

Admissions Committee

Meeting held 24 February 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Rosling-Josephs (Chair), Denise Fox, Peter Garbutt, Talib Hussain and Sioned-Mair Richards

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Vic Bowden and Andrew Sangar.

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 7, 8 and 9 on the agenda (Items 6, 7 and 8 of these minutes), 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 20th January, 2022, 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 18 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) six 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, F7, F10, F12, F13 and F16);

(b) three 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. F11, F15 and F18), respectively;

(c) 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. F5 and F6); and

(d) seven 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. F1, F2, F4, F8, F9, F14 and F17).

((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 No. F18, be considered as a matter of urgency in order for the request to be considered at the earliest possible opportunity although it had not been possible to give five clear days' notice that the request was to be considered.)

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUESTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

7.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted reports and commented upon two 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 evidence and advice provided by voluntary or professional bodies and organisations and, arising therefrom, it was:-

7.3 RESOLVED: That the 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. 1 and 2).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 24th March, 2022 at 2.00 p.m., in the Town Hall.

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