

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET26 March 2015Report by Deputy Chief ExecutiveWRITE OFF IRRECOVERABLE NON-DOMESTIC RATES**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to write-off as irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rates totalling up to £171,271.84.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Cabinet notes the report and approves the write-off sum of up to £171,271.84 of Non-Domestic Rates without prejudice to subsequent recovery procedure. This sum has already been included within the bad debt provision.

BACKGROUND

3. The Council's debt recovery policy lists situations where debts will be considered for write off when all viable means of collection are exhausted. These include the following:

- Deceased
- Company in receivership
- Company liquidated / sole trader sequestrated
- Ceased trading

REPORT

4. A recent trawl of Non-Domestic Rates accounts shows by reason of write off:

	<u>Number of Businesses</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Receivership	1	£4,604.18
Liquidation / Sequestration	9	£103,307.09
Ceased Trading	9	£63,360.57
Total	19	£171,271.84

5. A further summary of Non-Domestic Rates by age of debt to be written-off shows:

Non-Domestic Rates

2009/10	£111,935.60
2012/13	£28,068.21
2013/14	£31,268.03
Total	£171,271.84

6. The amount included for write off is slightly lower than sums approved for write off during 2013/14 (£199,921.19) No sums were written off during 2012/13.

Income from non domestic rates in the current year will exceed £13.5m and the sum to be written off represents 1.3% of those collections.

RECOMMENDATION

8. The Cabinet notes the report and approves the write-off sum of £171,271.84 of Non-Domestic Rates without prejudice to subsequent recovery procedure. This sum has already been included within the bad debt provision.

Caroline Innes
Deputy Chief executive and Director of Corporate and Community services

Further information is available from Fiona Caldwell, Billing and Recovery Manager, telephone 0141 577 3286.

Cabinet contact: Councillor McAlpine, Convenor for Corporate Services
Tel : 0141 638 3860 (Home)
Mobile: 07890 592671

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Corporate debt recovery policy

KEY WORDS

Write-off, Non-Domestic Rates and irrecoverable