



HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2024

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

SUBJECT: CWM IFOR SOLAR FARM OPTION REPORT

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:

Paragraph 14 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person or company (including the authority holding that information).

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is public interest in the way that a council makes decisions on its green energy projects.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains details of confidential information relating to financial details and the various options available to the council. The council's final decision on the option to be pursued has yet to be decided.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

My view on the Public Interest Test is that whilst there is a need to ensure transparency and accountability of the council in its involvement with the development of this site, this must be balanced against the fact that the report contains confidential financial and business information. Negotiations have yet to be concluded and the final decision on the option to be taken is still awaited. It is considered that these factors outweigh the need for the information being made public at this stage.

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 whether to exclude the press and 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:

Dated: 2nd September 2024

Post: Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

I accept the recommendation made above.

D.M. Street

Signed:

Proper Officer

Date:

02.09.2024