

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR RESOURCES

FRIDAY, 5 March 2021

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

Virtual Meeting: 2.00 pm - 2.20 pm

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

2. DECISIONS RECORD 26TH JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED that the decision record for the meeting held on the 26th January 2021 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 REPORTS NOT FOR PUBLICATION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as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2007 that the following items were not for publication as the reports contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.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 BENEFIT 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 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. 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.

RESOLVED:

5.1 not to award a discretionary exemption of Council Tax to application 60362499-0;

5.2 not to award a discretionary reduction of Council Tax to application 60381393-2.

6. COUNCIL TAX - 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 Council Tax 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. The Executive Board Member was advised that case Ref. 33210 had been withdrawn.

RESOLVED that the Council Tax arrears detailed within the report, other than case ref. 33210, be written-off as irrecoverable.

7. IRRECOVERABLE ACCOUNTS - NON-DOMESTIC RATES

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 the individual ratepayer's 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. 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 Non-Domestic Rates 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 Non-domestic Rates arrear detailed within the report be written-off as irrecoverable.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

DATE