

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 15 January 2014

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 18th December, 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 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 10 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) six 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 two of the pupils are requesting a pass for is not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case Nos. EMM1 and DEFPARK1), (ii) the distance from the home address of one of the pupils to the school for which they are requesting a pass for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case No. PARK2) and (iii) three of the pupils do not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case Nos. PAR1, HS2 and KIED1);

(b) two appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos. HS1 and STCA1); and

(c) two appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases, with the passes being granted until the end of the 2013/14 academic year, being the 31st July 2014, and that after such time, additional information be obtained from the family as to their financial circumstances (Case Nos. LOW1 and LOW2).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS

7.1 Request for a further statutory appeal hearing

7.1.1 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, relating to a primary school, based on the submission of additional information 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 for a further statutory appeal hearing be granted on the grounds that the Committee considers that additional information now submitted does warrant the reconsideration of the case (Case No. W1.).

(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 although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the request was to be considered).

7.2 Request to prioritise on Waiting List

7.2.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 27 cases where parents had expressed a wish for their children to be admitted to secondary schools of their choice. The Executive Director stated that places in secondary schools had been identified by the City Council, in accordance with the published admission criteria, and it had been agreed that the Executive Director would provisionally allocate places at those schools where there were available places, up to the standard number/admission

limit. The Committee was requested to consider prioritising the pupils on waiting lists, within their respective categories, for admission if and when places become available.

7.2.2 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:-

7.2.3 RESOLVED: That (a) 24 pupils be not prioritised on the waiting lists within their respective categories, on the grounds that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos.1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28);

(b) three pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'feeder' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case Nos.6, 7 and 13) and

(c) it be noted that Case No.2 had been withdrawn from consideration by the Executive Director as it had been submitted in error.

(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. 27 and 28 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, 19th February, 2014 at 1.00 p.m. at Howden House.