

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 19 June 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Talib Hussain, Martin Lawton, Andrew Sangar, Ian Saunders, Nikki Sharpe and Clive Skelton

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

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 MEETINGS

4.1 The minutes of meetings of the Committee held on 15th and 22nd May 2013, were approved as correct records.

5. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

5.1 The Committee noted that, since its last meeting, the Interim 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, had upheld an appeal on the grounds that there are exceptional educational and family circumstances in the case (Case No. STTM1).

6. PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

6.1 Request for Early Entry

6.1.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had requested the City Council to give further consideration to an expressed preference for early entry into a reception class and, arising therefrom, it was:-

6.1.2 RESOLVED: That the request be not granted on the grounds that the Committee is of the opinion that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or

family circumstances for allowing the child early entry to school (Case No. EA1).

6.2 *Request for a Further Statutory Appeal Hearing*

6.2.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had made a request for a further statutory appeal hearing on the grounds of changes in the family's circumstances and, arising therefrom, it was:-

6.2.2 RESOLVED: That upon consideration of the case, and with due regard to the additional information now submitted, the request be not granted on the grounds that the Committee considers that there has not been a material change in the family's circumstances (Case No. D1).

(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 Act 1972, as amended, the Chair decided that the above request for a further statutory appeal hearing be considered as a matter of urgency in order for the request to be considered at the earliest opportunity, although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the request was to be considered.)

7. SECONDARY SCHOOL CASE - REQUEST FOR A FURTHER STATUTORY APPEAL HEARING

7.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had made a request for a further statutory appeal hearing on the grounds of changes in the family's circumstances and, arising therefrom, it was:-

7.2 RESOLVED: That upon consideration of the case, and with due regard to the additional information now submitted, the request be not granted on the grounds that the Committee considers that there has not been a material change in the family's circumstances (Case No. TAP1).

(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 Act 1972, as amended, the Chair decided that the above request for a further statutory appeal hearing be considered as a matter of urgency in order for the request to be considered at the earliest opportunity, although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the request was to be considered.)

8. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS

8.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 12 cases where parents had appealed against the administrative decisions made by the Interim Executive Director with regard to the refusal to grant home to school

travel bus passes.

8.2 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:-

8.3 RESOLVED: That (a) eight 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 distances from the home addresses of two of the pupils to the schools for which they are requesting passes for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case Nos. NETH1 and NETH2) and (ii) the schools that six of the pupils are requesting passes for are not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case Nos. ARB1, SHGR1, SHGR2, KIED1, SPAC1 and SPAC2); and

(b) consideration of the remaining four appeals be deferred to enable the Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families to make further investigations into the cases, along the lines now requested, and authority be given to the Interim Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, to determine the appeals (Case Nos. SHAR1, SHAR2, SHAR3 and ECFI1).

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

9.1 It was noted that (a) the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 18th September 2013, at 1.00 pm at Howden House and (b) arrangements would be made for meetings of the Committee to be held in August 2013, to consider potential home to school transport appeals from parents, following the decision expected to be taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held later in the day to withdraw all discretionary free bus passes to denominational schools from September 2013, save for some exceptions.

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