

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 20 November 2013

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

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Talib Hussain and Nikki Sharpe.

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 16th October, 2013 were approved as a correct record.
- 4.2 Members asked if there had been further clarity with regard to the admissions policy relating to the University Technical College (UTC) and the Chair asked that arrangements be made for him to meet with John Bigley, Admissions Manager on this matter.
- 4.3 With regard to Case No.MEAD1, which had been considered at the previous meeting and had not been upheld, it was reported that the Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families had received further information relating to the Case and, in view of this information, had decided that the Committee's decision be overturned and the appeal be upheld. The Chair of the Committee requested that the Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families to report to the next meeting of the Committee with details of the circumstances leading to the decision having been overturned.

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 25 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 (a) 17 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 nine of the pupils are requesting a pass for is not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case Nos. LYD1, NET1, STMA1, ALL1, CAR1, HGR1, HS1, KIED1 and SIL1), (ii) the distance from the home address of five of the pupils to the schools for which they are requesting a pass for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case Nos. LOW1, POR1, NEW4, PAR1 AND PAR2) and (iii) three of the pupils do not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case Nos. HGR2, NEW2 and NEW3);

(b) three appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos. CON, STO1 and STO2); and

(c) consideration of the remaining five 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. MBR1, RIV1, CIT1, NEW1 and UTC1).

(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 one of the above appeals (Case No.UTC1) be considered as a matter of urgency in order for the appeal to be considered at the earliest possible opportunity, although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the appeal was to be considered).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - REQUEST FOR FURTHER STATUTORY APPEAL HEARING

7.1 Secondary School Place

7.1.1 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 based on the submission of additional information regarding a change in the families' circumstances and, arising therefrom, it was:-

- 7.1.2 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. Kecgb1).

7.2 Primary School Place

- 7.2.1 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 further medical information received and, arising therefrom, it was:-

- 7.2.2 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 medical circumstances (Case No.GR1)

(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. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 18th December, 2013 at 1.00 p.m. at Howden House.