

**Report of :** Community Housing Business Manager

**To:** Executive Board

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008

**Item No**

**Title of Report:** Write Off Report Of Uncollectible Debts (Temporary Accommodation)

### Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To agree write-off of debts in excess of £5,000 for temporary accommodation debts. The cases submitted for write off are presented in accordance with the debt write off policy agreed by Executive Board on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

**Key decision:** No

**Portfolio Holder:** Patrick Murray, Improving Housing

**Scrutiny Responsibility:** Finance and Housing

**Ward(s) affected:** None

**Report Approved by**

**Portfolio Holders:** Patrick Murray and Jim Campbell

**Legal:** Jeremy Thomas

**Finance:** Suzan Smart

**Policy Framework:** The report supports the Council vision, as it will contribute to maintaining financial stability.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Board is asked to approve the writing-off of the amounts shown.



## 1. Introduction

The cases submitted for write off are shown below, indicating the type of write off, the reason and the amount.

In all cases, the Council has attempted to recover the debt, but it has not been able to collect the sums due. All debts were incurred in excess of a year ago, some considerably earlier. The prospects of recovery of the sums due are now considered to be minimal and that it is uneconomic to pursue these cases further.

## 2. Accounts Submitted for Write-Off

Reason	Details	Amount
Nightly Charge accounts with no formal Tenancy Agreements.  No legal power to recover.	<u>Account:</u> 9000001578 <u>Period:</u> 24.5.1994 to 11.3.1997	Amount: £5,107.50
	<u>Account:</u> 9000340790 <u>Period:</u> 16.9.2002 to 26.9.2004	Amount: £11,314.44
		<b>Total: £16,421.94</b>
Court Possessions for evictions due to rent arrears, or non-occupation, or case that have abandoned.  No forwarding addresses. Attempts made, without success, to trace or contact the persons.	<u>Account:</u> 9000340549 <u>Period:</u> 26.7.2002 to 03.10.2004	Amount: £7,921.71
	<u>Account:</u> 9000365999 <u>Period:</u> 12.12.03 to 10.10.2004	Amount: £6,666.80
	<u>Account:</u> 9000401794 <u>Period:</u> 06.9.2002 to 03.10.2004	Amount: £8,396.20
	<u>Account:</u> 9000409419 <u>Period:</u> 31.01.2005 to 06.11.2005	Amount: £5,686.50

	<p><u>Account:</u> 9000366062 <u>Period:</u> 11.01.04 to 17.10.04</p> <p><u>Account:</u> 9000367078 <u>Period:</u> 09.02.04 to 07.11.04</p> <p><u>Account:</u> 9000370694 <u>Period:</u> 28.04.04 to 31.07.05</p> <p><u>Account:</u> 9000417030 <u>Period:</u> 06.06.06 to 22.01.06</p>	<p>Amount £6,288.00</p> <p>Amount: £7,390.63</p> <p>Amount: £7557.60</p> <p>Amount £7530.60</p> <p><b>Total: £57,438.04</b></p>
<p>Hardship Grounds. Low income or in receipt of full benefit.</p> <p>Considered uneconomic to pursue at this time and that to do so would be likely to result in additional hardship. (Often significant benefit deductions already in place)</p>	<p><u>Account:</u> 9000419968 <u>Period:</u> 15.08.05 to 12.03.2006</p> <p><u>Account:</u> 9000421037 <u>Period:</u> 29.08.2005 to 02.07.2006</p> <p><u>Account:</u> 9000429257 <u>Period:</u> 31.10.05 to 09.07.2006</p> <p><u>Account:</u> 9000357958 <u>Period:</u> 30.07.03 to 20.10.04</p>	<p>Amount: £6,846.00</p> <p>Amount: £5,228.30</p> <p>Amount: £8,215.20</p> <p>Amount £12,064.11</p> <p><b>Total £32,353.61</b></p>

Duplicated Account  Administration error – sum is unrecoverable from tenant	<u>Account:</u> 9000352971 <u>Period:</u> 16.05.03 to 20.02.05	Amount £17,724.15  <b>Total £17,724.15</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£123,937.74</b>

### 3. Financial Issues

Adequate provision in the Council's balances is made for this bad debt provision. (£667,732.20 brought forward into the 07/08 year). The write-off of these sums will enable that provision to be substantially reduced.

### 4. Recommendations

To write-off the amounts shown in relation to each account listed in the report.

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#### **Background Papers:**

None