

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Record of decisions taken by the Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources at a meeting held in Committee Room 2, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon, on Wednesday 29th January 2014 at 9.00am in accordance with powers delegated by the Leader of the Council

PRESENT

Councillor Mr S J Hoare (Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources)

Also present: Mr D S T Enright

Officers in Attendance:

Mandy Fathers; Frank Wilson and Simon Wright

4. NOTICE OF DECISIONS

The record of decisions taken at the meeting held on 24th July 2013 was signed by the Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: that being of the opinion that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the public were present during the following items of business there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)), the public be excluded from the meeting

6. WRITE OFFS 2013/2014

Consideration was given to the report of the Strategic Director giving details of account balances written off under delegated authority and seeking approval to write off account balances of more than £300.

Clarification was given regarding the procedure for recovering housing benefit overpayments. Mr Hoare emphasised the importance of reminding claimants of their responsibilities and promoting action that could be taken in respect of benefit fraud. Mr Hoare further suggested that councillors could also help in tracing applicants.

Mr Hoare, in considering the write off of Non Domestic Rates accounts, advised that he would defer application no. 6 as he wanted further information regarding the disputed liability for the account.

DECISIONS:

- (a) That the debts shown in Appendix 1 which have been written off under the delegated authority of the Strategic Director be noted;
- (b) That the debts shown in Appendix 2 be written off with the exception of application no. 6 of the NDR Accounts; and
- (c) That the debts shown in Appendix 3 that had been written off due to the debtor being formally made insolvent be noted.

REASONS: With regard to the debts that were approved for write off it was considered that it was not economical or otherwise that it was not in the best interests of the Council to pursue their recovery.

In respect of the application that was deferred it was considered that further clarification of the liability was required.

OPTIONS: None appropriate.

7. DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

(Mr Hoare declared an interest at this juncture in respect of application 2.01 by virtue of his daughter attending a club at the venue)

The report of the Strategic Director containing exempt information in respect of new applications for Discretionary Rate Relief for the 2013/14 Business Rates Year, and renewal applications for the Business Rates Year 2014/15 was received.

DECISIONS:

- (a) That the following level of Discretionary Rate Relief be awarded in respect of the applications set out below:

Application Number	Percentage of Discretionary Rate Relief
1.01	20%
2.01	20%
2.02	20%
2.03	20%
2.04	20%
2.05	50%
2.06	20%
2.07	50%
2.08	20%

REASONS: The awards made were considered to support the Council's vision and priorities. The level of relief granted reflected the financial circumstances of the applicant and the extent to which their objectives reflected those of the Local Authority.

OPTIONS: The level of recommended Discretionary Rate Relief was detailed in the appendix to the report.

The meeting closed at 9.15am

Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources