

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 18 January 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Talib Hussain, Joe Otten, Chris Peace, Craig Gamble Pugh and Andrew Sangar

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Nasima Akther.

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 In Item 8 (Secondary Admissions Requests), Councillor Chris Peace declared an interest in Case No. 1 and Councillor Joe Otten declared an interest in Case No.63 and they did not speak or vote on the respective cases.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st December, 2016 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 six 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 and, arising therefrom, it was:-

6.3 RESOLVED: That (a) one case 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, the school that the pupil is requesting a pass for is not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case No.BF1); and

(b) five appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are exceptional family and educational circumstances in the cases (Case Nos. LF1, LF2, LF3, SD1 and FOVA1).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUESTS TO PRIORITISE ON WAITING LISTS

7.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 30 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 places available, 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 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting evidence and information 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:-

7.3 RESOLVED: That (a) 10 pupils be not prioritised on the waiting lists, within their respective categories, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos. J1, J3, J8, J12, J16, J22, J25, J26, J27 and J28);

(b) two pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment and sibling' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case Nos. J2 and J14);

(c) two pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case Nos. J11 and J21);

(d) three pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'sibling' category on the grounds that there are exceptional family and medical circumstances (Case Nos. J10, J18 and J23);

(e) 12 pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'non-catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional family circumstances (Case Nos. J4, J5, J7, J9, J13, J15, J17, J19, J20, J24, J29 and Jun1); and

(f) consideration of one appeal be deferred to enable the Executive Director to seek further information (Case No. J6).

(NOTE: During consideration of the above item, the Chair (Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs) left the meeting and the Deputy Chair (Councillor Chris Peace) took the Chair).

8. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUESTS TO PRIORITISE ON WAITING LISTS

8.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 63 cases where parents had expressed a wish for their children to be admitted to secondary schools of their choice. The Executive Director stated that places in secondary 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 places available, 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.

8.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting evidence and information 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:-

8.3 **RESOLVED:** That (a) 31 pupils be not prioritised on the waiting lists, within their respective categories, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos.1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 20, 22, 25, 27, 30, 32, 33, 36, 40, 41, 43, 44, 48, 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60 and 63);

(b) three pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances in the cases (Case No. 14, 16 and 39);

(c) five pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'sibling' category on the grounds that there are exceptional educational, medical or family circumstances in those cases (Case Nos. 3, 5, 23, 29, 35);

(d) 10 pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'feeder' category on the grounds that there are exceptional educational, medical and/or family circumstances in those cases (Case Nos. 15, 26, 37, 38, 42, 47, 55, 58, 61 and 62);

(d) six pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'other'

category on the grounds that there are exceptional educational, medical and/or family circumstances in those cases (Case Nos. 4, 18, 24, 28, 31 and 53); and

(e) consideration of eight appeals be deferred to enable the Executive Director to seek further information (Case Nos.13, 17, 19, 21, 34, 45, 46 and 49).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 15th February, 2016, at 1.15 p.m, in the Town Hall.

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