NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET – TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2024



| Title of Report | FORMER TENANT RENT ARREARS, CURRENT TENANT RENT ARREARS, COUNCIL TAX, NON-DOMESTIC RATES AND SUNDRY DEBTS WRITE OFFS | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Presented by | Councillor Nick Rushton Corporate Portfolio Holder PH Briefed X | | | | | |
| Background Papers | All information used in compiling the report contain exempt | Public Report: Yes | | | | |
| | information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 to Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972. | Key Decision: Yes | | | | |
| Financial Implications | There are no additional financial impacts as all the debts are met from the Council's bad debt provision for previous years' arrears or from in-year income if the debts relate to the current financial year. Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes | | | | | |
| Legal Implications | There are no direct legal implications from this report. | | | | | |
| | Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes | | | | | |
| Staffing and Corporate Implications | None identified. | | | | | |
| | Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: | | | | | |
| Purpose of Report | To approve write offs over £10,000 in compliance with the Council's Constitution. | | | | | |
| Reason for Decision | To comply with proper accounting practices. | | | | | |
| Recommendations | THAT CABINET APPROVE DOMESTIC RATES AND SOVER £10,000. | ES THE NON-NATIONAL SUNDRY DEBTORS THAT ARE | | | | |

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to write off debts over £10,000. This report details write-offs in relation to non-national domestic rates (NNDR) and sundry debtors.
- 1.2 Details of overall write offs will be reported annually.

- 1.3 Writing off debts is only considered where appropriate recovery and enforcement options have been taken, or, where the Council is legally prohibited from pursuing the debt. These include:
 - bankruptcy or a Debt Relief Order is in place.
 - deceased no assets within the assets.
 - debtor absconded or no trace.
 - company in liquidation/dissolved or ceased trading with no assets.
 - severe hardship and/or serious health issues.
 - statute barred i.e. the Council cannot legally pursue the debt as there has been six years since the debt fell due and no action has been taken to collect the debt.
 - uneconomical to collect i.e. it is not financially viable to take further action for example due to the low level of the debt or they have gone abroad.

2.0 NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES AND SUNDRY DEBTORS

- 2.1 There are three NNDR debts over £10,000 for which Cabinet approval is sought amounting to £87,772.37. Summary information is provided in Appendix A.
- 2.2 There is one Sundry Debtor debt over £10,000 for which Cabinet approval is sought amounting to £19,377.40. Summary information is provided in Appendix B.
- 2.3 There are no write offs over £10,000 in relation to former tenant arrears, current tenant arrears or council tax debts to be considered in this report.
- 2.4 Writing off debt is only ever considered as a last resort. In the above instances when companies, sole traders or partnerships become insolvent, the Council is prohibited from taking any further action as all of their outstanding debts are included within the Administration, Liquidation or personal bankruptcy.

| Policies and other considerations, as appropriate | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Council Priorities: | A well-run Council | | | | | |
| Policy Considerations: | Council Constitution | | | | | |
| Safeguarding: | Not applicable | | | | | |
| Equalities/Diversity: | Not applicable | | | | | |
| Customer Impact: | Not applicable | | | | | |
| Economic and Social Impact: | Not applicable | | | | | |
| Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon: | Not applicable | | | | | |
| Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement: | Not applicable | | | | | |
| Risks: | Regular reviews of debts for write off mitigates the risk that the Council's accounts do not reflect the true level of recoverable income. It is also part of an effective arrears management strategy. | | | | | |
| Officer Contact | Anna Crouch Head of Finance anna.crouch@nwleicestershire.gov.uk | | | | | |

Appendix A

NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES (NNDR) OVER £10,000 FOR WRITE-OFF

| Sole- trader or | Status | Older arrears £ | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | Total £ |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|
| Company | | ~ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| Limited Company | In Companies Voluntary Arrangement | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 18,427.25 | 0.00 | 18,427.25 |
| Limited Company | In Liquidation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 77.5 | 4,911.72 | 5,186.24 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,175.46 |
| Limited Company | In Companies Voluntary Arrangement | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 55,041.00 | 4,128.66 | 0.00 | 59,169.66 |
| Sole Trader | No Trace | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 77.50 | 4,911.72 | 60,227.24 | 22,555.91 | 0.00 | 87,772.37 |

Appendix B

SUNDRY DEBTORS OVER £10,000 FOR WRITE-OFF

| Sole-trader or Company | Status | Older arrears £ | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/2025 | Total £ |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| Limited Company | In Liquidation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 19,377.40 | 0.00 | 19,377.40 |
| Total | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 19,377.40 | 0.00 | 19,377.40 |