

BENEFIT, COUNCIL TAX, BUSINESS RATES FORMER TENANT ARREARS AND SUNDRY DEBTORS – WRITE-OFFS

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) reports that, although no provisions are included in the council tax and business rate legislation for the writing off of debt, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996 now acknowledge that, in certain circumstances, for all practical purposes, some debts must be deemed uncollectable.
- 1.2. Appendix A to this report lists, in summary form, cases of write-off executed by the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) under his delegated authority. Appendix B lists cases which fall outside such authority and which need this Committee's approval.
- 1.3. In all cases, diligent efforts have been made to recover debts, but have failed. In a number of cases, defaulters have moved abroad and the Council has no recovery remedy. The Corporate Director is, however, pleased to inform Members that 4 Business Rate cases with a value of £3,108.13 which had previously been written off have now been reinstated as a result of new information.

2 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1. As detailed in Appendices A and B

3 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) that items written off under the Corporate Director's delegated authority be noted
- (2) that items shown in Appendix B be now written off in the accounts of the authority. (HRHM/HFS)

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

Background Papers:

None.

For further information please contact Lissa Higby (01702) 546366

APPENDIX A

1 National Non-Domestic Rating

7 Cases value £1,048.83 (average debt £149.83)

2 Benefits

6 Cases value £1,016.39 (average debt £169.40)

3 Council Tax

16 Cases value £2,126.01 (average debt £132.88)

4 Former Tenant Housing Rents

26 Cases value £1M146.02 (average debt £44.08)

5 Sundry Debtors

None.

APPENDIX B

National Non-Domestic Rating

CASE NO.	AMOUNT	REASON FOR WRITE-OFF
	£	
398	7,759.62	Company dissolved, property repossessed.
397	7,028.37	Debtor absconded, unable to trace.
2Cases	14,787.99	

Council Tax

CASE NO.	AMOUNT	REASON FOR WRITE-OFF
	£	
363	836.77	Debt to be written off by order of Magistrates.
365	636.51	Debt to be written off by order of Magistrates.
374	777.19	Debtor absconded – unable to trace.
376	687.03	Debtor absconded – unable to trace.
377	666.60	Debtor absconded – unable to trace. Housing rent already written off.
5 Cases	3,604.10	

Sundry Debtors

CASE NO.	AMOUNT	REASON FOR WRITE-OFF
	£	
368A	851.23	Debtor in prison
370A	1,014.65	Insufficient evidence that work was necessary due to the actions of the debtor.
371A	16,162.89	Insufficient evidence to prove that work carried out was necessary due to failure of contractor to carry out initial work satisfactorily.
374A	510.69	Debtor is on full income support and has insufficient goods to cover debt.
4 Cases	18,539.46	

Benefits

CASE NO.	AMOUNT	REASON FOR WRITE-OFF
	£	
307	652.37	Overpayment occurred when debtor became eligible for pension.

Former Tenant Arrears

CASE NO.	AMOUNT	REASON FOR WRITE-OFF
1	590.23	Debtor has insufficient income to repay – uneconomic to pursue further.