

REPORT

To: POLICY & RESOURCES (FINANCE) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: COUNCIL TAX PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE		
Date: 26 October 2006	Ref:- AC/BC OCTOBER 2006	

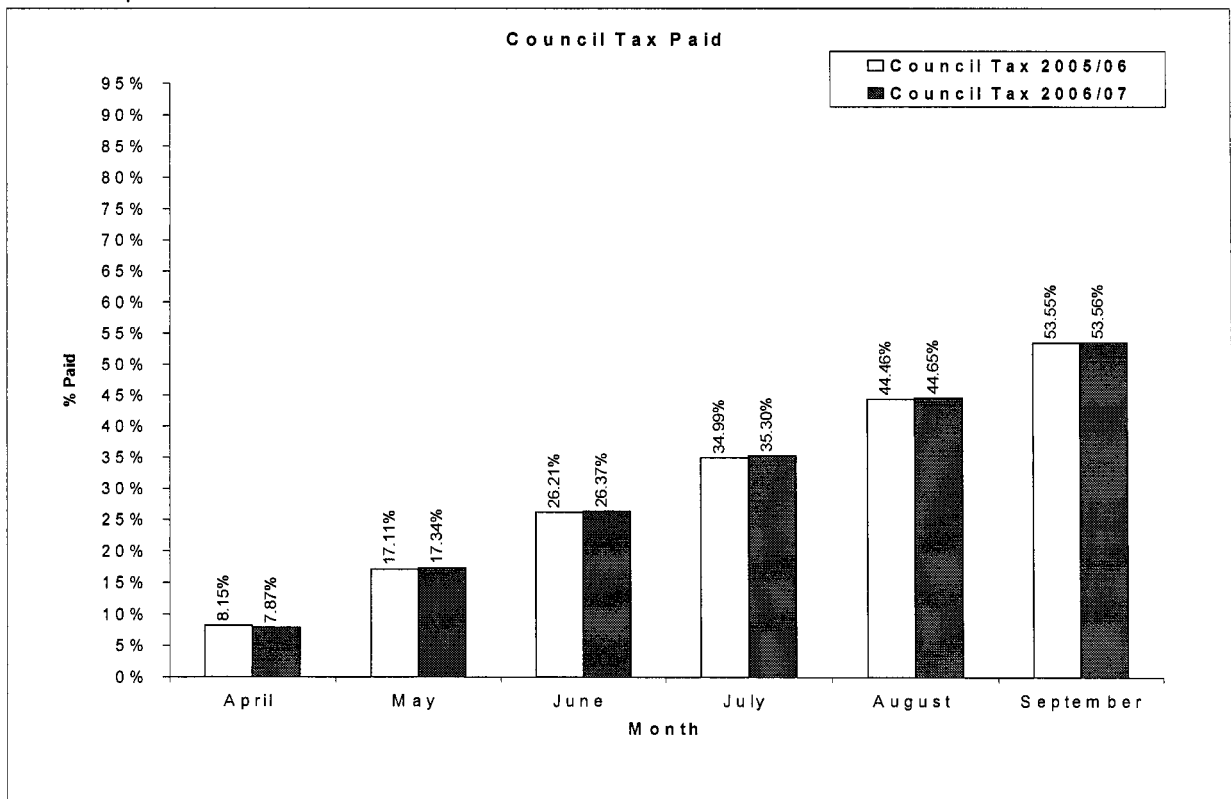
1 Introduction

1.1 This report provides an update on payment of Council Tax.

2 Performance

2.1 Details of the amount of Council Tax paid for the first six months of the current year together with comparable figures for the same period for the last financial year are shown below (Graph 1). This shows that 53.56% has been paid at the end of September 2006 compared with 53.55% for the same period last year, which maintains the performance achieved last year.

