

## Report of the Director of Resources

**IRRECOVERABLE COUNCIL TAX, NON-DOMESTIC RATES, SUNDRY DEBTS AND HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To request approval for the write-off of irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rates and to note amounts written off under delegated powers for Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Sundry Debts and Housing Benefit Overpayments.

**2 Executive Summary**

- 2.1 The Borough Council has the power to write-off irrecoverable Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Sundry Debts and Housing Benefit Overpayments at the discretion of the Committee.

**3 Appendices**

- 3.1 Appendix A - Further detail of debt for write off.

APPENDIX	TYPE OF DEBT	REASON
A	Non-Domestic Rates over £2,000	Insolvency

**4 Proposed Action:**

- 4.1 **The Committee is invited to RESOLVE the write-off of £18,267.16 irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rates.**
- 4.2 **The Committee is invited to RESOLVE to note that the amount of £23,722.41 has been written off under delegated powers of the Section 151 Officer.**

**5 Background**

- 5.1 There are periodical reviews of outstanding debts for Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Sundry Debts and Housing Benefit Overpayments and sums deemed to be uncollectible are recommended for write-off.

## 6. Discussion

- 6.1 The Section 151 Officer has reviewed the amounts stated and has written them off under his delegated powers in accordance with financial regulations.
- 6.2 All appropriate action has been taken. Debts have been thoroughly pursued via legal action in the Magistrates' Court; visits have been carried out by Council staff and specialist tracing/collection agencies. In all cases the debts were deemed to be irrecoverable.
- 6.3 A total of £23,722.41 irrecoverable Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Sundry Debts and Housing Benefit Overpayments have been written off under delegated powers as follows:

Type of Debt	Reason	Amount
Council Tax	Forwarding address not known	£6,651.05
Council Tax	Insolvency	£8,087.18
Council Tax	Prison	£893.08
Council Tax	Uneconomic to pursue	£23.28
Council Tax	Other reasons	£833.35
Sundry Debts	Forwarding address not Known	£1,025.00
Sundry Debts	Prison	£200.00
Sundry Debts	Uneconomic to pursue	£459.98
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Deceased	£1,084.03
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Insolvency	£979.37
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Uneconomic to pursue	£139.42
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Forwarding address not Known	£3,346.67

## 6 Legal Powers

- 6.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that local authorities make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. Part of these arrangements includes arrangements for the writing-off of debts.
- 6.2 Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits the Council to delegate certain powers, duties and functions to Committees. The power to write-off debts of £2,000 and over is delegated to this Committee.

## 7 Financial and Value For Money Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct revenue implications as adequate provision has been made within the accounts for bad debts.

## 8 Risk Analysis

- 8.1 None

## 9 Implications for Resources

- 9.1 None

## **10 Implications for Stronger and Safer Communities**

10.1 None

## **11 Implications for Equalities**

11.1 None

## **12 Author and Contact Officer**

Jill Stewart Council Tax Supervisor  
Richard Watson, Business Rate Manager

## **13 Consultees**

Nigel Robinson, Principal Revenue and Benefits Manager

## **14 Background Papers**

There is no personal data to be removed prior to publication for general public therefore there is no pink paper for the committee to consider separately in relation to this report.

## **Appendix A**

Non-Domestic Rates where the balance outstanding was £2,000 or over and the individual or organisation has been made bankrupt, insolvent, been dissolved, proposal to strike off, wound up or entered an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA), Creditors Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) or has been granted a Debt Relief Order (DRO).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Type of Insolvency</b>
Comfort Smith Limited	£4,664.54	2012/13	Dissolved
Pure trade Windows Ltd	£13,602.62	2011/12	Proposal to strike off
Total	<b>£18,267.16</b>		