



SPECIAL COUNCIL – 31ST OCTOBER 2017

**PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS
SCHEDULE 12A**

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

REPORT BY: PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendations to the Proper Officer:-

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

Information relating to any consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority and employees of the authority. (paragraph 15)

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

The remuneration of senior officers and staffing issues concerning those employed by the Council is a matter of public interest.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains information relating to negotiations in connection with labour relations arising between the authority and employees of the authority which have not yet concluded.

The information is not affected by any other statutory provision which requires the information to be publicly registered.

Members are asked to consider these factors when determining the public interest test which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED DECISION ON EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE:

That paragraph 15 should apply. Whilst there is a need to ensure transparency and accountability of a public authority for decisions taken by them in relation to the remuneration and staffing issues surrounding senior officers this must be balanced against the fact that these matters have not yet been concluded and that the disclosure of information contained in the Report is considered to be prejudicial to the interests of the Council as revealing the full extent of the business case has the potential to jeopardise labour relations. On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption does outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.

Date: 24th October 2017 Signed:  Bethan Manners Post: Principal Solicitor

I accept/~~do not accept~~ the recommendation made above.

Signed:  Date: 24/10/17 Proper Officer