



APPEALS COMMITTEE – 7TH NOVEMBER 2008

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST - EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

**SUBJECT: TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE AN APPEAL AGAINST DISMISSAL –
SOCIAL SERVICES**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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 a particular individual (para 12).

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is a public interest in the way in which the Council deals with staffing issues.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains detailed information regarding personal information which affects a particular individual and the affairs of that individual.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

That paragraph 12 should apply. My view on the Public Interest Test is that whilst there is a need to ensure transparency and accountability of a Public Authority for decisions taken in relation to staffing issues, this must be balanced against the fact that these matters have not yet been concluded and at this stage the reasonable expectation of an individual that personal information will remain private outweigh the need for the information to be made public.

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

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor 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:

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, and that the report should be exempt.

Date: 28th October 2008

Signed:

Post: Head of Legal Services

Daniel Perkins

I accept/do not accept recommendation made above.

Signed: _____
Proper Officer

Date: _____