

## 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, Council Tax, Housing Benefit Overpayments and Commercial Rent 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, Housing Benefit Overpayments and Commercial Rent at the discretion of the Committee.

**3 Appendices**

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

APPENDIX	TYPE OF DEBT	REASON
A	Non-Domestic Rates over £2,000	Insolvency
B	Non-Domestic Rates over £2,000	Forwarding address not known
C	Council Tax over £2,000	Insolvency
D	Council Tax over £2,000	Forwarding address not known
E	Housing Benefit Overpayments over £2,000	Insolvency
F	Commercial rent and service charges over £2,000	Insolvency

**4 Proposed Action:**

- 4.1 The Committee is invited to **RESOLVE** the write-off of £124,947.41 irrecoverable Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates and Housing Benefit Overpayments.
- 4.2 The Committee is invited to **RESOLVE** to note that the amount of £42,739.93 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, Commercial Rent, 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 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' or County 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 £42,739.93 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	£23,290.41
Council Tax	Insolvency	£11,106.35
Council Tax	Deceased	£129.70
Council Tax	Uneconomic to pursue	£539.88
Non-Domestic Rates	Forwarding address not Known	£1,882.57
Non-Domestic Rates	Insolvency	£1,552.44
Sundry Debts	Forwarding address not Known	£1,205.00
Sundry Debts	Other reasons	£28.96
Sundry Debts	Uneconomic to pursue	£5.00
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Deceased	£38.34
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Uneconomic to pursue	£319.68
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Forwarding address not Known	£2,140.74
Housing Benefit Overpayments	Other reasons	£500.86

## 7 Legal Powers

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.

## 8 Financial and Value For Money Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct revenue implications as adequate provision has been

made within the accounts for bad debts.

## **9 Risk Analysis**

9.1 None

## **10 Implications for Resources**

10.1 None

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

11.1 None

## **12 Implications for Equalities**

12.1 None

## **13 Author and Contact Officer**

Jill Stewart Council Tax Supervisor  
Richard Watson, Business Rate Manager

## **14 Consultees**

Nigel Robinson, Principal Revenue and Benefits Manager  
Bridget Lawrence, Head of Resources

## **15 Background Papers**

Appendices have all relevant personal data removed prior to publication for general public. However, all details will be on pink paper for the committee to allow the decisions as asked to be made.

## Appendix 1A

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

Account Number	Name	Address	Amount	Period	Reason
600872502	CPS Consulting Engineers Ltd	6 Regent Park, Wellingborough	£4,707.38	2012/2013	Dissolved
600889333	Intershop (Build) Ltd	4 Fleming Close, Wellingborough	£3,519.16	2011/2012	Dissolved
600895534	Alkmb Polymers Ltd	4/5 Midland Business Units, Wellingborough	£22,855.90	2011/2012	Proposal to strike off
600897804	Evernet Ltd	1 Farm Road, Wellingborough	£2,433.95	2012/2013	Proposal to strike off
600902841	Carver Joinery Ltd	2/3 Yeldon Court, Wellingborough	£6,147.91	2012/2013	Liquidation
600904069	Clementines Taverns Ltd	Rafferty's, Market Street, Wellingborough	£2,537.93	2012/2013	Administration
600905547	Enlighters Ltd	14 Hinwick Road, Wollaston	£6,453.32	2012/2013	Proposal to strike off
600906009	New Leaf (Wollaston) Ltd	12/13 Williams Way, Wollaston	£7,450.44	2012/2013	Proposal to strike off
<b>Total</b>			<b>£56,105.99</b>		

## Appendix 1B

Non-Domestic Rates where the balance outstanding was over £2,000 and a forwarding address was not known.

Account Number	Name	Amount	Period
600901541	Mr D	£14,372.76	2012/2013
<b>Total</b>		<b>£14,372.76</b>	

## Appendix 1C

Council Tax Payers where the balance outstanding was over £2,000 and the individual or organisation has been made bankrupt, insolvent, been dissolved, wound up or entered an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA), Creditors Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) or has been granted a Debt Relief Order (DRO).

Account Number	Name	Amount	Period	Type of Insolvency
80070159X	Miss S	£4,072.73	2003-2009	Bankrupt
800522240	Ms R	£3,148.14	2007-2012	DRO
800713954	Mr H & Miss S	£3,427.23	2007-2011	Bankrupt
<b>Total</b>		<b>£10,648.10</b>		

## Appendix 1D

Council Tax Payers where the balance outstanding was over £2,000 and a forwarding address was not known.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Period</b>
800947115	Mr B	£4,045.24	2008-2012
801157749	Mr S	£2,571.30	2006-2009
800848564	Miss A	£2,515.74	2007-2010
801141346	Mr & Mrs T	£3,262.25	2004-2006
80084022X	Mr B & Mr B	£2,346.72	2006-2008
800831406	Mr K	£2,064.53	2005-2008
<b>Total</b>		<b>£16,805.78</b>	

## Appendix 1E

Housing Benefit Overpayments where the total balance outstanding was over £2,000 and the individual or organisation has been made bankrupt, insolvent, been dissolved, wound up or entered an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA), Creditors Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) or has been granted a Debt Relief Order (DRO).

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Reason</b>
5256558	Mrs M	£4,206.94	21.09.07	Bankrupt
5232585	Ms B	£1,639.73	14.03.06	Bankrupt
5232598	Ms B	£1,601.76	14.03.06	Bankrupt
5232608	Ms B	£5,661.28	14.03.06	Bankrupt
5287035	Ms B	£846.20	31.07.09	Bankrupt
<b>Total</b>		<b>£13,955.91</b>		

## Appendix 1F

Commercial Rent and service charges where the balance outstanding was over £2,000 and the companies were dissolved or liquidated.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Period</b>
OHL Group Ltd	Unit 14 Faraday Court	£3,536.00	2010
Nu- Lok Roofing Systems Uk Ltd	Unit 4 Saxon Court	£9,522.87	2008-2011
<b>Total</b>		<b>£13,058.87</b>	

