

Report of: Head of Oxford City Homes.

To: City Executive Board

Date: 13th January 2010

Item No:

Title of Report: WRITE OFF REPORT OF UNCOLLECTABLE RENT

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To agree write-off of debts in excess of £5,000 for non-Business debts. The cases submitted for write off are presented in accordance with the debt write off policy agreed by executive board on 5th April 2004.

Key decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Joe McManners

Scrutiny Responsibility: Value and Performance

Ward(s) affected: None

Report Approved by

Portfolio Holder: Joe McManners and Ed Turner

Legal: Jeremy Thomas

Finance: Sarah Fogden

Policy Framework: Good financial management

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.

2. Rent Accounts Submitted for Write-Off.

Tenant Evicted - Experian search completed - unable to trace	Account no. 9000XXXXXX Evicted 23/11/2008	Amount <u>£5,083.21</u>
Tenant Evicted - Distraint not appropriate as no goods to repossess, if payments were forthcoming would take over 34 years to repay.	Account no. 9000XXXXXX Evicted 13/11/2007	Amount <u>£ 5,771.68</u>
Insolvency - Bankruptcy 245 of 2004	Account no. 9000XXXXXX Date of Bankruptcy 9/7/2004	Amount: <u>£ 5,475.32</u>
Insolvency - Bankruptcy 40 of 2002	Account no. 9000XXXXXX Date of Bankruptcy 11/2/2002	Amount: <u>£ 5,619.26</u>
	Total	<u>£21,949.47</u>

3. Resurrection of Debts

- 3.1 If new information is received, making these debts feasibly recoverable, the debts previously written-off will be resurrected.

4. Third Party Payments (DWP deductions)

- 4.1 DWP customers in receipt of certain benefits or credits may have deductions taken from their benefit and paid to a creditor under what is known as the Third Party Deduction Scheme. This scheme is operated in accordance with the Social Security (Claims & Payment) Regulations 1987, Regulation 35(1) and Schedule 9.
- 4.2 In each case above (except Insolvency), DWP has been considered and/or applied for unsuccessfully.

5. Provisions for Bad Debts

- 5.1 The information below gives details of the provisions for bad debt within the Housing Revenue Account at the beginning of the financial year, write-offs approved to date in 2009/2010 and what provisions will remain if the write-offs listed above are approved.

Housing Revenue Account

Debt Type	Provision at 1/4/09	Written-off to date	Submitted in this report	Remaining Provision
Rent Arrears	£395,339.87	£86,543.59	£21,949.47	£286,846.81

6. Recommendations

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

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Background papers: none