

APPEALS PANEL 3

THURSDAY 17 MAY 2018 AT 10:00AM

PRESENT: Councillors Birks, Collier and Williams.

OFFICERS: Recovery Court Officer

AP3.05/18 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED - That Councillor Williams be Chairman for the meeting.

AP3.06/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Harid.

AP3.07/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in respect of the complaint.

AP3.08/18 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED - That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Public and Press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph Number 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

AP3.09/18 COMPLAINT AGAINST APPEALS PROCESS

The Committee Clerk advised the Panel that the Appellant was not in attendance.

Consideration was given by the Panel as to which members of staff they required to speak to in order to clarify any issues which needed to be addressed.

The Recovery Court Officer was invited to attend the meeting. In response to questions from Members, he confirmed:

- The Appellant had contacted the Council's Enforcement Agent with a view to setting up a regular method of payment for his accrued arrears;
- When Officers in the Revenues Section were advised of a change of address by a resident, they inputted that information on to a standard form, which included the resident's new address. The purpose of the form was ensure that the correct information was collected to ensure accurate billing;
- The Landlord of the first property at which the Appellant had accrued arrears confirmed that the Appellant had occupied that property during the entirety of the period which the Council had recorded him as being resident there. As a result the Appellant was liable for the Council Tax levied at that address for the duration of that period.

The Recovery Court Officer left the meeting at 2:21pm.

The Panel then considered all the evidence presented to them prior to and during the hearing and:

RESOLVED – That the Panel gave full consideration to the papers circulated prior to the meeting and the responses made by Officers of the Council and did not uphold the appeal.

The Panel were unanimously of the opinion that the Council and its Officers had acted in accordance with the information given and the relevant laws governing Council Tax collection. Furthermore, the Panel considered that, in relation to customer service, Officers had had dealt with the matter in a fair and reasonable manner.

The meeting closed at 14:37.