



APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE – 20TH DECEMBER 2007

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF ENGINEERING 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 particular individuals – the whole report.

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is a public interest in the way in which the Council is recruiting its management.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains detailed, personal information regarding individual applicants who are being considered for the post of Head of Engineering Services and their performance during an Assessment Centre. The information affects particular individuals and the affairs of those individuals.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

That paragraph 12 and 14 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 management appointments, this must be balanced against the fact that these matters have not yet been concluded together with the right of a third party to the privacy of their personal affairs at this stage outweigh the need for the information to be made public.

This 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: 18th December, 2007

Signed:



Post: Head of Legal Services

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Signed: _____
Proper Officer

Date: _____