

## **BENEFIT, COUNCIL TAX, BUSINESS RATES 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 24 NNDR and council tax cases with a value of £2,545.23 which had previously been written off have now been reinstated as a result of new information.

### **2 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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**

4 Cases value £1,129.65 (average debt £282.41)

**2 Benefits**

17 Cases value £1,331.62 (average debt £78.33)

**3 Council Tax**

13 Cases value £1,276.12 (average debt £98.16)

**4 Former Tenant Housing Rents**

40 Cases value £2,721.36 (average debt £68.03)

**5 Sundry Debtors**

13 Cases value £1,745 (average debt £134.29)

**APPENDIX B**

**National Non-Domestic Rating**

<b>CASE NO.</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON FOR WRITE-OFF</b>
	£	
344	1,192.94	Debtor absconded, unable to trace.
256	1,144.64	Debtor absconded, unable to trace.
259	2,299.58	Debtor bankrupt.
258	2,925.21	No goods for bailiff to collect. Unable to trace through Companies House.
339	1,000.00	To be written off by order of Magistrates.
4 Cases	8,562.37	

**Council Tax**

<b>CASE NO.</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON FOR WRITE-OFF</b>
	£	
329	1,002.80	Debtors bankrupt – no likelihood of distribution to creditors.
324	585.24	Debtor moved to Dublin and property sold, therefore charging order cannot be put in place.
2 Cases	1,588.04	

**Sundry Debtors**

<b>CASE NO.</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON FOR WRITE-OFF</b>
	£	
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**

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

**Former Tenant Arrears**

<b>CASE NO.</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON FOR WRITE-OFF</b>
1	2,380.91	Debtor has insufficient income to repay – uneconomic to pursue further.
2	1,356.78	Debtor has insufficient income to repay – uneconomic to pursue further.
3	1,169.80	Debtor has insufficient income to repay – uneconomic to pursue further.
4	1,433.02	Debtor has insufficient income to repay – uneconomic to pursue further.
5	924.40	Debtor evicted early 1999 – unable to trace.
6	725.95	Debtor abandoned property early 1999 – unable to trace.
7	645.04	Debtor abandoned property early 1999 – unable to trace.
8	871.28	Debtor abandoned property early 1999 – unable to trace.
9	1,216.38	Possession order obtained but debtor did not attend court – unable to trace.
10	673.48	Debtor abandoned property in 1997. He is currently repaying another debt to the Council which will take 3 years. He is on income support and is unlikely to be able to repay this amount.
11	1,533.65	Debt relates to two properties, both of which have been abandoned by the debtor. – unable to trace.
11 Cases	12,930.69	