

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 16 April 2014

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

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Martin Lawton and Andrew Sangar.

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 and 7 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 19th March, 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 four 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) one appeal 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 pupil does not attend one of the three nearest qualifying schools (Case No. EF1);

(b) one appeal be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the case (Case No. WF1); and

(c) two appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases, with the passes being granted until the end of the 2013/14 academic year, being the 31st July 2014 (Case Nos. PRed1 and PRed2).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUEST - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE - REQUEST TO PRIORITISE A PLACE

7.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had expressed a wish for their child to be admitted to the primary school 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 pupil on the waiting list, within the respective category, for admission if and when places become available.

7.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting information and evidence provided by the pupil's parents including evidence and advice provided by voluntary or professional bodies and organisations and, arising therefrom, it was:-

7.3 RESOLVED: That the pupil be not prioritised on the waiting list within its respective category, on the grounds that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case No.CH1).

(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.CH1 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).

8. COUNCILLORS MARTIN LAWTON AND NIKKI SHARPE

8.1 The Chair announced that Councillor Martin Lawton was standing down at the forthcoming Municipal Elections and that Councillor Nikki Sharpe had recently resigned as a Member of the City Council. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair expressed his thanks for all the hard work and support they had given to the Committee and wished them well for the future.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 14th May, 2014 at 1.00 p.m. at Howden House.

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