Bath & North East Somerset Council

Access to Information Arrangements

Exclusion of access by the public to Council meetings

Information Compliance Ref: LGA 1515/19

Meeting / Decision: Single Member Decision
Date: On or after 28th November 2019

Author: Richard Long
Report Title: Surrender of existing tenant lease, subject to payment of a reverse premium Appendix 1 Memorandum of Heads of Terms **Exempt Appendix 2**: Tenant, resident and property details

The Exempt appendix 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 exemptions: 1. *Information relating to any individual* 2. *Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.*

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 Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency 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:
1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

Exemptions 1 and 2 above must be considered in conjunction with the Principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). It is considered that disclosure of the information in this report would breach the first principle of the DPA, which requires personal data to be fairly and lawfully processed.

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 affecting their lives and assist individuals to challenge those decisions.

However there is a real risk that the first Principle of the DPA will be breached by this disclosure, and that the individual/s concerned could bring a successful action against the Council if the disclosure occurred. Therefore it is recommended that exemptions 1 and 2 in Schedule 12A stand. The Council considers that the public interest is in favour of not holding this matter in open session at this time and that any reporting on the meeting is prevented in accordance with Section 100A(5A)