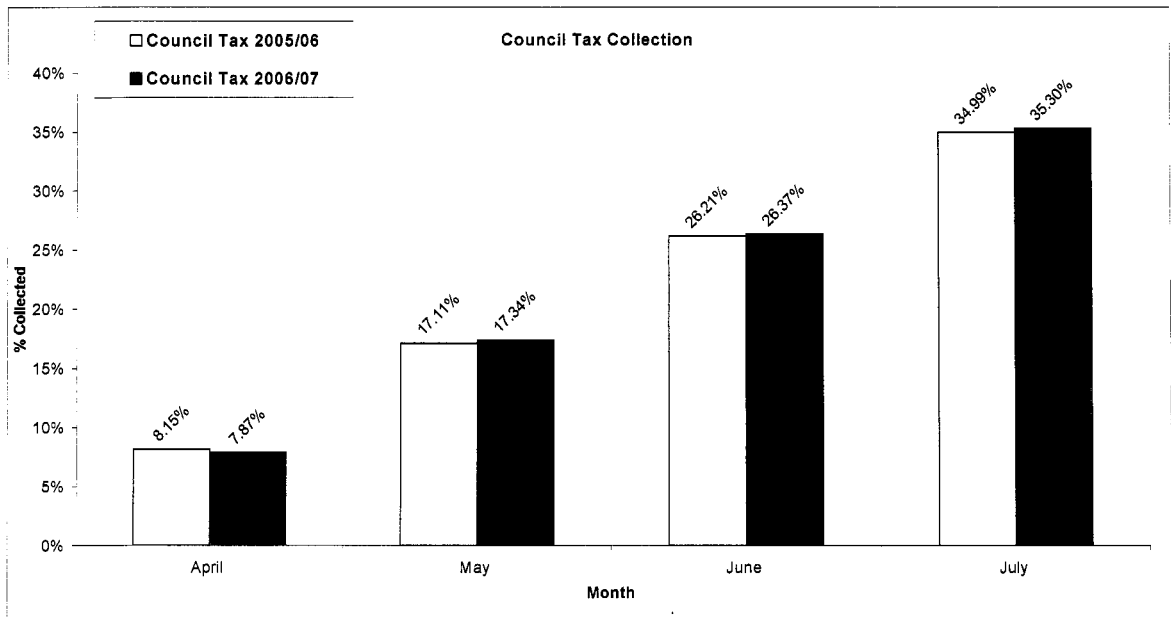
1 Introduction

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 four 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 35.3% at the end of July 2006 compared with 34.99% for the same period last year, an increase of 0.31%. The Graph shows continued improvement in the recovery of Council Tax.

