

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR RESOURCES

THURSDAY, 8 November 2018

PRESENT: Councillor: D.M. Jenkins (Executive Board Member).

The following officers were in attendance:

A Thomas, Benefits and Council Tax Manager

M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer

E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer

Regeneration Meeting Room, County Hall, Carmarthen - County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP. - 11.00 am - 12.05 pm

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

2. DECISION RECORD 19TH SEPTEMBER 2018

RESOLVED that the decision record of the meeting held on the 19th September 2018 be signed as a correct record.

3. REPORTS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

RESOLVED pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2007 that the following items were not for publication as the reports contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

4. IRRECOVERABLE ACCOUNTS - HOUSING BENEFITS OVERPAYMENTS

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute 3 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act).

The public interest test in this matter related to the fact that the report contained information about individuals' indebtedness and/or personal information. Although public disclosure of the report would promote accountability for public finances, it would release confidential financial information. On balance, therefore, the public interest in disclosure at this time was outweighed by the public interest in maintaining confidentiality.

The Executive Board Member considered a report detailing housing benefit overpayment accounts which had been identified as being irrecoverable. Recovery procedures, where appropriate, had been exhausted and there was no likelihood of payment being secured. It was therefore considered appropriate to write-off those accounts.

RESOLVED that the accounts detailed within the report be written-off as irrecoverable.

5. COUNCIL TAX - DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNTS

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute 3 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act).

The public interest test in this matter related to the fact that the report included personal data relating to former council tenants, including details of their rent arrears. The publication of individual debts was unwarranted and would prejudice the rights and freedoms of the relevant data subjects. Accordingly, the public interest in disclosure was outweighed by the public interest in maintaining confidentiality.

The Executive Board Member considered a report detailing applications which had been received for discretionary reduction of Council Tax.

It was noted that regulations had been introduced with effect from April 2004 giving Local Authorities discretionary powers to grant locally determined Council Tax discounts or reductions, over and above existing statutory reductions.

RESOLVED that:

5.1 - application references 60331104-4 and 60355403-X be refused.

5.2 - the outstanding council tax relating to application reference 60299276-4 be written off.

5.2 - for application reference 60297909-8 be refused with outstanding balance for 2017/18 be written off.

6. IRRECOVERABLE ACCOUNTS

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute 3 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act).

The public interest test in this matter related to the fact that the report contained information about individuals' indebtedness and/or personal information. Although public disclosure of the report would promote accountability for public finances, it would release confidential financial information. On balance therefore, the public interest in disclosure at this time was outweighed by the public interest in maintaining confidentiality.

The Executive Board Member considered a report detailing sundry debt accounts which had been identified as being irrecoverable. Recovery procedures, where

appropriate, had been exhausted and there was no likelihood of payment being secured. It was therefore considered appropriate to write off those accounts.

RESOLVED that the accounts detailed within the report be written off as irrecoverable.

7. NON-DOMESTIC RATES - HARDSHIP RELIEF

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute 3 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act).

The public interest test in this matter related to the fact that the report included personal data relating to former council tenants, including details of their rent arrears. The publication of individual debts was unwarranted and would prejudice the rights and freedoms of the relevant data subjects. Accordingly, the public interest in disclosure was outweighed by the public interest in maintaining confidentiality.

The Executive Board member considered four applications for Hardship Relief under the provisions of Section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended.

RESOLVED that:

7.1 - application references 80023879, 80023748 and 80015944 hardship relief be refused.

7.2 - for application reference 80021088 that hardship relief be granted.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

DATE