

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 12 February 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Lisa Banes, Michelle Cook, Talib Hussain, Douglas Johnson (Substitute Member) and Andrew Sangar

.....

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bob Pullin and Kaltum Rivers.

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 as 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 22nd January, 2019 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 her 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.

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

- 6.3 RESOLVED: That the appeal be upheld on the grounds that there are exceptional financial, family and social circumstances in the case (Case No.YE01).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

- 7.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted reports and commented upon 50 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 were informed that (a) four cases had been withdrawn, as they had already been considered (F3, F5, F17 and F48) and (b) one case was withdrawn from consideration as there was a change of school preference (Case No.F36).

- 7.3 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:-

- 7.4 RESOLVED: That (a) 19 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.F2, F4, F7, F8, F11, F15, F16, F21, F22, F23, F24, F25, F26, F28, F32, F33, F38, F41 and F42);

(b) eight pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case Nos.F20, F27, F34, F39, F43, F45, F49 and F50);

(c) seven 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.F1, F9, F13, F19, F31, F35 and F40); and

(d) eleven pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'non-catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional family, medical and/or social circumstances (Case Nos.F6, F10, F12, F14, F18, F29, F30, F37, F44, F46 and F47).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 19th March, 2019, at 2.00 p.m., in the Town Hall.