



Hincley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Finance and Performance 9 June 2025
Executive 18 June 2025

Wards affected: All

Business Rates Write off

Report of Head of Finance

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To seek approval of members to write off business rates of £54,840.22 in accordance with approval procedures.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the following amounts in the table below are approved for write off by the Council due to insolvency:

Description	Liable Period	Amount	Comments
Unincorporated Trader	2022/23	£28,848.75	Notified of occupation in February 2023, trader vacated May 2023. Forwarding address does not exist. The Landlord states he disappeared, and he cannot. Given circumstances and unable to trace have little option but submit for consideration of write off.
Limited Company	2023/24-2024/25	£25,991.47	All available enforcement and recovery options have been exhausted, and the business was struck off Companies House 25th February 2025.

3. Background

3.1 The Business rates of £54,840.22 noted in the table at 2.1 above are no longer recoverable and need to be written off. These amounts have already been accounted for in the financial statements and budget, with provisions made for 2023/24 and 2024/25, so will not change the current budgeted position. Our share of the write off is £21,936.09. In all cases legal action was taken, where appropriate, in an attempt to

collect the amount outstanding, and recovery procedures have been exhausted. The Constitution require Council to approve the write off, of debts over £50,000.

4 Implications

- 4.1 For the 2023/24 and 2024/25 year the budget had allowed for business rates growth of £3.7m and £4.35m respectively, mainly due to expectation of businesses becoming occupied and increases in Section 31 grant. This means that the loss to us of £71,349.50 will reduce the expected growth, but due to use of the provisions it has been possible to prevent the impact of the lost rates falling on the general fund. If the provision is at any time exhausted, then equalization reserve would have been used to offset the impact on the general fund. In the past members have agreed to keep this reserve at a minimum of £1,250,000.

5. Financial implications [IB]

- 5.1 Contained in the body of the report.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 Section 25 of the Local Government Act (2003) requires the Section 151 officer to report on the robustness of the estimates made within the budget and the adequacy of the financial reserves.

7. Corporate Plan implications

- 7.1 A robust General Fund Budget is required to ensure that resources are effectively allocated to ensure delivery of all of the aims, outcomes and targets included in the Council's Corporate Plan.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 None

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all the risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

No significant risks are associated with this report.

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. However financial planning is a key tool for delivering the corporate priorities of the Council. Included in those priorities are the Climate change considerations for services. The budget decisions

made by members in relation to issues such as Council tax, fees and charges, and in the longer-term asset investment directly affect the council's abilities to invest in climate change priorities.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset Management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data Protection implications
 - Voluntary Sector
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Background papers: None

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