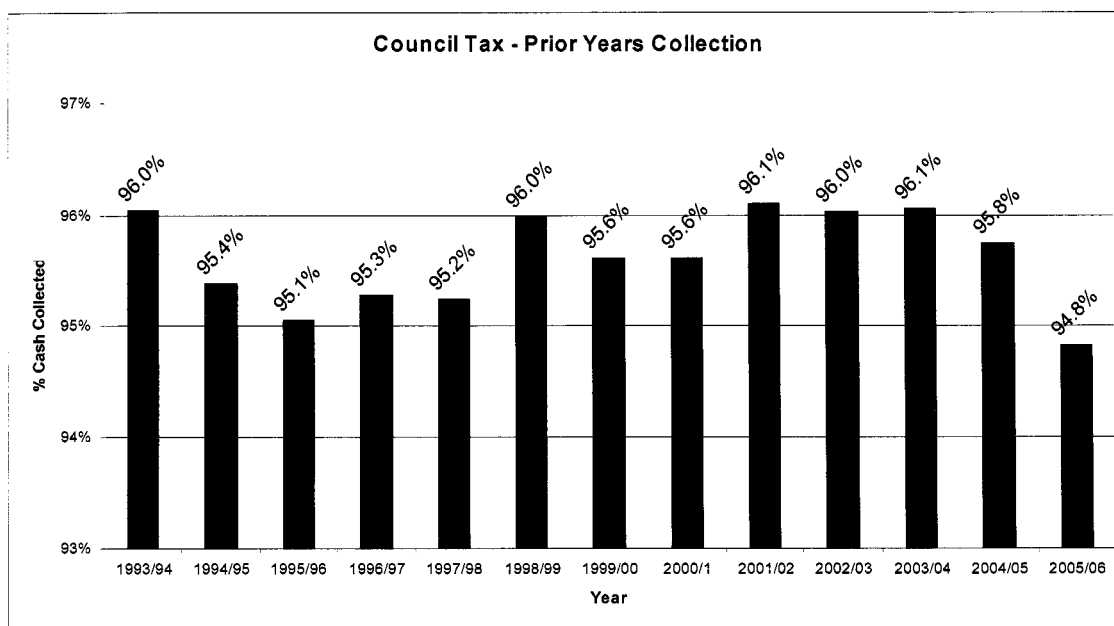
Graph 1



2.2 The exercise to identify debtors with substantial arrears who fall into the 'Can Pay Won't Pay' category is continuing, to date we have reviewed about 2,300 cases, of which it has been necessary to take bankruptcy proceedings on 238, and to date the exercise has recovered arrears totalling £3.2m.

2.3 As a result of this activity a further £712,000 has been received for 2005/06, raising the collection to 94.86%. Graph 2 shows the total percentage recovered for Council Tax for each prior year and highlights that 12 of the 13 previous years have now exceeded 95% collection levels.

Graph 2



## 2.4 Earlier Years Recovery

The continued action to identify 'Can Pay's', and take the necessary recovery action and continued monitoring of existing arrangements continues to pay dividends.

Indeed over the last 4 months since 1 April 2006, an additional £2.8m has been recovered for earlier years.

## 3 Electronic Mail Processing

3.1 The introduction of Document Imaging Processing (DIP) and Workflow, has improved our ability to respond timeously to correspondence. This improves the accuracy of our Demand Notices and contributes to improved collection performance.

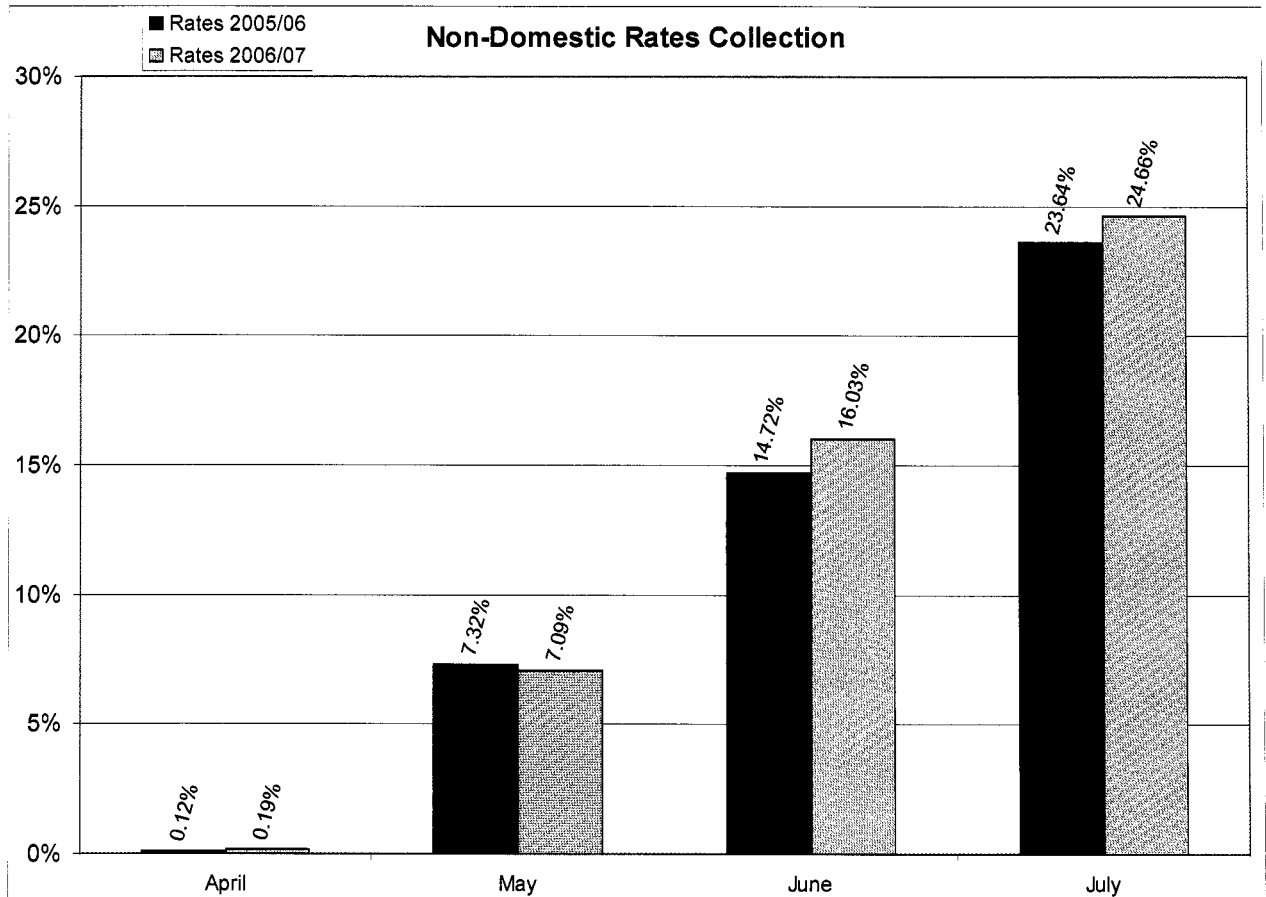
There have been 71,142 individual enquiries dealt with through electronic document processing, an increase of 9%, during the period 1/4/06 – 31/7/06.

