

Subject:	Irrecoverable Debt Report	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	21 st October 2015
Report of:	Head of Customer Services & ICT	Portfolio Holder:	Customer Services & Health/Resources and Performance
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	Members are recommended to approve the write off of £5,594.05 in respect of irrecoverable Council Tax debts.
1.2	Members are recommended to approve the write off of £52,984.30 in respect of irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rate debts.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is request member authority to write off bad debts of Council Tax and Non-domestic Rates which are above the delegated limit of £5,000 (see Appendix A). There are no amounts over £5,000 for either sundry debts or overpaid housing benefits.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 It is prudent practice to clear any debts from the ledgers which are now deemed to be irrecoverable.
- 5.2 The sum of £5,594.05 is regarded as irrecoverable in respect of Council Tax due to bankruptcy, and is recommended for write off.
- 5.3 The sum of £52,984.30 is regarded as irrecoverable in respect of Council Tax due to bankruptcy, and is recommended for write off.
- 5.4 A record of all debts written off is maintained in the event that there is an opportunity for future collections.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 As at 01/04/2015 the provisions for bad debts stood at

- Council Tax = £395k
- Non-domestic Rates = £330k
- Housing Benefits = £544k
- Sundry Debts = £161k

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 There are no specific implications arising from the report as all means of recovery have presently been exhausted.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 The proposed write offs set out in this report are recommended in accordance with the Council's agreed write off policies and procedures.

8.2 All write-offs are considered with due regard on their own merit as required. This report is not proposing new services, policies, strategies, or plans (or significant changes to or reviews of them). It does not propose decisions about budget cuts or service changes/reductions. It is determined therefore, that this report is unlikely to have any adverse impacts under the Council's Equality Policy or associated equality duties, and has not been assessed for equalities impacts.

8.3 No HR implications arising from this report.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The write-offs are within the provisions available and recommendation to write off is made within the grounds of prudence before the financial year end.

No background papers