

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 15 February 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Nasima Akther,
Talib Hussain and Chris Peace

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Craig Gamble Pugh, Joe Otten 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, 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 Councillor Chris Peace declared a personal interest in Case Nos. F2 and F19 (Primary Admission Requests). She had left the meeting prior to their consideration.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th January, 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, 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 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 a home to school travel bus pass (Case No.MH1).

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

6.3 RESOLVED: That the 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 distance from the home address of the pupil to the school for which they are requesting a pass for is under the statutory walking distance and is within a designated Safe Walking Route (Case No.MH1).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUESTS TO PRIORITISE ON WAITING LISTS

7.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon two cases where parents had expressed a wish for their child to be admitted to a secondary school of their choice (Case Nos. 19 and 21). The Executive Director stated that the Committee had previously prioritised both pupils at the top of the waiting list, within their respective category, for admission if and when places became available at the school, but there was now a need to prioritise between the two cases. The Committee had, at a previous meeting, considered the prioritisation of these cases and had requested the Executive Director to seek further information from the parents with regard to these cases.

7.2 The Committee gave consideration to the additional information which had been provided by the pupils' parents and, arising therefrom, it was:-

7.3 RESOLVED: That (a) one pupil be now not prioritised on the waiting list, within their respective category, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there were no exceptional medical circumstances demonstrated (Case No. 19); and

(d) one pupil be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'sibling' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case No. 21).

8. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUESTS TO PRIORITISE ON WAITING LISTS

8.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 28 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.

8.2 RESOLVED: That (a) nine pupils be not prioritised on the waiting lists, within their respective categories, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated;

(b) six pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional family and/or medical circumstances (Case Nos.F10, F11, F12, F15, F17 and F23);

(c) eight pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'non-catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional family and/or medical circumstances (Case Nos.F4, F5, F6, F18, F24, F27, F28 and F29);

(d) four pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'sibling' category on the grounds that there are exceptional family and/or medical circumstances (Case Nos. F3, F7, F14 and F20); and

(e) consideration of one appeal be deferred to enable the Executive Director to seek further clarification on the case (Case No. F22).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 15th March, 2017, at 2.00 pm, in the Town Hall.

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