	<u>1/4/05 – 31/7/05</u>	<u>1/4/06 – 31/7/06</u>
% of cases dealt with in 5 working days	98.12%	95.79%
% of cases dealt with in less than 10 working days	98.95%	98.51%
% of cases dealt with in less than 20 working days	99.64%	99.43%

#### 4 Non Domestic Rates

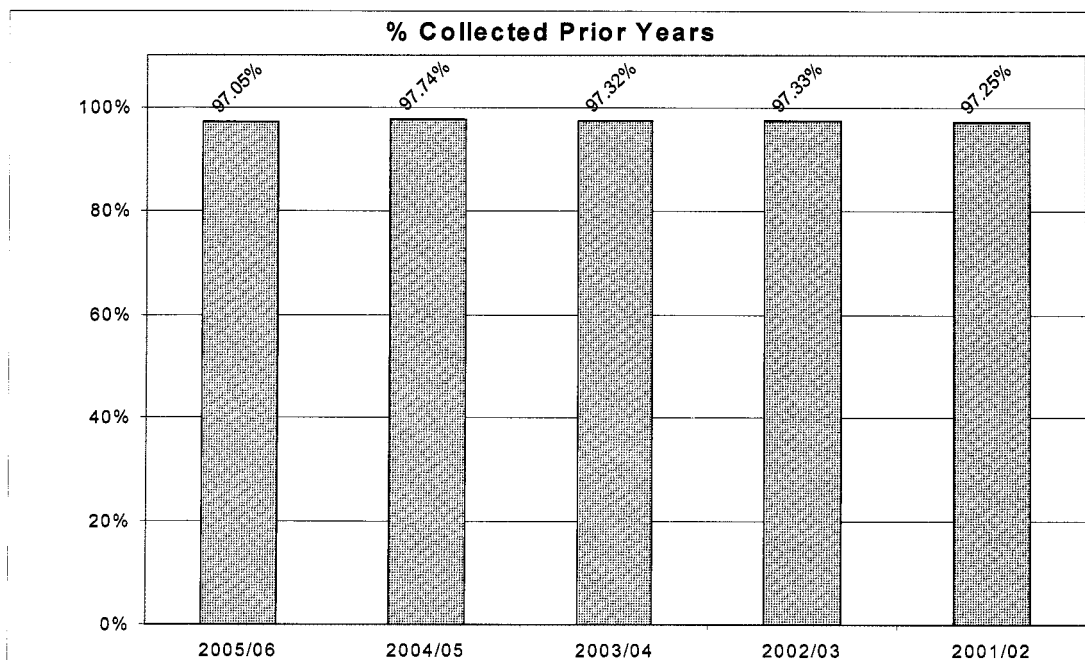
4.1 Table 1 indicates that recovery is up on the same time last year, by 1.02%.

Table 1



4.2 Table 2 shows that the last year's recovery already exceeds 97% which is near the maximum recovery levels already achieved over the last 5 years.

Table 2.



4.3 There have been 6,076 individual enquiries dealt with through electronic document processing during the period 1/4/06 – 31/7/06.

	<u>1/4/05 – 31/7/05</u>	<u>1/4/06 – 31/7/06</u>
% of cases dealt with in 5 working days	78.11%	92.4%
% of cases dealt with in less than 10 working days	98.15%	97.73%
% of cases dealt with in less than 20 working days	99.76%	99.57%

5 Recommendation

5.1 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.