

COUNCIL MEETING – 14 September 2022

Proposed Amendment to paragraph 2.4 of the Amendments to the Constitution report in Agenda item 14.

Proposed by Cllr Simon McGrath

Seconded by Cllr John Oliver

To add the following to the end of paragraph 2.4:

“In all circumstances at least one member of each Group will be permitted to see any exempt document.”

So that the paragraph now reads:

2.4. Part 22 and 23 of Part 4B which detail the access rights to documents by members and by members who are members of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission. General practice at Merton has been that all group office staff and all Councillors are automatically provided with access to all restricted documents, however there is no automatic legal right for all Councillors to this information and it is not good information governance practice to have such a wide circulation of confidential information. Council is therefore asked to note that the practice of an unrestricted circulation of exempt reports or appendices will cease and such documents will only be provided to Councillors who have a statutory right to see such documents if they request such documents and can demonstrate a ‘need to know’ to the Monitoring Officer. In all circumstances at least one member of each Group will be permitted to see any exempt document.

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