

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 20 July 2016

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

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nasima Akther and Chris Peace.

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 Councillors Talib Hussain and Joe Otten declared interests in Case No.2 (Secondary School Places) and did not speak or vote thereon.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9th June, 2016 were approved as a correct record.

5. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

5.1 The Committee noted that, since its last meeting, the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, under powers delegated to her with regard to Primary School Admissions, one pupil be granted a fresh right of appeal due to a change in circumstances since the original application was made (Case No.OUT1).

6. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUESTS FOR PRIORITISATION ON WAITING LIST AND/OR A FRESH APPLICATION

6.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, 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 prioritising the pupils on waiting lists, within their respective categories, for admission if and when places become available.

6.2 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:-

6.3 RESOLVED: That (a) one pupil be prioritised at the top of the waiting list, within their respective category, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there are exceptional medical circumstances demonstrated, and also be granted a fresh right of appeal, due to a change in circumstances since the original application was made (Case No.N1);

(b) one pupil be prioritised at the top of the waiting list, within their respective category, on the grounds that there are exceptional family circumstances (Case No.L1); and

(c) one pupil be not prioritised on the waiting list, within their respective category, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case No.L2).

(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.L2 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 - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUESTS TO CONSIDER CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

7.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon three 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 secondary 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 family's circumstances in one case and therefore authorises the Executive Director to process a new application in the case (Case No.2); and (b) there has not been any material changes in the family's circumstances in Case Nos. 1 and 3 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.3 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 would be held on Wednesday, 21st September, 2016, at a time to be agreed by the Chair, in the Town Hall.

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