

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMEBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR RESOURCES

MONDAY, 11TH JANUARY, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor D.M. Jenkins [Executive Board Member]

The following officers were in attendance:

Mr J. Gravelle	-	Revenue Services Manager
Mr S. Lewis	-	Assistant Housing Manager
Mrs M. Evans Thomas	-	Democratic Services Officer

Democratic Services Committee Room, County Hall, Carmarthen : 10.00 a.m. – 10.50 a.m.

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

2. DECISION RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 5TH NOVEMBER, 2015

RESOLVED that the decision record of the meeting held on the 5th November, 2015 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 REPORTS NOT FOR PUBLICATION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as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007 that the following items were not for publication as the reports contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.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 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 Financial Procedure Rules seeking the write-off of former tenant debts in excess of £1,500. The Former Tenant Arrears Policy clearly detailed the criteria which needed to be met when determining whether it was uneconomical to pursue a former tenant debt any further.

The Executive Board Member considered a schedule of cases for write-off, all of which met the requirements of the policy.

RESOLVED that the former tenant debt arrears detailed within the report be written-off as irrecoverable.

5. 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 that identified individuals that are liable to pay Council Tax. Although public disclosure of the report would promote accountability for public finances, it would release confidential information that was not in the public domain and which 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	to award a 50% discount for the period from 1st April, 2010 to 31st March, 2015 in respect of application reference 60303963;
5.2	that applications reference 50018518 and 60273054 be refused;
5.3	that, due to the exceptional circumstances detailed within the report, a further 50% discount be awarded in respect of applications reference 60252206 and 60239291, and that the applicant be advised that the reduction is for one year only;

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 two applications for Hardship Relief under the provisions of Section 49 of Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended.

RESOLVED that applications reference 80014557 and 80016957 be awarded a 50% reduction in their current net annual liability.

CHAIR

DATE