



GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 25TH JANUARY 2022

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

**SUBJECT: AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS REPORT ADDENDUM – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH
 COUNCIL**

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 the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (paragraph 14); and Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime (paragraph 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 Audit Wales on how the council can improve its cyber resilience.

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 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 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 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:
Post: Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Date: 18th January 22

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

Signed:
Proper Officer

Date: 18th January 22