



**GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022**

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

**SUBJECT: DRAFT CYBER SECURITY STRATEGY**

**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 Cyber Security Strategy contains details of the Council's cyber resilience and how it would respond to cyber events and digital security. Therefore, any discussions or updates provided verbally at the meeting may risk the disclosure of critical information and could risk provoking cyber-attacks.

**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.

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.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2022  
**Post:** Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

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

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
**Proper Officer**