Graph 1

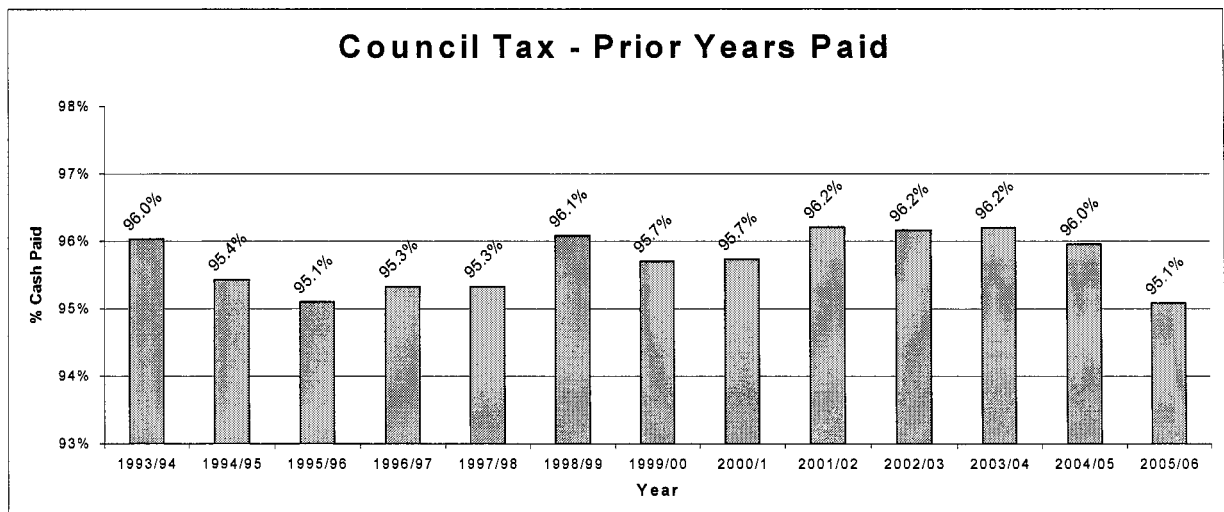


2.2 The number of Direct Debit payers continues to increase and there are now 54,024, a further 6% increase, which now accounts for 38% of all payers. This level of payees provides a consistent pattern of payment and contributes to the increases in payment experienced in recent years and the reduction in follow-up detailed in paragraph 2.3.

2.3 In addition to improved current year recovery a further £3.5M has been paid towards earlier years arrears.

This has taken the recovery in respect of 2005/06 from 94.2% to 95.1%, and as can be seen on the table below all prior years are now in excess of 95% with 6 now above 96%.

Graph 2



3 Electronic Mail Processing

To date this year there has been 103,674 enquiries, an increase of 8% over last year. However, we have still maintained a high level of enquiries being dealt with within 10 days, see table.

	<u>1/4/06 – 30/9/06</u>	<u>1/4/05 – 30/9/05</u>
% of cases dealt with in 5 working days	97.61%	97.88%
% of cases dealt with in less than 10 working days	99.02%	98.83%
% of cases dealt with in less than 20 working days	99.58%	99.62%

4 Debt Recovery

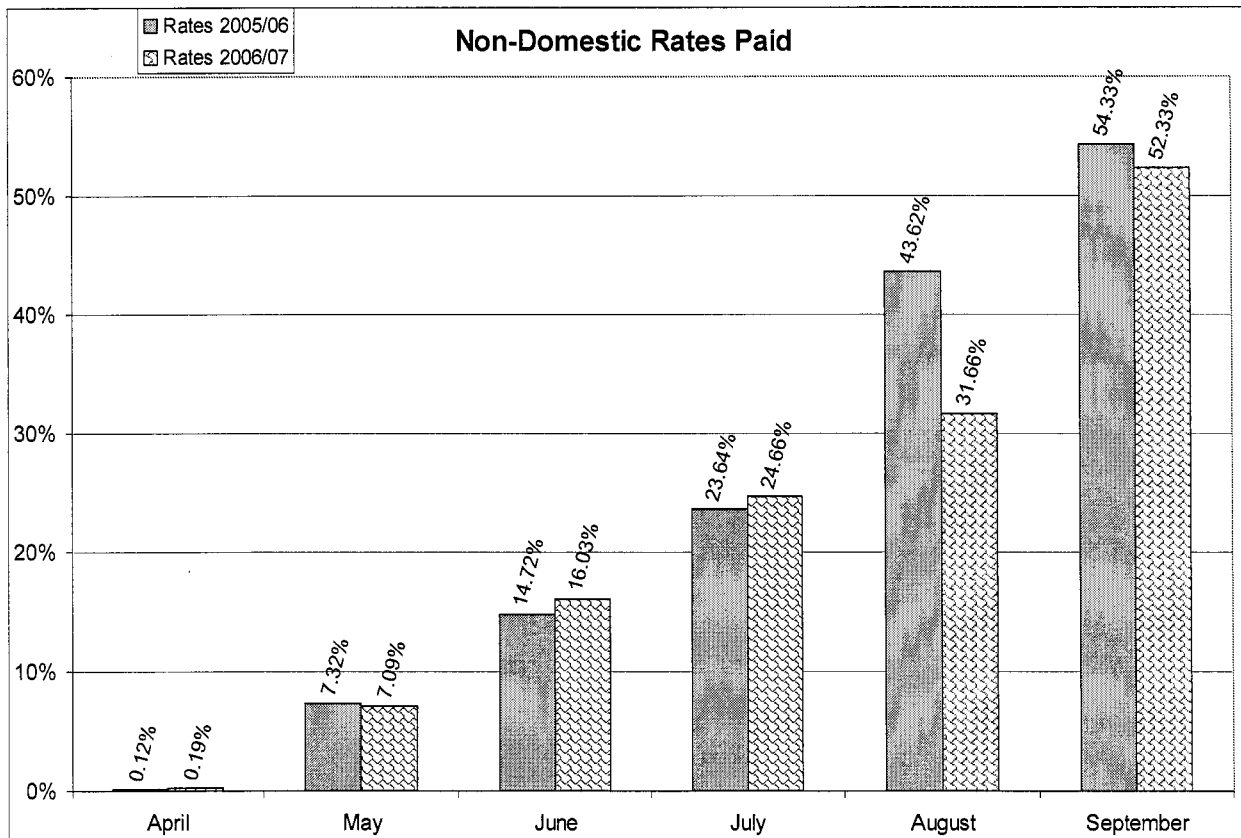
Detailed below is a summary of the outcome of the recent exercises to recover arrears from non-payers with substantial debt.

