

To: City Executive Board

Date: 1 September 2010 **Item No:** 10

Report of: Head Community Housing and Community Development

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 5th April 2004.

Key decision: No

Executive lead member: Councillor Joe McManners

Report approved by:

Finance: Janine Graham and Gillian Chandler

Legal: Jeremy King and Jeremy Thomas

Policy Framework: Corporate Plan

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
Court Possession for evictions due to rent arrears, or non-occupation, or cases that have abandoned and no application for Housing Benefit. No forwarding addresses. Attempts made, without success, to trace or contact the persons.	Mr Leslie Price Period:17.7.06 to 20.5.07 Account: 9000437270 Address: Iffley Rd, Oxford	£8,239.11
	Miss Donna Hayes Period: 5.3.07 to19.8.07 Account: 9000455564 Address: Duke St, Oxford	£5,476.80
	Mr Craig Lees Period: 13.11.06 to 9.12.07 Account: 9000450952 Address: Banbury Rd, Oxford	£5,184.30
	Miss Gemma Day Period: 16.10.06 to27.1.08 Account: 9000450103 Address: Leys Place, Oxford	£8,214.33
	Miss Lynette Stoker Period: 18.7.05 to 19.2.06 Account: 9000418505 Address: Marlborough Rd, Oxford	£6,924.20
	Miss Monique Best Period:21.2.05 to 23.10.05 Account: 9000411832 Address: Fairacres Road, Oxford	£7,011.20

<p>Non payment of Housing Benefit due to deprivation of capital. On Income support, unable to pay.</p> <p>Initially accepted as homeless in 2005, but later re-presented, and was found intentionally homeless. The Council was injuncted by a Court Order in 2008 to continue to house, pending the hearing of a Judicial Review in the High Court (2009). This was despite the inability of the client to pay for the accommodation.</p> <p>Recovery of the debt is uneconomic given the large sum to be repaid; the history of the case and legal issues; and the situation of the client.</p>	<p>Miss Monique Best: Period: 16.4.07 to 6.4.08 Account: 9000458659 Address: Marlborough Rd, Oxford</p> <p>Miss Monique Best Period: 9.4.08 to 17.5.09 Account: 9000476288 Address Hollow Way, Oxford</p>	<p>£11,197.06</p> <p>£10,762.50</p>
<p>Court Possessions for evictions due to rent arrears, or non-occupation, or case that have abandoned. No application for Housing benefit.</p> <p>Unable to trace the debtor/ uneconomic to pursue further.</p>	<p>Mr Isen Kika Period: 5.9.05 to 24.5.06 Account; 9000421158 Address: Bullingdon Rd, Oxford</p>	<p>£6,534.60</p>
<p>Total:</p>		<p>£69,544.90</p>

3. Financial Issues

Adequate provision in the Council's balances is made for this bad debt provision. (£279,95.86 brought forward into the 10/11 year).

4. Risk

A risk analysis has been carried out and there are no risks to report.

5. Recommendations

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

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