

Proposed Decision to be taken by the Portfolio Holder for Transport & Planning on or after 15 March 2019

Irrecoverable Debts

Recommendation

It is recommended that the debt detailed in this report, accruing to £16,350.73 is written-off as irrecoverable.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 The Council uses all reasonable means to maximise income collection, prevent arrears arising, and manage outstanding debt effectively. Measures include:-
- Discussing financial arrangements and agreements with customers and their representatives when a service is being agreed so they are aware of their responsibilities
 - Prompt billing and collection of money due
 - Taking court action only after all other reasonable actions by the Council have been exhausted
 - Taking appropriate, proportionate and effective enforcement action
 - Seeking evidence where customers state that there are no funds to pay debts
- 1.2 In 2017/18 WCC invoiced a total of £123.7m, with £103.7m collected, the remainder being pursued. The proposed write-off is less than 0.014% of the value of invoices raised in the last year.
- 1.3 The Council is currently pursuing a number of outstanding debts and in the case of the debt listed in Section 2.0 it has been decided that it would be uneconomical to pursue these further. It is therefore proposed that the debt totalling £16,350.73 is written-off. The Portfolio Holder may approve the write-off of individual debts between £2,000 and £50,000.
- 1.4 The cost of writing-off would be set against the provision for bad debts that the County Council sets aside each year.

2.0 List of cases recommended for write-off

- 2.1 00201597 - Aspects Developments Ltd - £16,350.73

In March 2009, WCC invoiced Aspects Developments Ltd for a total of £17,600.98 pursuant to an undertaking given in respect of work carried out in relation to a proposed s.278 Agreement for a location in Warwickshire. The

debtor subsequently went into liquidation with a dividend of £1,250.25 being paid in September 2010. There is no recourse for recovery for the balance but write off of the outstanding £16,350.73 has not been arranged previously. The balance is submitted for write off on the ground that the debtor is impecunious or bankrupt.

Background papers

None

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This report was circulated to the following members prior to publication

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