

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 19 July 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Talib Hussain, Andy Nash, Chris Peace and Andrew Sangar

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Craig Gamble Pugh.

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 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st June, 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, People Services, 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, People Services, submitted reports and commented upon five 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 and, arising therefrom, it was:-

6.3 RESOLVED: That (a) one case 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 school that the pupil is requesting a pass for

is not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case No.ND1); and

(b) four appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are exceptional educational, family or medical circumstances in the cases (Case Nos.SHA1, SHA2, SHA3 and AF1).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - PRIORITISATION ON WAITING LIST AND/OR NEW APPLICATION

7.1 The Executive Director, People Services, 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 granting a fresh right of appeal and/or prioritising the pupils on waiting lists, within their respective categories, for admission if and when places become available.

7.2 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:-

7.3 RESOLVED: That (a) one pupil be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'non-catchment' category and a new application be granted, based on the fact that there are new circumstances which were not available when the original application was submitted (Case No. N1); and

(b) two 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 (Case Nos. B1 and SG1).

8. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

8.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had made a request for the Committee to consider changes in the family's circumstances, in connection with their request for a place at their preferred secondary school. The Committee was requested to consider granting a fresh right of appeal and/or prioritising the pupil on the waiting list, within their respective category, for admission if and when a place becomes available.

8.2 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:-

8.3 RESOLVED: That the pupil be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the sibling category and a new application be granted, based on the fact that there are new circumstances which were not available when the original application was submitted.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 20th September, 2017, at 1.15 pm, in the Town Hall.

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