

REPORT

Subject : Business Rate and Sundry Debtor Write Offs
Report to : The Cabinet
Date : Wednesday 28 March 2007
Author : Phil Ruddle and Alan Osborne
Cabinet Member: for Resources- Councillor Don Culver

1. Report Summary:

1.1

The attached list contains name and address details for local businesses, where they have either become insolvent, bankrupt or are simply untraceable.

There are five businesses listed, with a total write off of £57173.17, covering four financial years. (it should be noted that £27098.84 refers to one business, Guilder graphics)

All of the listed cases have been through the full recovery and tracing process.

The individual totals involved exceed the Head of Revenue and Benefits delegated authority of £1000.

As a comparison, £44608.43, was written off in May 2006 for businesses that had failed during the 2005/6 financial year.

1.2

One material write off for a sundry debtor was required during the year. This totaled £7,440 exceeding the Head of Financial Services delegated authority of £5,000.

This debtor has been through the full debt recovery and tracing process. The Council's debt recovery agency has advised that it is no longer practicable to pursue this debt as the debtor was no longer sufficiently solvent to settle the debt on the last occasion they attended a court hearing and is now untraceable.

2. Recommendation:

To write off the amounts shown on the attached schedule for the reasons indicated and due to the fact that the council is a non-preferred creditor.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



3. **Background Papers:** None

4. **Implications:**

- **Key decision** : No
- **Financial** : The council is a non-preferred creditor.
- **Legal** : None
- **Human rights** : None
- **Community Safety** : None
- **Personnel** : None
- **ICT** : None
- **Environmental** : None
- **Council's Core Values** : protecting the public purse.
- **Ward(s) Affected** : None
- **Consultation Undertaken:** None

Appendix 1

LOCAL TAXATION - NNDR - INSOLVENCIES AND IRRECOVERABLES

To write off the amounts shown on the attached schedule for the reasons indicated below and due to the fact that the Council is a non-preferential creditor.

The totals involved exceed the Head of Revenue and Benefits delegated authority of £1,000.

(Please contact Phil Ruddle (Direct Line 01722 434406) if you require further information on any of the individual write-offs listed in the schedule).

Name and Address	99/200 0	2000/0 1	2001/02	2002/0 3	2003/0 4	2004/0 5	2005/0 6	2006/0 7	Total	Reason
Guilder Graphics Ltd Units 1-3 115 Tollgate Road Salisbury							£17109.8 2		£17109.8 2	Company paid to 011205 by Direct Debit. Rateable Value increased from 35250 to 81500 from 010905. We actioned the increase 141205. Direct debit was cancelled from 010406. They were supposed to reinstate a new one but the company went into Administrative Receivership 130306 – processed for write off as there is no prospect of a dividend to any creditor.
Guilder Graphics Ltd Units 2 & 3 115 Tollgate Road Salisbury							£9989.02		£9989.02	See above note – they paid by direct debit to and including 011205 then company went into Administrative Receivership 130306 – no prospect of any dividend
GZATC Limited The New Barn Odstock Road Salisbury							£5052.00 £2076.44		£5052.00 £2076.44	Company paid by Direct debit to July 2005 – August DD was returned we tried

										again in September. Notified of Meeting of Creditors 110106 re company voluntary arrangement –CVA was accepted. 200606 CVA had failed Summons issued 100706. Liability Order 310706 and sent to Bailiff 240806. Notified in September that the company went into administration on 150606 Processed for write off as there is no prospect of any dividend
Sarum Jewellers Ltd 14 New Canal Salisbury					£5802.34	£3726.33			£9528.67	Company Voluntary Arrangement approved 140803 – recharged from 010404 – Summons 041104 Liability Order 061204 sent to Bailiff 301204 Payment received 190105 – company went in administration 200105 - Company went into Liquidation 231205 – processed for write off as no prospect of any dividend
Mr William R Whitely Winterbourne Arms Salisbury						£2389.00	£2744.91		£5133.91	Paid by direct debit to April 2004. DD cancelled & payment book sent –failed on arrangement so summons 041104 l/o 061204 sent bailiff 090505. Summons 200705 Liability order 150805 Bailiff 120905 – Notified of his Bankrupt 160106. Processed for write off – No prospect of any dividend

Silverscreen Limited 40 Old George Mall Salisbury									£8286.31	£8286.31	Company paid by Direct debit to 310306. Company in Administration 290306 Property closed 150806 – shop closed 210506 but still furnished. We are unable to recover from Administrators – Notified there is no dividend to unsecured creditors.
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SUNDRY DEBTORS

To write off the amounts shown on the attached schedule for the reasons indicated below and due to the fact that the Council is a non-preferential creditor.

The totals involved exceed the Head of Financial Services delegated authority of £5,000.

(Please contact Alan Osborne (Direct Line 01722 434393) if you require further information on the individual write-off listed in the schedule).

Name and Address	99/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Total	Reason
Mr Michael Bird trading as Hand Tools Plus								£7,440	£7,440	Mr Bird had not signed a contract hire agreement with the Guildhall prior to going bankrupt. Despite extensive traces on Mr Bird we are unable to ascertain his present whereabouts. We have been advised by our debt collectors to close this file.