

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 16 February 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillors Vic Bowden (Chair), Garry Weatherall (Deputy Chair), Maleiki Haybe, Karen McGowan and Ann Whitaker

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Safiya Saeed and Gail Smith.

**2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

2.1 RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on item 7 on the agenda (Item 6 of these minutes), 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 meetings of the Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2023 were approved as correct records.

**5. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

5.1 The Committee noted that, since its last meeting, no decisions had been made by the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, under powers delegated to him with regard to home to school transport or school admissions.

**6. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES**

6.1 Request for Prioritisation on waiting list and/or fresh right of appeal

6.1.1 The Director of Children's Services submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had expressed a wish for their child to be admitted to a primary school of their choice. The Director stated that places at the primary school had been identified by the City Council, in accordance with the published admission criteria, and it had been agreed that the Director would provisionally allocate places at the school where there were places available, up to the standard number/admission limit. The Committee was requested to consider

prioritising the pupil on a waiting list, within the catchment category, for admission if and when a place becomes available.

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

6.1.3 RESOLVED: That the pupil be prioritised within their admission category of 'non-catchment' prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional family and medical circumstances, but a fresh application be not granted (Case No. AS1).

## 6.2 Prioritisation of applications prior to allocation

6.2.1 The Director of Children's Services submitted reports and commented upon 37 cases where parents had expressed a wish for their children to be admitted to primary schools of their choice for admission into the Reception 2023/24 year group. The Committee was requested to consider prioritising the pupils prior to the allocation of places on the National Allocation date, within the applicable admissions category prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional family circumstances.

6.2.2 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:-

6.2.3 RESOLVED: That (a) five pupils be not prioritised prior to the allocation of places, within their respective admission categories, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos. J1, J2, F2, F3 and F4);

(b) two pupils be prioritised within their admissions category of 'catchment' prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional family and medical circumstances (Case Nos. F6 and F9);

(c) 28 pupils be prioritised within their admissions category of 'non-catchment' prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional family and medical circumstances (Case Nos. J3, J4, J5, J7, J8, J9, J10, J11, J12, J13, J14, J15, J16, J17, J18, J19, J20, J21, J22, J23, J24, F1, F5, F8, F10, F11, F12 and T1);

(d) two pupils be prioritised within their admissions category of 'sibling' prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional family and medical circumstances (Case Nos. J6 and F7); and

(e) of the cases prioritised for the same school, and within the same admissions category, the Committee agreed the following: that case F5 should be prioritised ahead of case J8, that case J9 should be prioritised ahead of case F8 and that case J13 should be prioritised ahead of case J14.

(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. T1 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. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 7.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, at 2.00 p.m., in the Town Hall.

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