

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL** DECISION  
**REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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Agenda Item No 6

meeting date: 10 JUNE 2014  
title: LOCAL TAXATION WRITE OFF  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES  
principal author: MARK EDMONDSON

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To obtain Committee's approval to write off a National Non-Domestic Rate debt.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

❖ ***Council Ambitions/Community Objectives/Corporate Priorities***

Without the revenue collected from rates, council tax and sundry debtors we would be unable to meet the Council's ambitions, objectives and priorities.

2 BACKGROUND

NNDR

2.1 No specific statute exists to give guidance on the circumstances under which debts, in general, can be written off other than the statute of limitations. Any debt for which recovery action has not been taken within six years still remains but legal action cannot be taken.

2.2 As a matter of law, we are under an obligation to take reasonable steps to collect business rate debts.

2.3 We do this by various means, including summonses, enforcement agents, bankruptcy, winding up and committal warrants. However, there are some cases where debtors simply leave their property with arrears and where we have no forwarding address, or are declared bankrupt, insolvent or cease trading.

2.4 The onset of the recession has seen more companies get into financial difficulties. Companies that get into the most financial difficulties have to take the administration/receivership options if they are unable to agree terms with their creditors.

3 CURRENT POSITION

3.1 There is one case where the company has been dissolved and therefore we need to write off an NNDR debt.

3.2 Annex 1 shows details of the debt we are seeking approval to write off – this totals £1,689.52.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Up until 31 March 2013 the costs arising from any NNDR debts written off were met from the non-domestic rate pool and therefore did not impact this Council's finances directly.
- 4.2 The new rates retention scheme came into effect on 1 April 2013 and as a result the cost of NNDR write offs are now met in part by central government and in part by local government.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Approve writing off of £1,689.52 of NNDR debt where it has not been possible to collect the amounts due.

HEAD OF REVENUES AND BENEFITS

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF29-14/ME/AC

2 June 2014

Background papers: None

For further information please ask for Mark Edmondson.

## Policy and Finance Committee

## Write Offs - NNDR

Year	Name	Property	Amount £
<b><i>DISSOLVED</i></b> Dissolution is the last stage of liquidation, the process by which a company (or part of a company) is brought to an end, and the assets and property of the company redistributed.			
2013/14	Intrade UK Limited	Bull & Royal Hotel, 36 Derby Road, Longridge, Preston PR3 3JT	1,689.52
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,689.52</b>