

Bolsover District Council**Executive****11th September 2017****Arrears – Irrecoverable Items over £2500****Report of Leader and Portfolio Holder – Strategic Planning & Regeneration**

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- Executive is requested to approve the write off of the under-mentioned irrecoverable items including costs amounting to £48,853.23 as itemised on the attached schedules.

1 Report Details

1.1 The report details the amounts which are recommended for write off:

Bankruptcy/ Liquidation		
No of Accounts	Type of Account	
3	Benefit Overpayment	£25,231.01
1	Sundry Debtors	£9,045.23
	Total	£34,276.24

No Trace		
No of Accounts	Type of Account	
2	Business Rates	£14,576.99
	Total	£14,576.99

1.2 The above schedules are recommending the write off of these outstanding debts. Where the debtor is bankrupt / in liquidation there is no realistic prospect of recovery. Where debtors leave properties without forwarding addresses extensive efforts are made to trace them. In addition to departmental checks, statutory

undertakers and other agencies are contacted, enquiries made of neighbours and family members, where known. Where it is known that a person has moved to another area, contact is made with the relevant local authority to alert them and request reciprocal information.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The report seeks agreement to writing off of outstanding debts in respect of persons who are bankrupt / in liquidation or cannot be traced. The process of writing off debts which are not collectable allows resources to be directed at those elements of outstanding debt where there is greater chance of recovery, while it improves the accuracy of the Council's financial statements in that they no longer detail debt which is effectively irrecoverable.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

There are no issues concerning consultation or equalities arising directly from this report.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

The only option is not to write off the amounts concerned which for reasons outlined within the report is not considered to be an appropriate course of action.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

The costs will be met from the provision for doubtful debts that has been agreed as part of the Council's budget.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

There are no issues arising directly from this report.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

There are no issues arising directly from this report.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That approval is given to write off the irrecoverable items including costs amounting to £48,853.23 with the proviso that should any of the debts become collectable the amounts be re-debited.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	N/A
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	Strategic Organisational Development - Continually improving our organisation

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Benefit Overpayments - Amounts for Write Off – Liquidation/ Bankruptcy
2	Sundry Debtors – Amounts for Write Off – Liquidation/ Bankruptcy
3	Business Rates – Amounts for Write Off – No Trace
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
Report Author	Contact Number
Billing and Recovery Manager	Ext 2432