

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting held 18th April 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Talib Hussain,
Ian Saunders, Nikki Sharpe and Clive Skelton.

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1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS**

1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined basic housekeeping and fire safety arrangements.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Vickie Priestley.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

4.1 The minutes of meetings of the Committee held on 7th and 21st March 2012, were approved as correct records.

5. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

5.1 RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on the following items of business to be considered on the grounds that they contain exempt information described in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

6. **ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

6.1 The Committee noted that, since its last meeting, 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, had (a) not upheld an appeal on the grounds that there are no exceptional circumstances demonstrated and, having regard to the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, the pupil does not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case No. HS3) and (b) upheld an appeal on the grounds that there are exceptional family circumstances in the case (Case No. NF1).

7. **PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES – REQUEST FOR A FURTHER STATUTORY APPEAL HEARING**

7.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report and commented upon a case where the parents of a child had made a

request for a further statutory appeal hearing on the grounds of changes in the family's circumstances and, arising therefrom, it was:-

- 7.2 RESOLVED: That consideration of the request be deferred to enable the Executive Director to seek further information in connection with the case and, if and when such information is provided, authority be given for the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair, to determine the request (Case No. SG1).

8. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

- 8.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted reports and commented upon 13 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.

- 8.2 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:-

- 8.3 RESOLVED: That (a) nine appeals be upheld on the grounds that there are either exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances in the cases (Case Nos. AG1, VP1, VP2, VP3, Bdf1, FV1, NH2, PA1 and PW1); and

(b) four 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 distance from the home addresses of three pupils to the schools for which they are requesting passes for is less than the distance in the criteria (Case Nos. FP1, FP2 and Hat1) and (ii) one pupil does not attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools (Case No. MH1).

9. COUNCILLOR CHRIS ROSLING-JOSEPHS

- 9.1 RESOLVED: That this Committee places on record its thanks and appreciation to the Chair (Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs) for the valuable work he had undertaken as Chair of the Committee during the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The Secretary reported that he would contact the new Chair of the Committee following his/her appointment at the Annual Council meeting on 16th May 2012, in order to arrange the dates of meetings for the 2012/13 Municipal Year, and inform those Members appointed to the Committee accordingly.