

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## Admissions Committee

### Meeting held 20 March 2013

**PRESENT:** Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Martin Lawton and Clive Skelton

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#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Talib Hussain and Nikki Sharpe.

#### **2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

- 2.1 RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on items 6, 7 and 8 on the grounds that they contain exempt information described in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 were approved as a correct record.

#### **5. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

- 5.1 The Committee noted that, since its last meeting, no decisions had been made by the Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, under powers delegated to her with regard to home to school transport or school admissions.

#### **6. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS**

##### **6.1 Discretionary Home to School Transport (Special Educational Needs)**

- 6.1.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had appealed against an administrative decision made by the Interim Executive Director with regard to the refusal to fund discretionary home to school transport in respect of their child.

- 6.1.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting information and evidence provided by the pupil's parents, including a report from a Special Educational Needs Officer and, arising therefrom, it was:-

6.1.3 RESOLVED: That the appeal be not granted on the grounds that the applicant lives within the statutory walking distance of the school, and the Committee did not consider there were any exceptional circumstances, particularly relating to the severity of the pupil's medical needs, to deviate from the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in this case.

6.2 Home to School Travel Bus Passes

6.2.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 15 cases where parents had appealed against the administrative decisions made by the Interim Executive Director with regard to the refusal to grant home to school travel bus passes.

6.2.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting information and evidence provided by the pupils' parents including, in some cases, evidence and advice provided by voluntary or professional bodies and organisations and, arising therefrom, it was:-

6.2.3 RESOLVED: That the 15 appeals be not upheld on the grounds that there are no exceptional circumstances demonstrated and, having regard to the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, (a) the distance from the home addresses of three of the pupils to the schools for which they are requesting passes for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case Nos. SHBR1, SHBR2 and PARK1), (b) the schools that seven of the pupils are requesting passes for are not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case Nos. FOX1, FOX2, LOW1, LOW2, MAN1, SG1 and WALK1) and (c) five of the pupils do not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case Nos. HIGHST1, KECG1, MEAD1, TAP 1 and WINT1).

**7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUEST TO RECONSIDER A CASE**

7.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had requested the Council to give further consideration to an expressed preference for an alternative primary school place, based on the submission of additional information and, arising therefrom, it was:-

7.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee is of the opinion that the additional information now submitted does not warrant a reconsideration of the case (Case No.H1).

**8. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUEST TO RECONSIDER A CASE**

8.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had requested the Council to give further consideration to an expressed preference for an alternative secondary school place, based on the submission of additional information and, arising

therefrom, it was:-

8.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee is of the opinion that the additional information now submitted does not warrant a reconsideration of the case (Case No.TAP1).

**9. LINDA SHORT, CUSTOMER ADVISOR**

9.1 The Chair announced that this would be the last meeting attended by Linda Short, Customer Advisor, as she would shortly be retiring from the Council. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Linda for all her hard work and support and wished her well for the future.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 at 1.00 p.m. at Howden House.