Cases Targeted	2,368
Number Identified For Further Action via Legal Section	1,019
Number Sequestered	266
Number Paid In Full	251
Number With Payment Arrangement	146
Number With Debt Arrangement Scheme	82
Total Recovered From The Initiative	£3.4M

5 Non Domestic Rates

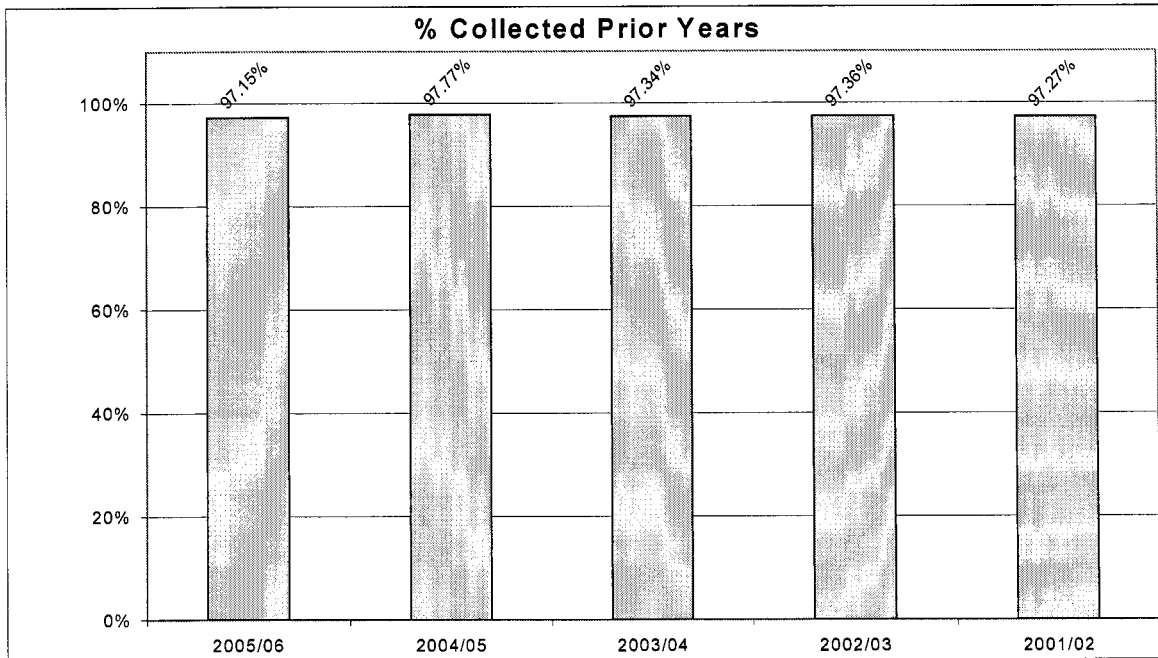
5.1 Table 1 indicates that payments are down on the same time last year, by 2.00%, due to Council schedules being settled earlier last year and to the outstanding Leisure Trust accounts recently billed for which 100% charitable relief will be considered when applications are returned from the Trust.

Table 1



5.2 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.



5.3 There have been 9,553 individual enquiries dealt with through electronic document processing during the period 1/4/06 – 30/9/06.

	<u>1/4/05 – 30/9/05</u>	<u>1/4/06 – 30/9/06</u>
% of cases dealt with in 5 working days	78.11%	91.58%
% of cases dealt with in less than 10 working days	98.15%	97.87%
% of cases dealt with in less than 20 working days	99.76%	99.54%

6 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 – 302801.