

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## Admissions Committee

### Meeting held 19 February 2014

**PRESENT:** Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Talib Hussain, Andrew Sangar, Ian Saunders and Clive Skelton

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

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor 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, if the public and press were present during the transaction of such business, there would be a disclosure to them of 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 Councillors Talib Hussain, Chris Rosling-Josephs and Ian Saunders declared an interest in primary school place appeals (Case Nos. FH1, MO1 and MO2 and R1, respectively), and did not take part in the consideration of those appeals.

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

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 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 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 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 14 cases where parents had appealed against the administrative decisions made by the Executive Director with regard to the refusal to grant home to school travel bus passes.

6.2 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:-

6.3 RESOLVED: That (a) 10 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, (i) the school that three of the pupils are requesting a pass for is not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case Nos. PED1, SAC1 and KIED3), (ii) the distance from the home address of four of the pupils to the school for which they are requesting a pass for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case No. CON1, CON2, NED1 and PAR1) and (iii) three of the pupils do not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case Nos. PEN1, PEN2 and KIED1);

(b) three appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos. KIED2, NEW1 and TAP1); and

(c) it be noted that Case No. FIPA1 had been withdrawn from consideration by the Executive Director as additional information had been received prior to the meeting resulting in the Executive Director overturning her original decision and granting a home to school travel pass.

(NOTE: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 26 of the Council's Constitution and the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the Chair decided that Case No. TAP1 be considered as a matter of urgency in order for the request to be considered at the earliest possible opportunity although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the request was to be considered).

## **7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES**

### **7.1 Request for a further statutory appeal hearing**

7.1.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had made a request for a further statutory appeal hearing, on the grounds of changes in the family's circumstances and, arising therefrom, it was:-

7.1.2 RESOLVED: That upon consideration of the case, and with due regard to the additional information now submitted, the request for a further statutory appeal hearing be not granted on the grounds that the Committee considers that the additional information now submitted does not warrant the reconsideration of the case (Case No. B1.).

### **7.2 Request to prioritise on Waiting List**

7.2.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 44 cases where parents had expressed a wish for their children to be admitted to primary schools of their choice. The Executive Director stated that places in primary

schools had been identified by the City Council, in accordance with the published admission criteria, and it had been agreed that the Executive Director would provisionally allocate places at those schools where there were available places, up to the standard number/admission limit. The Committee was requested to consider prioritising the pupils on waiting lists, within their respective categories, for admission if and when places become available.

- 7.2.2 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:-
- 7.2.3 RESOLVED: That all 44 pupils be not prioritised on the waiting lists within their respective categories, on the grounds that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos. BA1, BA2, BA3, BK1, BK2, B1, BS1, BR1, C1, DB1, DB2, DB3, DB4, D1, FH1, GG1, G1, GY1, H1, HT1,HH1, HB1, HB2, L1, L2, L3, MA1, MB1, MO1, MO2, MU1, MU2, N1, NG1, NG2, NF1, NF2, PE1, R1, S1, WC1, WC2, W1 and WY1).

(NOTE: During consideration of Case Nos. MO1, MO2 and R1, in which the Chair and Deputy Chair declared an interest, Councillor Clive Skelton took the Chair).

## **8. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUEST FOR A FURTHER STATUTORY APPEAL HEARING**

- 8.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had made a request for a further statutory appeal hearing, relating to a secondary school, based on the submission of additional information and, arising therefrom, it was:-
- 8.2 RESOLVED: That upon consideration of the case, and with due regard to the additional information now submitted, the request for a further statutory appeal hearing be granted on the grounds that the Committee considers that the additional information now submitted does warrant the reconsideration of the case (Case No. BD1).

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at 1.00 p.m. at Howden House.