

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION

**DECISION OF: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES
WITH ADVICE FROM: SECTION 151 OFFICER OF THE COUNCIL
DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE SERVICES**



DECISION NO: CSD119 2021/22

SUBJECT: WRITE OFFS - SUNDRY DEBTS OVER £10K – JANUARY 2022

KEY DECISION: Yes

REASON: The council's current debt recovery and write-off policy states that all write off proposals in excess of £10,000 are to be approved by the Executive Member. All Executive Member decisions are key decisions.

BACKGROUND:

Each month the Council reviews the balances held on its sundry debt ledger following an extensive process of recovery related actions. In accordance with the Debt Recovery and Write-Off policy the Council may identify a series of invoices or accounts that have been deemed as unrecoverable for various reasons, and seek to write these off, so that they are no longer retained and showing as debtors within the Council's accounts. Examples of potential write-off categories are noted below;

1. Debt balance is non-material and uneconomical to recover
2. Debt not recoverable as customer has entered bankruptcy proceedings
3. Debt not recoverable as Executor has notified of no money within estate
4. Customer gone away and unable to locate
5. Debt over 6 years old and uneconomical to recover

This specific decision relates to the proposed write off of sundry debts that have accrued for a single customer over the period 2016 to 2021. Over this time the customer has been provided with a range of social care services by the Council in accordance with their assessed need.

Financial assessments have been carried out to assess the customers ability to pay however despite extensive efforts to recover this money, invoices totalling £19,471.24 remain unpaid. The Council has followed the specific requirements of its policy in respect of social care customers and a recommendation has been made to write this sum off based on the following criteria;

- Debt not recoverable as customer has entered bankruptcy proceedings
- Customer has specific life limiting health needs

DECISION:

To cease recovery actions associated with these debts and approve write-offs within Agresso for the accounts totalling £19,471.24.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

All recovery options have been exhausted prior to the write off requested and recommendations are in line with the Council's debt, recovery and write-off policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs **£19,471.24**

Funding

The write off values have been accounted for in relevant revenue budgets and are also supported through credit loss allowance or bad debt considerations.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

All recovery options have been exhausted

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

CONSULTATION

In consultation with the relevant service managers within social care, debt recovery teams and finance service.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Financial risks have been assessed as part of the Council's integrated financial strategies.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS: N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS: N/A

SIGNATORIES:

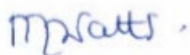
Decision Maker:



Title: Executive Member for Corporate Services

Date: 16 February 2022

With advice from:



Title: Head of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer

Date: 16 February 2022