

ANGUS COUNCIL

Housing Committee - 26 August 2004

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - WRITE OFF OF RENT IN 2003/2004

REPORT by DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

This report meets Financial Regulations in seeking Council approval for debts, in respect of rent, to be written off for 2003/2004.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agree that 395 debts, valued at £120,989.39 be written off as irrecoverable for 2003/2004. This is an average of £306.30 per debt.

The [appendix](#) gives numeric details of cases written off analysed into categories.

2. BACKGROUND

The cases, which are the subject of this report have gone through various recovery processes, from reminder stage to full Court Action, and are now considered as irrecoverable and hence should be written off.

The term "written off" does not mean that the debt is totally ignored in future. Applicants for Council houses are vetted to ensure that all housing related debts to Angus Council are acknowledged and in as many cases as possible, payment arrangements be in place before allocation takes place. In this manner, in 2003/2004, the sum of £4,002.18 was recovered.

During the 2003/2004 financial year, the net rent charge on the Housing Revenue Account in respect of houses and garages was £16,567,992.82 therefore the write off represents 0.73%.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The anticipated rent is no longer attainable and was taken into consideration in the Housing Revenue final accounts for 2003/2004. The budget provision for debt write off was £40,000, the excess being accommodated within available budget sums.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The Council's action is not incompatible with Human Rights legislation.

5. CONSULTATION

In preparing this report there has been consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Law & Administration who are in agreement with the above recommendation.

Ron Ashton
Director of Housing

Note:- No background papers, as defined by Section 50d of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied upon to any material extent in preparing this report.