

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 15 November 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Talib Hussain, Andy Nash, Chris Peace and Andrew Sangar

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Craig Gamble Pugh.

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 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th September, 2017 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, People Services, 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, People Services, submitted reports and commented upon two 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 the cases 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 pupils are requesting passes for are not their catchment school/nearest suitable schools (Case Nos.DefBF2 and SD1).

(NOTE: Case No. DefBD2 had been deferred from the meeting of the Committee which was held on 20th September, 2017 for the Executive Director, People Services, in consultation with the Chair, to make the decision under delegated powers, but instead, the case had been considered again at this meeting, and the decision was made by the Committee).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

- 7.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted reports and commented upon three 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 changes in the families' circumstances and/or 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 one case, evidence and advice provided by voluntary or professional bodies and organisations, and, arising therefrom, it was:-
- 7.3 RESOLVED: That new applications be granted in all three cases, based on the fact that there are new circumstances which were not available when the original applications were submitted (Case Nos.KE1, PAR1 and TAP1).

8. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

- 8.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted reports and commented upon three 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 changes in the families' circumstances and/or 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 one case, evidence and advice provided by voluntary or professional bodies and organisations, and, arising therefrom, it was:-

8.3 RESOLVED: That (a) one pupil be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the “catchment” category and a new application be granted, based on the fact that there are new circumstances which were not available when the original application was submitted; (Case No. ARB1); and

(b) the Committee considers that there has not been a material change in the families’ circumstances and therefore authority be not given for new applications to be processed in these cases (Case Nos. HH1 and HK1).

(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.ARB1 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).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 20th December, 2017, at 1.15 pm, in the Town Hall.