

## **Housing Benefit Overpayment Write-Off's**

### **1. Purpose of this Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval to write off a schedule of Housing Benefit Overpayment accounts above £500.00.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 **The Housing Benefit Overpayment accounts totalling £19,599.67, as shown in Appendix 1, be written off.**

### **3. Links to Corporate Business Plan**

- 3.1 The collection of revenue is of vital importance to the financial management of the Council.

### **4. Background**

- 4.1 Housing Benefit Overpayments arise when a change in the applicant's circumstances is reported to the Housing Benefit Team, which reduces the claimant's entitlement from an earlier date. An invoice is raised for the debt outstanding. A total of approximately 500,000 was raised during 2004/2005.
- 4.2 The Council receive a subsidy of between 40% – 100% from the Department of work and Pensions for each recoverable overpayment identified.
- 4.3 The attached schedule shows a list of accounts amounting to £19,599.67, which the officers consider are irrecoverable.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The Council has made provision for bad debts and the total amount of this schedule can be met from that. There will be no effect on the Council's revenue accounts.

### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 None.

### **7. Community & Environmental Implications**

- 7.1 None

### **8. Human Resources Implications**

- 8.1 None.

**9. Equal Opportunities Implications**

9.1 None.

**REPORT OF THE CUSTOMER SERVICES STRATEGIC MANAGER TO THE EXECUTIVE –  
9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2006**

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