

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 23 September 2021

PRESENT: Councillors Vic Bowden, Peter Garbutt, Sioned-Mair Richards and Andrew Sangar

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1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

1.1 RESOLVED: That, in the absence of the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs, Councillor Vic Bowden be appointed Chair of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Denise Fox and Talib Hussain.

3. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

3.1 RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on items 7, 8 and 9 on the agenda, 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.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15th July, 2021, were approved as a correct record.

6. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

6.1 The Committee noted that, since its last meeting, and following receipt of further evidence that had been requested from the appellant in respect of one case, the Executive Director, People Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, under powers delegated to him with regard to Primary Admissions, had agreed to authorise the Authority to accept a second application because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the family, with the resultant fresh right of appeal (Case No.TOT1).

7. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS

7.1 Verbal Appeal BR/01

- 7.1.1 In attendance were the appellant and Andy Tierney (Customer Services).
- 7.1.2 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves. She then outlined the procedure which would be followed during the meeting.
- 7.1.3 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report and commented upon a case where the parent had appealed against the administrative decision made by the Executive Director with regard to the refusal to grant a home to school travel bus pass (Case No.BR/01).
- 7.1.4 Andy Tierney explained the Stage 1 review and Stage 2 appeals process regarding the City Council's Home to School Transport Policy. Mr. Tierney informed the Committee of the reasons why the request for a home to school travel pass had been refused at Stage 1.
- 7.1.5 The appellant explained to the Committee the reasons for the request for a home to school travel pass for his son.
- 7.1.6 In response to questions raised by Members, the appellant stated that although it was parental choice for his child to attend the school, he took the decision for his child to attend the school along with his friends from the feeder school they had attended. He also felt that in the current economic climate, his child should be given a home to school travel pass as over the next five years, there would be a burden on the family to pay bus fares. Finally, the appellant stated that he knew other families in a similar situation to him who had been granted a pass, and felt that the Council's policy was flawed, he did not, however, provide any details so his comments could not be confirmed or disproved.
- 7.1.7 At this stage in the proceedings, the appellant and officer left the meeting to enable the Committee to consider the evidence.
- 7.1.8 RESOLVED: That the appeal 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, the school that the pupil is requesting a pass for is not the catchment school (Case No.BR/01).

7.2 Written Appeal SH/01

- 7.2.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report and commented upon a case where the parent had appealed against the administrative decision made by the Executive Director with regard to the refusal to grant a home to school travel bus pass (Case No.SH/01).
- 7.2.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting information and evidence provided by the pupil's parent and, arising therefrom, it was:-
- 7.2.3 RESOLVED: That the appeal 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, the school that the pupil is requesting a pass for

is not the catchment school (Case No.SH/01).

8. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

- 8.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had expressed a wish for their child to be admitted to a primary school of their choice. The Executive Director stated that places at the primary school had been allocated on the 16th April national allocation date by the City Council, in accordance with the published admission criteria. The Executive Director stated that the case had been withdrawn from consideration prior to the meeting as the child had been placed prior to the hearing (Case No.NE1).

9. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

- 9.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted reports and commented upon four 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 places available, up to the standard number/admission limit. The Committee was requested to consider prioritising the pupils on waiting list, within their respective categories, for admission if and when places become available.

- 9.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting evidence and information provided by the pupil's parents including, evidence and advice provided by professional bodies and, arising therefrom, it was:-

- 9.3 RESOLVED: That (a) three pupils be not prioritised on the waiting lists, within their respective categories, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos. S1, HS1 and M1); and

(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.N1).

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 21st October, 2021 at 2.00 p.m., in the Town Hall.