

## Decision Record – Social Care Irrecoverable Debts

<b>Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision</b>	Cllr Jose Compton Adult Social Care
<b>Date of Decision</b>	24 October 2014

### Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care write-off as irrecoverable the 17 debts, accruing to £135,291.54 as set out in the report.

### Reasons for Decisions

The Council is currently pursuing a number of outstanding debts and in the case of the 17 debts, it has been decided that it would be uneconomical to pursue these further. It is therefore proposed that these debts totalling £135,291.54 are written-off. 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 package is being agreed so they are aware of their responsibilities
- Prompt billing and collection of money due
- Discussing with customers early and setting up affordable repayment plans when there are arrears, and reviewing plans regularly
- Taking appropriate, proportionate and effective enforcement action
- Taking court action only after all other reasonable actions by the Council have been exhausted
- Seeking evidence where customers state that there are no funds to pay debts
- At all stages of debt management and recovery taking account of the financial circumstances, social care needs, mental capacity and any known vulnerability of customers.
- In 2013/14, total domiciliary income invoiced amounted to £7.06m compared to £7.05m collected. Residential income invoiced was £18.20m with £18.09m being collected. Other income raised in the year amounted to £8.05m. This gives an overall total of £33.32m for the financial year.
- The % of debt recommended for write-off is 0.4%, when compared to the 2013/14 raised debt.

The duty to provide support for people assessed as needing a service remains, even where debts have accrued.

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

**Financial Implications**

Total value of debts = £135,291.54

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<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Jose Compton

**Checklist**

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	No
<b>Confidential or Exempt?</b>	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

**Report considered**

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3052/Committee/552/Default.aspx>

**List of Background Papers** - please include a contact for access to background papers

None

**Members and officers consulted or informed** – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jose Compton  
 Legal – Alison Hallworth, Jane Pollard  
 Finance – Chris Norton  
 Equality – Minakshee Patel  
 Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Adult Social Care & Health OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Mike Perry, Maggie O'Rourke, Caroline Phillips and Kate Rolfe