

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 21 January 2021

(NOTE: This meeting was held as a remote meeting in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020).

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Vic Bowden, Peter Garbutt, Talib Hussain, Mike Levery and Sioned-Mair Richards

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

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, 7 and 8 on the agenda, 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 17th December, 2020, 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. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

6.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted reports and commented upon 19 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.

6.2 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:-

6.3 RESOLVED: That (a) four pupils be not prioritised prior to the allocation of places, within their respective admission categories, on the grounds that the Committee considers that there are no exceptional educational, financial, medical or family circumstances demonstrated (Case Nos. J9, J10, J17 and J19);

(b) one pupil be prioritised within the admissions category of 'catchment with sibling' prior to the allocation of a place, on the grounds that there are exceptional family and medical circumstances (Case No. J4);

(c) seven pupils be prioritised within their admissions category of 'catchment' prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional family and medical circumstances (Case Nos. J2, J3, J5, J6, J13, J14 and J16);

(d) two pupils be prioritised within their admissions category of 'sibling' prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case Nos. J8 and J18); and

(e) five pupils be prioritised within their admissions category of 'non-catchment' prior to the allocation of places, on the grounds that there are exceptional medical circumstances (Case Nos. J1, J7, J11, J12 and J15).

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

7.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted reports and commented upon 79 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 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) 15 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.14, 29, 34, 37, 38, 40, 44, 58, 59, 62, 64, 65, 74, 78 and 79);

(b) three pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment with sibling' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical and/or family circumstances (Case Nos. 12, 32 and 70);

(c) 37 pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'catchment' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical and/or family circumstances (Case Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 33, 35, 36, 39, 41, 42, 43, 46, 51, 52, 53, 55, 60, 61, 63, 66, 67, 68, 73, 75 and 77);

(d) eight 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. 1, 23, 28, 45, 48, 69, 72 and 76);

(e) six pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'feeder' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical and/or family circumstances (Case Nos. 4, 9, 17, 22, 49 and 54); and

(f) 10 pupils be prioritised at the top of the waiting list in the 'other' category on the grounds that there are exceptional medical and/or family circumstances (Case Nos. 7, 10, 13, 19, 31, 47, 50, 56, 57 and 71).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 25th February, 2021, at 2.00 p.m., in the Town Hall.

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