

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 9 June 2016

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Craig Gamble Pugh,
Joe Otten and Andrew Sangar

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nasima Akther, Talib Hussain and Chris Peace.

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. Councillor Joe Otten declared a personal interest in Case No. L1 (Primary Admissions Requests) as he had a connection with the school concerned, and did not take part in the consideration of the request.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 20th April and 18th May, 2016 were approved as correct records.

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 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/EC1).

6.2 The Committee noted that the applicant had requested a verbal hearing but, despite having been invited to attend this meeting, the applicant was not present. The Committee decided to consider the case in her absence.

6.3 Amanda Dale, Customer Services, explained the Stage 1 and Stage 2 appeals criteria regarding the City Council's Home to School Transport Policy. She informed the Sub-Committee of the reasons why the application had been refused at Stage 1 and then the subsequent refusal of the appeal at Stage 2.

6.4 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 their catchment school/nearest suitable school (Case No.KI/ED1).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

7.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon five 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) one pupil, whilst not being prioritised on the waiting list, within their respective category, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated, be granted a fresh right of appeal, due to a change in circumstances since the original application was made (Case No.L1);

(b) one pupil be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional family circumstances (Case No.M1); and

(c)(i) three 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, and (ii) in the event of their appeals which have already been lodged being unsuccessful, they be granted a fresh right of appeal due to changes in circumstances since their original applications were made (Case Nos.B1, G1 and M2).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 22nd June, 2016, at 1.15 pm, in the Town Hall.