

Access to Information Arrangements

Exclusion of access by the public to Council meetings

Information Compliance Ref: LGA 1656/16

Meeting / Decision: Single Member Decision

Date: 11th October 2017

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Report Title: Public Realm Safety

List of exempt attachments to this report:
Exempt Appendix – Detailed Plans

The Report contains exempt information, according to the categories set out in the Local Government Act 1972 (amended Schedule 12A). The relevant exemption is set out below.

Stating the exemption:

7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

The public interest test has been applied, and it is concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure at this time. It is therefore recommended that the Exempt Appendix be withheld from publication on the Council website. The paragraphs below set out the relevant public interest issues in this case.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

If the Member wishes to consider a matter with press and public excluded, they must be satisfied on two matters.

Firstly, they must be satisfied that the information likely to be disclosed falls within one of the accepted categories of exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972.

The officer responsible for this item believes that this information falls within the following exemptions and this has been confirmed by the Council's

Information Compliance Manager. The following exemptions are engaged in respect to this report:

7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

It is considered that disclosure of the detailed and strategic information contained in the exempt appendix would prejudice the prevention of crime.

Secondly, it is necessary to weigh up the arguments for and against disclosure on public interest grounds.

Factors in favour of disclosure include:

- furthering public understanding of the issues involved;
- furthering public participation in the public debate of issues, in that disclosure would allow a more informed debate;
- promoting accountability and transparency by the Council for the decisions it takes;
- allowing individuals and companies to understand decisions made by the Council and assist individuals to challenge those decisions.

However there is a real risk that the prevention of crime will be prejudiced by disclosure and it is considered that disclosure at this time is not in the public interest. Therefore it is recommended that the exemption at section 7 of Schedule 12A stand, and that the exempt appendix be discussed in exempt session and that any reporting on the meeting is prevented in accordance with Section 100A(5A)