



Chester-le-Street District Council

Report to:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	03 December 2007
Report from:	Director of Community Services
Title of Report:	Irrecoverable Housing Debt
Agenda Item Number:	

1. Purpose and Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to secure the approval of the Executive to write off irrecoverable housing debt.
- 1.2 The Executive are recommended to agree to:
 1. Writing off £11943.51 of irrecoverable housing debt.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 The Director of Resources has been consulted in connection with this report.
- 2.2 Housing staff were consulted to establish the whereabouts of any of the tenants included in this report. No responses were received.

3. Corporate plan and Priorities

- 3.1 This report does not directly support any of the Corporate Plan priorities. The writing off of irrecoverable housing debt is seen as good practice and is an essential requirement for the proper management of the Housing Revenue Account.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications and Value for Money Statement

The Service has identified 7 cases where it is considered that housing debt relating to former tenants rent arrears cannot be recovered. The Housing Revenue Account has made provision for a total of £295.044 for bad-debts and write-offs during 2007/8 and the amounts set out in the body of this report can be written off against that provision.

4.2 Legal

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

4.3 Personnel

There are no specific personnel issues associated with this report.

4.4 Other Services

There are no Other Service implications associated with this report.

4.5 Diversity

There are no Diversity implications associated with this report.

4.6 Risk

The Council is required to make real cash provision in its Housing Revenue Account for bad debts, equivalent to 90% of the total bad debt. The writing off or irrecoverable housing debt free up resources that can be deployed to meet service priorities.

4.7 Crime and Disorder

There are no Crime and Disorder issues associated with this report.

4.8 Data Quality

Every care has been taken in the development of this report to ensure that the information and data used in its preparation and the appendices attached are accurate, timely, consistent and comprehensive. The council's Data Quality Policy has been complied with in producing this report.

4.8 Other Implications

There are no Other Implications associated with this report.

5. Background, Position Statement and Option Appraisal

5.1 The Council has made a provision of £295.044 to meet bad debts in 2007/2008.

5.2 There are a total of 7 cases of irrecoverable housing debt as set out in the table overleaf:

Table 1
Uncollectible Debt Profile

No Response from last forward address	Rechargeable Repairs	Rent Arrears	Total
1		£1479.60	£1479.60
2		£1100.46	£1100.46
Sub Total		£2580.06	£2580.06
No forward address	Rechargeable Repairs	Rent Arrears	Total
3	1197.23	£2911.63	£4108.86
4		£1309.57	£1309.57
5		£1093.46	£1093.46
6		£1237.61	£1237.61
7		£1613.95	£1613.95
Sub Total	1197.23	£8166.22	£9363.45
Grand Total	£1197.23	£10746.28	£11943.51

NOTE: No forwarding address means that the tenants have abandoned the property and all possible tracing methods have been undertaken.

No response from a forward address means that all possible recovery procedures have been taken to recover the outstanding amounts from the forward address given.

5.3 There are no options to appraise in relation to this report

6. Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that:-

1. The Executive agree to write off the irrecoverable housing debt for those cases set out in Table 1 in the body of the report.

7. Background Papers/ Documents referred to

7.1 There are no Background Papers associated with this report.

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VERSION 1.0

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