

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 18 February 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Pauline Andrews, Olivia Blake, Sioned-Mair Richards and Ian Saunders

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Andrew Sangar.

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 21st January, 2015 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 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 all five appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either

exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos.ECC1, ECC2, ECC3, KIED1 and DefWAME1).

(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 No.DefWAME1) 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. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS

7.1 Request to prioritise on Waiting List – Secondary Schools

7.1.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon three 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.

7.1.2 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:-

7.1.3 RESOLVED: That (a) one pupil be not prioritised on the waiting list within their respective category, on the grounds that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case No.3); and

(b) two pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'non-catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional family and medical circumstances, respectively (Case Nos.1 and 2).

(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.1, 2 and 3) 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).

7.2 Request to prioritise on Waiting List – Primary Schools

- 7.2.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 34 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.
- 7.2.2 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) 21 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.4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34);
- (b) four pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'sibling' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case Nos.1, 9, 15 and 21); and
- (c) nine 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. 2, 3, 12, 14, 19, 20, 22, 28 and 29).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 18th March, 2015, at 1.00 pm, in the Town Hall.

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