



GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 20TH APRIL 2021

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

SUBJECT: CYBER RESILIENCE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

I have considered grounds for exemption of information to be presented to the Committee and make the following recommendations to the Proper Officer:-

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime (para 18).

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is a public interest in the way in which the Council deals with information and data.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains details on cyber resilience and advice from the UK's National Cyber Security Centre in relation to cyber events. The information has been provided in confidence.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

That paragraph 18 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, this must be balanced against the fact that cyber resilience is of critical importance and the disclosure could risk provoking cyber-attacks. It is considered that this outweighs the need for the information to be made public. Further and crucially the advice has been provided in confidence meaning that the press and public must be excluded from the meeting.

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. In any event the information has been provided in confidence so the press and public must be excluded from 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. Further the information has been provided in confidence meaning the press and public must be excluded from the meeting.

Signed:
Post: Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Date: 30th March 2021

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

Signed:
Proper Officer

Date: 30th March 2021