

# **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

## **PENSION COMMITTEE**

**19 SEPTEMBER 2016**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>NON-RECOVERY OF PENSION OVERPAYMENTS</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report requests approval to write off a sum of £7,255.60 outstanding in respect of overpayments of pensions that have arisen and which are now considered irrecoverable.
- 1.2 An exempt report on the agenda, the non-recovery of pension overpayments contains exempt information. This is by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 i.e. information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

### **2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 Overpayment of pension benefits can arise in a number of circumstances where information that should result in the termination of a payment is not received, or only received some time after an event.
- 2.2 Attempts are made to recover overpayments in accordance with an established debt recovery procedure. Each case is considered on an individual basis with regard to the particular nature and sensitivity. This involves sundry debtor accounts being raised against the notified beneficiary and pursued under the debt recovery process
- 2.3 The delegated authority of the Section 151 Officer to write off debts is limited to £1000 in any one case. As the individual amounts in these cases is above that figure committee approval is requested.

2.4 Details of the individual cases are provided in the attached schedule.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

3.1 If recovery action is pursued, further legal costs will be incurred and even with best endeavours, the recovery of the sums is likely to prove unsuccessful

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 Not relevant for this report

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 Not relevant for this report

### **6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS**

6.1 None associated with the subject matter.

### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

7.1 There are none arising from this report

### **8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

8.1 There are no other financial implications arising from this report apart from the total of £7,255.60 under consideration for write off.

### **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are none arising from this report

### **10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

No, because Department of Communities and Local Government undertake equality impact assessments with regard to the statutory reform of the LGPS.

### **11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are none arising from this report

### **12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are none arising from this report

### **13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

13.1 That the sum of £ 7,255.60 is approved for write off

### **14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

14.1 Further attempts to recover the overpayments are deemed by Legal as not cost effective, unreasonable or with no realistic prospect of recovery

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### **APPENDICES**

Exempt Appendix 1

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL**

### **BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY**

<b>Briefing Note</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Non Recovery Of Overpayment Of Pensions</b>	<b>19 September 2011</b> <b>24 March 2015</b>