

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 16 October 2013

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

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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 Councillor Ian Saunders declared an interest in Case No. HS1 in item 7 and did not speak or vote thereon.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th September, 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 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 12 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) seven 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 five of the pupils are requesting a pass for is not their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case Nos. MAN2, ALLS1, ALLS3, SILV1 and TAP1) and (ii) the distance from the home address of two of the pupils to the schools for which they are requesting a pass for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case Nos. ALLS2 and AST1);

(b) three appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos. HIND1, STOC1 and CIT1); and

(c) consideration of the remaining two appeals be deferred (i) in Case No. MAN1, the family be requested to provide more proof of financial circumstances to enable the Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, in consultation with the Chair, to determine the appeal and (ii) in Case No. UTC1, the Committee requested that a clearer policy be determined by the Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, with regard to this type of establishment and that such policy be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee.

(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. CIT1) 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 - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUEST FOR A FURTHER STATUTORY APPEAL HEARING

7.1 The Interim Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon two cases where parents had requested the Council to give further consideration to expressed preferences for alternative secondary school places, based on the submission of additional information and, arising therefrom, it was:-

7.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee is of the opinion that the additional information now submitted does not warrant reconsideration of the cases. (Case Nos. HS1 and BD1).

(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 the above requests (Case No. BD1) 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).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 20th November, 2013 at 1.00 p.m. at Howden House.

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