



SPECIAL GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7TH MAY 2025

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS Paragraphs 14 and 18 of SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

SUBJECT: AUDIT WALES CYBER SECURITY REVIEW

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, DEMOCRATIC 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 (paragraph 18).

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information) (paragraph 14)

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 Review contains details of the Council's cyber resilience and therefore the report and any discussions or updates provided verbally at the meeting may risk the disclosure of critical information which in turn could risk provoking cyber-attacks.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

That paragraphs 14 and 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 to the business affairs of the council. The disclosure could risk provoking cyber-attacks. It is considered that these factors outweigh 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: 23rd April 2025

Post: Director of Legal, Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

I accept the recommendation made above.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Edrington', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Proper Officer

Date: 23rd April 2025