

## WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Record of decisions taken by the Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources at a meeting held in the Council Chamber, Woodgreen Offices, Witney, Oxon, on Friday 22 January 2016 at 10.00am in accordance with powers delegated by the Leader of the Council

### PRESENT

Councillor Mr R A Langridge (Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources)

Officers in Attendance: Mandy Fathers, Kath Leonard and Simon Wright

#### 7. NOTICE OF DECISIONS

The record of decisions taken at the meeting held on 14 October 2015 was signed by the Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources.

#### 8. 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

#### 9. WRITE OFFS – 2015/2016

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 was considered.

In response to Mr Langridge the role of the Valuation Tribunal was clarified and it was explained that one case in the report had been referred back for local determination.

#### **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; and
- (c) That the debts shown in Appendix 3 that has been written off due to the debtor being formally made insolvent be noted.

**REASONS:** It was considered that the debts should be written off either because it was not economical or not in the best interests of the Council to pursue their recovery.

**OPTIONS:** The level of recommended write off was detailed in the appendices to the report.

#### 10. DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

The report of the Joint Head of Revenues and Housing Support containing exempt information in respect of renewal applications and new applications for Discretionary Rate Relief for the 2015/16 and 2016/2017 business rates years was received.

Mr Langridge declared an interest in application 2.03 by virtue of being a trustee of the organisation and indicated he would be unable to exercise his delegation in respect of that application.

**DECISIONS:**

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

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Percentage of Discretionary Rate Relief</b>
1.03	20%
1.04	20%
1.05	20%
1.06	20%
1.07	20%
1.08	20%
1.09	50%
1.10	50%
1.11	50%
1.12	Remit business rates for the equivalent of 3 months
2.01	20%
2.02	20%
2.03	Referred to Cabinet for consideration

(b) That no discretionary relief be awarded in respect of applications 1.01 and 1.02.

**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.

In respect of application 1.01 it was considered that the application did not reflect the objectives of the Local Authority.

In respect of application 1.02 it was considered that the application was not supported by accounts and did not reflect the objectives of the Local Authority.

In respect of application 2.03 the Cabinet Member was unable to exercise the delegation and so the matter was being referred to Cabinet for determination.

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

The meeting closed at 10.03am

Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources