

Admissions Committee

Thursday 17 December 2020 at 2.00 pm

**To be held as an online video
conference**

Membership

Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Vic Bowden, Peter Garbutt,
Talib Hussain, Mike Levery, Sioned-Mair Richards and Vacancy

Substitute Members

To be appointed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Cabinet
Portfolio Member or Opposition Spokesperson, as appropriate

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

The Admissions Committee carries out a statutory role, including the consideration of appeals regarding home to school transport and requests for primary and secondary school admissions.

As a lot of the work of this Committee deals with individual cases, some meetings may not be open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. on Friday. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

If you would like to attend the meeting, please report to the First Point Reception desk at Town Hall, Pinstone Street, where you will be directed to the meeting room.

If you require any further information please contact John Turner on 0114 273 4122 or email john.turner@sheffield.gov.uk.

FACILITIES

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in meeting rooms.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

**ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA
17 DECEMBER 2020**

Order of Business

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15th October, 2020
- 6. Action Taken Under Delegated Powers**
To note the decisions made by the Executive Director, People Services, acting under delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee
- 7. Home to School Transport Appeals**
Report of the Executive Director, People Services
- 8. School Admission Requests - Primary School Places**
Report of the Executive Director, People Services
- 9. Date of Next Meeting**
To note that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, 21st January, 2021, at 2.00 pm

*(**NOTE:** The reports at Items 7 and 8 in the above agenda is not available to the public and press because it contains exempt information described in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))

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ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)** relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - which has not been fully discharged.

- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either -
 - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously.

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Audit and Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from Gillian Duckworth, Director of Legal and Governance on 0114 2734018 or email gillian.duckworth@sheffield.gov.uk.

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Admissions Committee

Meeting held 15 October 2020

(NOTE: This meeting was held as a remote meeting in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020).

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Vic Bowden, Talib Hussain and Sioned-Mair Richards

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mike Levery.

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 7, 8 and 9 on the agenda (Items 6, 7 and 8 of these minutes), 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 MEETINGS

4.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 11th February and 11th June, 2020 were approved as correct records.

5. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

5.1 The Committee noted that, since its last meeting, and following receipt of further evidence that had been requested from the appellants in respect of five cases with regard to Primary School Admissions, the Executive Director, People Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, under powers delegated to him had determined that:-

- (a) two pupils be prioritised within their admissions category of “catchment” prior to the allocation of places, and that they be placed first and second on the waiting list respectively, on the grounds that there are exceptional family and medical circumstances (Case Nos. G1 and G2);
- (b) one pupil be prioritised within the admissions category of “non-catchment” prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional

family circumstances (Case No. W1);

- (c) one pupil be prioritised within the admissions category of “sibling” prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional family circumstances (Case No. NE1); and
- (d) one pupil be not prioritised on the “non-catchment” waiting list, as there were no exceptional circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos. B1).

6. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS

6.1 Verbal Appeal – KI/ED01

- 6.1.1 In remote attendance were the appellant and Andy Tierney and Julie Pryor (Customer Services).
- 6.1.2 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves. He then outlined the procedure which would be followed during the meeting.
- 6.1.3 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report and commented upon a case where the parent had appealed against the administrative decision made by the Executive Director with regard to the refusal to grant a home to school travel bus pass (Case No. KI/ED01).
- 6.1.4 Andy Tierney explained the Stage 1 review and Stage 2 appeals process regarding the City Council’s Home to School Transport Policy. Mr Tierney informed the Committee of the reasons why the request for a home to school travel pass had been refused at Stage 1.
- 6.1.5 The appellant explained to the Committee the reasons for the request for a home to school travel pass for her child.
- 6.1.6 In response to questions raised by Members, the appellant stated that her child had been forced to leave his previous school due to severe bullying issues which resulted in him attending hospital with a broken bone. The appellant said that the school her son now attends was due to a managed move to a school in the same “cluster” family of schools. She added that the schools within her catchment area or nearest suitable school were not acceptable as they did not offer the same Ofsted results as the school he now attends.
- 6.1.7 At this stage in the proceedings, the appellant left the meeting to enable the Committee to consider the evidence.
- 6.1.8 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting information and evidence provided by the pupil’s parent and, arising therefrom, it was:-
- 6.1.9 **RESOLVED:** That, subject to the applicant providing evidence of the managed move to the Executive Director, People Services, the appeal be upheld and a zero fare travel pass be granted until the end of the current academic year, on the

grounds that there are exceptional family circumstances in the case (Case No.KI/ED01).

6.2 Verbal Appeal – BR01 and BR02

6.2.1 The appellant had stated that he wished to make verbal representations to support his appeal, but unfortunately when contact was made with him to discuss his case, his remote connection had been lost and the host of the meeting was unable to make further contact with him. The Committee decided to consider the cases in the applicant's absence.

6.2.2 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had appealed against the administrative decision made by the Executive Director with regard to the refusal to grant home to school travel bus passes (Case Nos. BR01 and BR02).

6.2.3 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting information and evidence provided by the pupils' parents and, arising therefrom, it was:-

6.2.4 RESOLVED: That (a) the appeals be not upheld on the grounds that there were 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 is not the catchment school (Case Nos.BR01 and BR02); and

(b) the Committee did, however, consider that, due to the technical difficulties preventing his access to the meeting, the appellant should be offered another opportunity to present the cases to the Committee, should he so wish.

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUEST TO BE PRIORITISED ON THE WAITING LIST

7.1. The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had expressed a wish for their child to be admitted to a primary school of their choice. The Executive Director stated that places at the primary school 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 the school where there were places available, up to the standard number/admission limit. The Committee was requested to consider prioritising the pupil on a waiting list, within the catchment category, for admission if and when a place becomes available.

7.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting evidence and information provided by the pupil's parents, including medical evidence and, arising therefrom, it was:-

7.3 RESOLVED: That the pupil be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the catchment category, on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances in the case (Case No.N1).

8. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL CASES -

REQUEST TO CONSIDER A CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES

- 8.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report upon a case where parents had made a request for the Committee to consider a change in the family's circumstances, in connection with their request for a place at their preferred secondary school (Case No.ODV1).
- 8.2 RESOLVED: That upon consideration of the case, the Committee considers that there had been a material change in the family's circumstances, and therefore, authority be given for a new application to be processed in this case (Case No.ODV1).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on a date to be arranged.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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