

ANGUS COUNCIL

RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

16 JUNE 2005

SUBJECT: COUNCIL TAX & NON-DOMESTIC RATES COLLECTION PERFORMANCE ETC

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Abstract: This report gives Members collection performance details of Council Tax and Non- Domestic Rates for the year ended 31 March 2005, and sets out comparison with previous financial years. Arrears figures and recovery action are also referred to. All figures stated that relate to the accounts for 2004/5 are subject to audit.

1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that Members note the information given in this report, particularly that there has been a continuation of improvement of in-year collection performance of Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates.

2 BACKGROUNDS

- 2.1 This report shows the collection performance figures to the end of March 2005. The figures are subject to audit.

3 COUNCIL TAX COLLECTION PERFORMANCE ETC

- 3.1 Appendix A sets out the figures and shows that the collection rates are as follows:

Year	Assumed Collection Rate at Tax Setting	Collection At 31/03/04	Collection At 31/03/05
	%	%	%
2004/5	98.0	N/A	96.15
2003/4	98.0	95.60	97.10
2002/3	96.0	96.81	97.43
2001/2	96.0	97.54	97.86
2000/1	96.0	97.90	98.08
1999/0	96.0	98.18	98.30
1998/9	96.0	98.40	98.49
1993/4 to 1997/8	TRC 97.0 ADC 96.0 AC 96.0	98.40	98.45

- 3.2 The collection rate for 2004/5 calculated at 96.15% (subject to audit) compares with 95.60% for 2003/4 and again shows an increase in in-year performance. This means that since 1996 there has been an annual improvement in the in-year collection rate. It is believed that Angus Council is the only authority in Scotland to achieve such performance.

- 3.3 The above reporting for Council Tax is on the basis of amalgamating cash and benefits compared to net amount collectable. The Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI) is on the basis of netting benefits off the net collectable to compare with cash collected.
- 3.4 The SPI for Council Tax collection for 2003/4 was a collection rate of 95.0%. The comparable figure for 2004/5 is, subject to audit, 95.58%.
- 3.5 The draft accounts (subject to audit) for 2004/5 show gross arrears on Council Tax and associated Statutory Additions as being some £6.180m. This debt is being actively pursued with formal arrangements in place at 31st March 2005 as follows:

	No of Accounts	Value at 31 st March 2005
		£000
Council Arrangements	832	167
Sheriff Arrangements	4509	1,444
Bank Arrestments	2671	1,058
Wages Arrestments	2351	999
DWP Deductions	9583	1,622
Total	19946	5,290

4 NON-DOMESTIC RATES COLLECTION PERFORMANCE ETC

- 4.1 The following table shows the cumulative collection performance over the past 6 years for non-domestic rates. The net amounts outstanding at 31 March 2004 are also shown.

	2004/5	2003/4	2002/3	2001/2	2000/1	1999/0
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net Amount Due	25,074	24,140	23,954	22,979	22,122	21,241
Net Cash Collected	24,569	23,919	23,636	22,686	21,847	20,996
Percentage Collected	98.0%	99.1%	98.7%	98.7%	98.8%	98.8%
Write offs	40	60	139	198	227	239
Outstanding at 31 March 2004	465	162	178	94	47	6

- 4.2 The Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI) for 2003/4 was 98.0%. The comparable figure for 2004/5 is, subject to audit, 98.2%
- 4.3 The draft accounts (subject to audit) for 2004/5 show gross arrears on Non Domestic Rates and associated Statutory Additions as being some £1.152m. This debt is being actively pursued with formal arrangements in place at 31st March 2005 as follows:

	No of Accounts	Value at 31 st March 2005
		£000
Council Arrangements	20	72
Sheriff Arrangements	158	162
Total	178	234

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The performance figure is in line with general expectation and there are no financial implications not already assumed.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive and the Director of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Subject to audit, the figures contained in this report indicate a continuation of improvement of in-year collection of Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates. This is encouraging.

NOTE No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

David S. Sawers
Director of Finance

JC/TB 03/06/05

APPENDIX A

Council Tax Collection Figures – 1993/4 to 2004/5

	2004/5	2003/4	2002/3	2001/2	2000/1	1999/0	1998/9	1993/9 4 to 1997/9 8
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Amount Due	39,817	37,068	34,498	31,826	29,667	28,003	26,869	118,202
Amount Rec'd	38,286	35,994	33,612	31,146	29,098	27,528	26,462	116,364
% Collected	96.15%	97.10%	97.43%	97.86%	98.08%	98.30%	98.49%	98.45%