

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR RESOURCES

TUESDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER 2020

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

The following officers were in attendance:

A Thomas, Benefits and Council Tax Manager;

J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

Virtual Meeting: 10:00am – 10:35am

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

2. DECISIONS RECORD 27TH FEBRUARY, 2020

RESOLVED that the decision record for the meeting held on the 27th February 2020 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 REPORTS NOT FOR PUBLICATION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as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2007 that the following items were not for publication as the reports contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.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. HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS - 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 in maintaining the exemption referred to above outweighs the public interest in disclosing the contents of this report as disclosure would result in the unwarranted and disproportionate disclosure of sensitive information about the persons concerned into the public domain.

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 against the Authority's prudent bad debt provision for Housing Benefit overpayments

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

5. 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 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 which contained a detailed schedule of 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 arrears detailed within the report be written-off as irrecoverable.

6. 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 contained information regarding individuals that were liable to pay council tax and maintaining the exemption under paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information contained in this report as disclosure would unjustifiably reveal confidential personal information about other individuals.

The Executive Board Member considered a report detailing applications 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.

The Executive Board Member acknowledged that the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has had significant financial impact on communities and the Council's budget. The Benefits and Council Tax manager reported that the Council continued to provide financial support and advice where possible.

RESOLVED:

- 6.1 not to award a discretionary reduction to applications: 60341623, 60344671-8, 20011571-3 and 60363022-5;**
- 6.2 to award a 100% discretionary reduction relating to application 60370233-6 for the period 14th June 2020 – 16th August 2020;**
- 6.3 to award a 100% discretionary reduction for the period 29th June 2020 – 16th August 2020, relating to applications: 60371568-X, 60371569-9, 60371572-3, 60371574-1, 60371575-0, 60371576-X, 60371585-9 and 60371587-7.**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

DATE