



## ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Executive Members for Resources  
28 February 2020  
Decision to be taken on or after  
9 March 2020

Key Decision: No

Ward(s) Affected: All

### **Irrecoverable Debts**

#### **Report by the Chief Financial Officer**

#### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report details an outstanding former housing tenant which has been subject to lengthy recovery action and enquiries. The associated debts are now deemed to be irrecoverable and are therefore recommended for write off.
- 1.2 This report details debts over £2,500 to be written off in this financial year.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Paragraph 8 D.29 of the Council's Financial Regulations require that irrecoverable debts of Sundry Debtors, Housing Benefit Overpayments, Commercial Rents and Homeless Accounts and Housing Rents over £2,500 are to be submitted to the Executive Member for Resources for write-off.
- 2.2 All outstanding debts are regularly reviewed and an assessment made as to the likelihood of recovery. The scale of the effort made to collect each debt varies in proportion to the amount outstanding.
- 2.3 Any debt that is written off may subsequently be recovered due to various reasons including a dividend being received in an insolvency case or a debtor being traced.

### 3. Proposals

3.1 The following debts are submitted for write-off:

**Housing Rent Arrears** - irrecoverable debts totalling £2,870.13 covering 1 tenant account in Adur District Council.

An exempt schedule is attached.

3.2 The current level of bad debt provision held by each Council at present before the write off proposed in this report are:

Adur District Council	
Sundry Debt Provision	£182k
HB Overpayment Debt Provision	£ 86k
Housing (incl. Leasehold Properties)	£540k

### 4. Financial Implications

4.1 Considerable resources have already been expended in the effort to collect this outstanding debt. Any further enforcement would not be cost effective.

### 5. Legal Implications

5.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that every local authority shall make arrangements of their financial affairs and shall ensure that one of their officer has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.

### 6. Recommendation

6.1 That the Executive Members for Resources should approve the write-off of the debt referred to in paragraph 3.1

### Local Government Act 1972

#### Background Papers

None

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**Schedule of Other Matters****1.0 Council Priority**

1.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

**2.0 Specific Action Plans**

2.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

**3.0 Sustainability Issues**

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

**4.0 Equality Issues**

4.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

**5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

**6.0 Human Rights Issues**

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

**7.0 Reputation**

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

**8.0 Consultations**

8.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

**9.0 Risk Assessment**

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

**10.0 Health & Safety Issues**

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

## **11.0 Procurement Strategy**

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

## **12.0 Partnership Working**

12.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.