

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 17 September 2014

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Pauline Andrews, Olivia Blake, Andrew Sangar and Ian Saunders

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards.

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 16th July, 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 21 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) nine 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 five of the pupils are requesting a pass for is not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case Nos. WAME1, BF1, BF2, BF3 and HS1); (ii) the distance from the home address of two of the pupils to the school for which they are requesting a pass for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case Nos. PWAC1 and KIED1) and (iii) two of the pupils do not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case Nos. FP1 and YEW1);

(b) 11 appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos. HIHO1, HIHO2, HG1, HG2, LF1, HOHO1, CHA1, CIT1, HS2, SD1 and KIED3) and

(c) one appeal be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the case, with the pass being granted until the pupil is allocated a place at their catchment school (Case No. KIED2).

(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. KIED3 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 - REQUESTS TO CONSIDER CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

7.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon four cases where parents had made requests for the Committee to consider changes in the families' circumstances, in connection with their requests for places at their preferred schools and, arising therefrom, it was:-

7.2 RESOLVED: That upon consideration of the cases, and with due regard to the additional information now submitted, the Committee considers that (a) there has been a material change in the families' circumstances in two cases and therefore authorises the Executive Director to process new applications in these cases (Case Nos. W1 and H1) and (b) there has not been a material change in the families' circumstances in Case Nos. G1 and L1 and therefore authority be not given for new applications to be processed in these cases.

(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. H1 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. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 15th October, 2014 at 1.00 p.m. at Howden House.

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