

Decision Record – Irrecoverable Debts

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Jeff Clarke Transport and Planning
Date of Decision (not before: 15 March 2019)	15/3/2019
	

Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning approves that the debt detailed in the published report, accruing to £16,350.73 is written-off as irrecoverable.

Reasons for Decisions

The Portfolio Holder may approve the write-off of individual debts between £2,000 and £50,000.

Background Information

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

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.

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 cost of writing-off would be set against the provision for bad debts that the County Council sets aside each year.

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.

Financial Implications

As set out in the report.

Report Author	Craig Fletcher
Assistant Director	Lisa Kitto
Joint Managing Director	David Carter
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jeff Clarke

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information)	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/Calendarofmeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/4409/Committee/593/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers

N/A

Members and officers consulted or informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jeff Clarke

Corporate Board

Legal – Jane Pollard

Finance – Virginia Rennie

Equality – Keira Rounsley

Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Councillors

Clarke, Fradgley, Roodhouse, Chilvers, Phillips, Shilton and Cockburn