

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 20 January 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Denise Fox, Peter Garbutt, Sioned-Mair Richards and Andrew Sangar

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Vic Bowden and Talib Hussain.

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 7, 8 and 9 on the agenda (Items 6, 7 and 8 of these minutes), 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 In Agenda Item 8 (Item 7 of these minutes) – School Admissions Requests – Primary School Places, Councillor Denise Fox declared a personal interest in Case No. B1, and did not take part in the consideration of the case.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23rd September, 2021, 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, People Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, under powers delegated to him with regard to home to school transport or school admissions.

6. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS

6.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents 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.KI/ED01).

6.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting information and evidence provided by the pupil's parent and, arising therefrom, it was:-

- 6.3 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 one of the three qualifying schools. (Case No.KI/ED01).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

- 7.1 The Executive Director, People Services, 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 places available, 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 evidence and information 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) 13 pupils be not prioritised prior to the allocation of places, within their respective admission categories, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos. AL1, B1, D2, H1, HiN1, HH1, HB1, L1, L2, NG1, NG2, NG3 and NF1);

(b) two pupils be prioritised within their admissions category of 'catchment' prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional family and medical circumstances (Case Nos. D1 and NE1), respectively;

(c) three pupils be prioritised within their admissions category of 'sibling' prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case Nos. Be1, Br1 and S1); and

(d) six pupils be prioritised within their admissions category of 'non-catchment' prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case Nos. Bra1, E1, G1, HK1, Mo1, Mu1).

8. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

- 8.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted reports and commented upon 36 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 lists, within their respective categories, for admission if and when places become available.

8.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting evidence and information 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:-

8.3 RESOLVED: That (a) 14 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.1, 14, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 32, 33 and 36);

(b) two pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment with sibling' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical and/or family circumstances (Case Nos. 7 and 31);

(c) one pupil be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment with feeder' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical and/or family circumstances (Case No. 12);

(d) nine pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical and/or family circumstances (Case Nos. 3, 5, 6, 15, 21, 27, 28, 29 and 34);

(e) two pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'sibling' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical and/or family circumstances (Case Nos. 10 and 11);

(f) three pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'feeder' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical and/or family circumstances (Case Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 17); and

(g) three pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'other' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical and/or family circumstances (Case Nos. 9, 20 and 35); and

(h) consideration of one request be deferred to enable the Executive Director to see further information (Case No.13).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 24th February, 2022, at 2.00 p.m., in the Town Hall.