

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 18 March 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Pauline Andrews, Olivia Blake and Andrew Sangar

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sioned-Mair Richards and Ian Saunders.

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 Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs declared an interest as a School Governor in Case Nos. 1, 2 and 14 in Item 7 – School Admissions Requests.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Admissions Committee

- 4.1.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th February, 2015 were approved as a correct record.

4.2 Admissions Sub-Committee

- 4.2.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Admissions Sub-Committee held on 18th February, 2015 were received and noted.

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 five 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) two 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 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.PWAC1) and (ii) one of the pupils does not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case No.KIED3);

(b) two appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos.ATH1 and KIED2); and

(c) consideration of the remaining appeal be deferred to enable the Executive Director to seek further information, specifically to determine the family's address in Case No.KIED1.

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

Request to prioritise on Waiting List – Primary Schools

7.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 24 cases where parents had expressed a wish for their children to be admitted to primary schools of their choice. The Executive Director stated that places in primary 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 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:-

7.3 RESOLVED: That (a) 20 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, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, J1, J2, A, B, C, D, E, F and G);

(b) one pupil be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case No.7); and

(c) three pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'non-catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case Nos.11, 12 and 15).

(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.A, B, C, D, E, F and G) 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, 15th April, 2015, at 1.00 pm, in the Town Hall.

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