

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 22 October 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Vic Bowden, Peter Garbutt and Mike Lavery

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michelle Cook and Talib Hussain.

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 10th September, 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 him with regard to home to school transport or school admissions.

6. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS

6.1 Verbal Appeal – Case No. KI/ED01

6.1.1 In attendance were the appellant and Julie Pryor (Customer Services).

6.1.2 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves. He then outlined the procedure which would be followed during the meeting.

6.1.3 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report and commented

upon a case where the parent 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/ED01).

- 6.1.4 Julie Pryor explained the Stage 1 review and Stage 2 appeals process regarding the City Council's Home to School Transport Policy. Mrs. Pryor informed the Committee of the reasons why the request for a home to school travel pass had been refused at Stage 1.
- 6.1.5 The appellant explained to the Committee the reasons for the request for a home to school travel pass for her child.
- 6.1.6 In response to questions raised by Members, the appellant explained to the Committee that her child's three older siblings had attended the school and her child was familiar with the school and its teachers. She added that her child's peer group also attended the school. She also said that she did not know where the qualifying schools were. The appellant added that the route for her child to walk to school crossed over many busy roads and was very hilly and as there was no longer a school bus to take children to the school, the only alternative was to catch public transport. Customer Services confirmed that the zero fare bus passes which had previously been granted to her older children had been done so in error.
- 6.1.7 At this stage in the proceedings, the appellant left the meeting to enable the Committee to consider the evidence.
- 6.1.8 RESOLVED: That the appeal be upheld on the grounds that there are exceptional educational and family circumstances in the case (Case No.KI/ED01).

6.2 Written Appeal – Case No. S/D01

- 6.2.1 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 (Case No. S/D01).
- 6.2.2 The Committee gave consideration to all the supporting information and evidence provided by the pupil's parents and, arising therefrom, it was:-
- 6.2.3 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 one of the three qualifying schools (Case No.S/D01).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES - REQUEST TO CONSIDER A CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES

- 7.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report and commented upon a case where parents had made a request for the Committee to consider a change in the family's circumstances, in connection with their request for a place

at their preferred secondary school. It was noted that this case had been deferred from the previous meeting of the Committee, due to the fact that the meeting had been inquorate and unable to make a decision on this case, and, arising therefrom, it was:-

- 7.2 RESOLVED: That upon consideration of the case, the Committee considers that there had been a material change in the family's circumstances, and therefore, authority be given for a new application to be processed in this case (Case No. TAP1).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 12th November, 2019, at 2.00 p.m., in the Town Hall.

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