

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 25 February 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 Vic Bowden, Peter Garbutt, Talib Hussain, Mike Levery, Sioned-Mair Richards and Sophie Wilson

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1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

1.1 RESOLVED: That, in the absence of the Chair of the Committee (Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs), Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards be appointed Chair of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 An apology for absence was received from the Chair (Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs).

3. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

3.1 RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on item 7 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.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st January, 2021, were approved as a correct record.

6. ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

6.1 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.

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

7.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted reports and commented upon 33 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 prior to the allocation of places on the National Allocation date.

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) seven 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.F3, F4, F5, F8, F11, F21 and F24);

(b) 13 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.F2, F6, F7, F10, F13, F18, F19, F23, F26 (in position 1), F27 (in position 2), F28, FT4 and FT5);

(c) three 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.F1, F9 (in position 2) and F22);

(d) 10 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.F12, F14, F15 (in position 1), F16, F17, F20, F25, FT1, FT2 and FT3); and

(e) the Committee considered that the sibling of the child in Case No. F6 also 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.

(NOTE: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 26 of the Council's Constitution and the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the Chair decided that Case Nos. FT1, FT2, FT3, FT4 and FT5 be considered as matters of urgency in order for the requests to be considered at the earliest possible opportunity although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the requests were to be considered.)

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

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