

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 17 October 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Clive Skelton and Peter Rippon (Substitute Member)

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alison Brelsford, Talib Hussain, Martin Lawton and Nikki Sharpe.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19th September, 2012, were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom, it was noted that further to the decision in Item 7 – Home to School Transport Appeals, the appeal in Case No. Si11 had been upheld by the Interim Executive Director, Children, Young people and Families, in consultation with the Chair, subject to there being no places at Meadowhead.

4. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

- 4.1 **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.

5. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

- 5.1 The Committee noted that, since its last meeting, no decisions had been made by 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 or school admissions.

6. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUESTS TO RECONSIDER CASES

- 6.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted

reports and commented upon two cases where parents had requested the City Council to give further consideration to expressed preferences for alternative primary school places, based on the submission of additional information regarding a change in the families' circumstances and, arising therefrom, it was:-

- 6.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee is of the opinion that the additional information now submitted in both cases does not warrant a reconsideration of the cases (Case Nos. B1 and A1).

(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 requests be considered as matters of urgency in order for the requests to be considered at the earliest possible opportunity and to allow for arrangements to be made, if necessary, for consequent appeals to be considered by the Education Appeal Panel, although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the requests were to be considered).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUESTS TO RECONSIDER CASES

- 7.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon two cases where parents had requested the City Council to give further consideration to expressed preferences for alternative secondary school places, based on the submission of additional information regarding a change in the families' circumstances and, arising therefrom, it was:-

- 7.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee is of the opinion that the additional information now submitted in both cases does not warrant a reconsideration of the cases (Case Nos. FV1 and FV21).

8. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS

- 8.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 54 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) 16 appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases, or that the Committee considers that there are unsafe walking routes, with passes in the cases now mentioned being granted up to the end of the 2012/13 academic

year (Case Nos. BD4, BD5, Lo1, BF2, Ecc1, FV1, FV2, HH1, HH2, HS1, Kecg2, Kecg3, Kecg4, Tap1, Yew1 and Yew2);

(b) 37 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 15 pupils to the schools for which they are requesting passes for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case Nos. ML1, St.M1, St.Cath1, Wa1, Wy1, Wy2, AS1, Ci1, Ci2, FV3, HG2, HS2, Ked4, Ked7 and NF1), (ii) the schools that two of the pupils requesting passes for are not their catchment schools/nearest suitable schools (Case Nos. St1 and Wcm1) and (iii) 20 of the pupils do not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case Nos. Ast1, Ast2, BF1, Ecc2, FP1, HG1, HG3, HS3, Kecg1, Ked1, Ked2, Ked3, Ked5, Ked6, NF2, NF3, PW1, PW2, Sto1 and WF1); and

(c) consideration of the remaining appeal be deferred to enable the Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, to seek further information as to why the pupil had chosen to attend the school in question (Case No. Ecc3).

(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 two of the above appeals (Case Nos. BD4 and BD5) be considered as matters of urgency in order for the appeals to be considered at the earliest possible opportunity, although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the appeals were to be considered).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 21st November, 2012, at 1.00 p.m., at Howden House.