

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## Admissions Committee

### Meeting held 18 July 2012

**PRESENT:** Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Talib Hussain, Martin Lawton and Clive Skelton

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#### **1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS**

1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined basic housekeeping and fire safety arrangements.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alison Brelsford and Nikki Sharpe.

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012, were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom, it was noted that further to the decision to defer consideration of an appeal relating to a home to school travel bus pass, the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, had written to the pupil's parents requesting further information in connection with the case, but to date, no such information had been received (Case No. St.C1).

#### **5. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

5.1 RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on the following items of business to be considered on the grounds that they contain exempt information described in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

#### **6. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

6.1 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.

#### **7. PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUEST FOR FURTHER STATUTORY APPEAL HEARING**

7.1 The 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 granted on the grounds that the Committee considers that there has been a material change in the family's financial and medical circumstances (Case No.NF1).

(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 the above request be considered as a matter of urgency in order for the request to be considered at the earliest possible opportunity and to allow for arrangements to be made for the appeal to be heard by the Education Appeal Panel, although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the request was to be considered).

## **8. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

- 8.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 14 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.

- 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) three appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos. HH1, WF2 and WF3);

(b) 10 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 distance from the home addresses of four pupils to the schools for which they are requesting passes for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case Nos. Bi1, HH2, NH1 and ND1), (ii) the school that one of the pupils is requesting a pass for is not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case No. Wa1), (iii) four of the pupils do not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case Nos. BF1, CH1, Eck1 and WF1) and (iv) with regard to the remaining appeal, relating to a voluntary-aided school, the religious education provided at the school is not of the pupil's parents' religion or denomination (Case No. AS1); and

(c) consideration of the remaining appeal be deferred to enable the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, to seek further medical information in connection with the case (Case No. WF4).

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2012, at 1.00 pm, at Howden House.