Appendix 4

National Non-Domestic Rates debt write offs

The following 12 business rates accounts require Cabinet approval for write off as they are over £50,000 in value. A number of the accounts span multi years and all have been pursued through the various debt recovery processes of the Council.

Members will be aware that during the pandemic all Councils were unable to pursue any recovery action through the courts or external enforcement agents and as a consequence following the pandemic there was an increase in the volume and value of debt and the number of businesses who became non-payers. This cessation of debt collection by creditors along with the mid and post pandemic economic downturn, is also likely to have led to a delay and an increase in the number of businesses applying for bankruptcy or going through insolvency procedures.

Due to the age of this debt all of it is fully provided for within the bad debt provision and therefore there is no impact on the in year position.

Debt Value	Liability Year	Write Off Reason
£93,546.23	2018-2022	Bankruptcy/Administration/Liquidation
£82,718.42	2019-2020	Bankruptcy/Administration/Liquidation
£79,474.76	2012-2017	Bankruptcy/Administration/Liquidation
£76,987.68	2011-2017	Bankruptcy/Administration/Liquidation
£73,260.00	2016-2017	Not viable to collect (Advice from Legal)
£70,013.37	2018-2020	Bankruptcy/Administration/Liquidation
£69,658.27	2012-2017	Bankruptcy/Administration/Liquidation
£69,268.00	2015-2017	Bankruptcy/Administration/Liquidation
£64,565.00	2017-2019	Bankruptcy/Administration/Liquidation
£59,020.54	2011-2013	Bankruptcy/Administration/Liquidation
£58,699.00	2019-2020	Bankruptcy/Administration/Liquidation
£53,525.33	2018-2019	Not viable to collect (Advice from Legal)

Reason	Number Of Accounts	Debt Value
Bankruptcy/Administration/Liquidation	10	£723,951.27
Not viable to collect (Advice from Legal)	2	£126,785.33
Total	**12**	**£850,736.60**

Procedures have been put in place within the service to bring forward write off requests for Business Rates and Council Tax on a quarterly basis. This will ensure that write offs and the necessary governance that entails is performed in a timely manner to prevent large volumes of unviable debt building in the debt profile.

Improvement measures are also currently being implemented within the service which will support more expedient and efficient collection and recovery processes, helping to mitigate against aged debts being rendered uncollectible due to subsequent insolvency of the business. This is in parallel with the new pathway that seeks to ensure all businesses are claiming all grants and subsidies that they are entitled to thereby reducing their liability.