



COUNCIL – 16TH NOVEMBER 2021

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS PARAGRAPH 14 OF SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

**SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF LAND AT GROVESIDE ROAD, OAKDALE,
BLACKWOOD FOR ALTERNATIVE ALLOTMENT PROVISION**

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

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 the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14).

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is a public interest in the way in which the Council purchases land.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains detailed financial information about the bid the council will make to purchase the land.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

That paragraph 14 should apply.

I am mindful of the need to ensure the transparency and accountability in the way the council purchases land. However, disclosure of the information contained in the report would result in the council's offer being in the public domain before the auction or negotiations to purchase the land are finalised. 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 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:

On the basis set out above 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.

Signed:

Dated: 2nd November, 2021

Post: Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

I accept the recommendation made above.

Signed:

Proper Officer

Date: 2nd November 2021