

# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR RESOURCES

**TUESDAY**, 27 March 2018

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

**The following officers were in attendance:**

J. Gravelle, Revenue Services Manager  
L. James, Partnership and Engagement Manager  
S. Lewis, Assistant Area Manager  
A Thomas, Benefits and Council Tax Manager  
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

**Regeneration Meeting Room, County Hall, Carmarthen 10.00 am - 11.30 am**

**1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

There were no declarations of personal interest.

**2. DECISION RECORD - 8TH MARCH 2018**

**RESOLVED** that the decision record of the meeting held on the 8th March 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 REPORTS NOT FOR PUBLICATION**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as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2007 that the following items were not for publication as the reports contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.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. FORMER TENANT DEBT WRITE-OFF**

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 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 prepared in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules, seeking the write-off of former tenant debts in excess of £1,500. The report provided the current position on former tenant debt and full details of action taken to recover the debt if over 3 years.

The Executive Board Member noted that the cases outlined in the report were long-standing cases and that unsuccessful attempts had been made to either trace the former tenant and recover the sum outstanding or both.

**RESOLVED** that the former tenant debt arrears 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 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**

- 5.1** that for application reference 60329459 an extension be applied to the current exemption to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018 or the date on which the repairs are complete, whichever is sooner;
- 5.2** that for application reference 60284884 the outstanding balance be written off;
- 5.3** that for application reference 60306458 the balance be written off on vulnerability grounds.

**6. IRRECOVERABLE ACCOUNTS - SUNDRY DEBTORS**

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 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 against the bad debt provision the Authority was allowed via the non-domestic rating “pool” mechanism.

**RESOLVED, subject to consideration of account ref. 92118423 being deferred for further information, that the remaining accounts detailed within the report be written off as irrecoverable.**

**7. IRRECOVERABLE ACCOUNTS - COUNCIL TAX & 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 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.**

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER**

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**DATE**