

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 17 April 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Talib Hussain, Martin Lawton and Nikki Sharpe

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alison Brelsford and Clive Skelton.

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 they contain 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 20th March, 2013 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 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. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS

- 6.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 13 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.

- 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 the 13 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, (a) the distance from the home addresses of four of the pupils to the schools for which they are requesting passes for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case Nos. BIR1, FRPA1, MEAD1 and NEWF1), (b) the schools that two of the pupils are requesting passes for are not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case Nos. NETH1 and STA1) and (c) seven of the pupils do not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case Nos. AST1, AST2, AST3, AST4, HIST1, SILV1 and SILV2).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUEST TO RECONSIDER CASES

7.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon four 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:-

7.2 RESOLVED: That upon consideration of the four cases, and with due regard to the additional information now submitted, (a) one request be granted on the grounds that the Committee considers that the additional information submitted relating to the pupil's medical condition warrants a reconsideration of the case, and the child be prioritised on the waiting list due to special educational needs (Case No.HH1); and

(b) three requests be not granted on the grounds that, in the opinion of the Committee, the additional information now submitted does not warrant reconsideration of the cases (Case Nos. BW1, GLI1 and TI1).

8. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUEST TO RECONSIDER A CASE

8.1 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 an alternative secondary school place, based on the submission of additional information regarding a change in the family's circumstances and, arising therefrom, it was:-

8.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee is of the opinion that the additional information now submitted does not warrant a reconsideration of the case (Case No.FV1).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 Members were informed that the date of the next meeting would be confirmed following the Annual Council meeting to be held in May, 2013 and Members would be informed accordingly.