

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 19 November 2014

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Pauline Andrews, Olivia Blake, Sioned-Mair Richards and Andrew Sangar

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ian Saunders.

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 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15th October, 2014, 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 reports and commented upon 21 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 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) 12 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 school that eight of the pupils are requesting a pass for is not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case No.STCA1, STCA2, AST1, AST2, SF1, AS1, HG1and YEW1); (ii) the distance from the home address of two of the pupils to the school for which they are requesting a pass for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case Nos.KIED4 and PWAC3) and (iii) two of the pupils do not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case No. KIEC1 and KIED3);

(b) six appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos.NF1, NF2, KIED2, WES1, BF1def and BIR1);

(c) one appeal be upheld whilst the pupil remains at the current school (PWAC1); and

(d) consideration of the remaining two appeals be deferred to enable the Executive Director to seek further information, specifically relating to the family providing more detailed evidence regarding circumstances outlined by the family in Case No.KIED1 and the provision of any supporting medical evidence in Case No.PWAC2.

(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 Nos.BD1def, BIR1 and YEW1 be considered as matters of urgency in order for the requests to be considered at the earliest possible opportunity although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the requests were to be considered).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY 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 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 families' circumstances in two cases and therefore authorises the Executive Director to process new applications in these cases (Case Nos. E1 and N2) and (b) there has not been a material change in the family's circumstances in Case No. N1 and therefore authority be not given for a new application to be processed in this case.

(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 Nos.E1, N1 and N2 be considered as matters of urgency in order for the requests to be considered at the earliest possible opportunity although it had not been possible to give five

clear days' notice that the requests were to be considered).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 17th December, 2014 at 1.00 p.m. at Howden House.

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