

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR RESOURCES

THURSDAY, 13 JULY 2017

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

2. DECISION RECORD - 27TH APRIL 2017

RESOLVED that the decision record of the meeting held on the 27th April 2017 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 REPORTS NOT FOR PUBLICATION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as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2007 that the following items were not for publication as the reports contained exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 and 17 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

4. IRRECOVERABLE ACCOUNTS - HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 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 two 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. IRRECOVERABLE ACCOUNTS - NON-DOMESTIC RATES

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 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 Council Tax Accounts, sundry debt accounts and non-domestic rates 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 against the bad debt provision the Authority was allowed via the non-domestic rating "pool" mechanism.

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

6. NON-DOMESTIC RATES - DISCRETIONARY RELIEF

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 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 regarding the individual ratepayers' recent financial history 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 applications for hardship Relief under the provisions of Section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended.

RESOLVED

- 6.1 that consideration of application reference 80013741 be deferred for further information;
- 6.2 that applications references 80014557 and 80013791 be not entertained.

7. COUNCIL TAX - DISCRETIONARY REDUCTIONS

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 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 regarding individuals that were liable to pay Council Tax. Although public disclosure of the report would promote accountability for public finances, it would release confidential financial information that was not in the public domain and would not normally be disclosed to third parties. 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 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

- 7.1 that applications references 60227623 and 50017519 be refused;**
- 7.2 that for application references 60252206 and 60239291 the historical balances be waived and future charges be waived until 31st March 2018;**
- 7.3 that for application references 60312002 and 60312009 a 50% discount be allowed for the period of charge on both properties;**
- 7.4 that for application reference 60318257 the balance for 2016/17 be written off along with the charge which equates to the first six months charge for 2017/18;**
- 7.5 that for application reference 60283836 a 10% discretionary award be allowed in respect of 2017/18.**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

DATE