

Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	03/04/18
Originator	Kenny Christie
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	Bad Debt Write Offs (under £50k in value)

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Cabinet

Additional information:

Authorised By	Jim Lamond
Designation	Head of Council Resources
Date	03/04/18

For Office Use Only:	
Library Reference	49/18
Date Received	04/04/18
Bulletin	Apr 18

REPORT TO: Members' Library Service

MEETING DATE: April 2018

BY: Head of Council Resources

SUBJECT: Bad Debt Write Offs (under £50k in value)

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To notify Members of individual debts, each under £50,000 in value which, for a variety of reasons, could not be collected and have been written off by the Council.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note the decision of the Head of Council Resources to write off the unrecoverable debts summarised at Appendix 1.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Head of Council Resources is responsible for the collection of all debt owed to the Council. A regular assessment of the outstanding debt is made and a list of debt that is not considered collectable is prepared. In making this assessment, account is taken of the Council's approved Bad Debt and Credit Balance Write Off Policy.
- 3.2 Write off of individual debts under £50,000 is approved under delegated powers by the Head of Council Resources as the Section 95 Officer of the Council. Debts of over £50,000 require Cabinet approval prior to write off.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None, the actions taken in this report are in accordance with approved Council policy as set out in Section 3.1.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The report is not applicable to the wellbeing of equalities groups and an Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - any bad debts are written off against a bad & doubtful debt provision which is reflected within the annual accounts and is used to recognise the value of debts which are deemed to be irrecoverable. This is based on an estimate of income which is unlikely to be realised based on previous experience. The total value of the bad debt provision which was reflected within the 2016/17 accounts was £11.6m and is reviewed on an annual basis. Scottish Water write offs will be borne by the water authority.

- 6.2 Personnel - none

- 6.3 Other - none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Bad Debt and Credit Balance Write Off Policy – Cabinet 13th March 2018.

AUTHOR'S NAME	Kenny Christie
DESIGNATION	Service Manager – Revenues & Welfare Support
CONTACT INFO	kchristie@eastlothian.gov.uk
DATE	3 rd April 2018

Appendix 1

Bad Debt Written Off 2017/18

	No. of Accounts	Amount to be written off	Value of Credit
Council Tax	609	£716,890.99	
Scottish Water	Included in above (if applicable)	Included in above (if applicable)	
Business Rates	34	£300,606.76	
Council House Rent - Current Tenants	60	£115,942.13	
Council House Rent - Former Tenants	455	£358,535.31	
Sundry Accounts (inc. VAT)	229	£112,594.90	
Housing Benefit Overpayments	165	£74,416.09	
Total	1552	£1,678,986.18	