

Medway Council
Virtual Meeting of School Transport and Curriculum
Appeals Committee

Thursday, 27 August 2020

9.30am to 1.57pm

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee

Present: Councillors: Carr, Cooper, Sylvia Griffin and Johnson

In Attendance: Sameera Khan, Assistant Head of Legal Services
Laura Phillips, School Admissions and Transport Deputy
Manager - Transport
Councillor Richard Thorne, Ward Councillor
Michael Turner, Democratic Services Officer

210 Election of Chairman

Councillor Josie Iles was elected Chairman for the 2020/21 municipal year.

In the absence of Councillor Iles, Councillor Carr was elected Chairman for the meeting.

211 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Iles.

212 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 6 February 2020 was agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

213 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

214 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

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Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

215 School Transport and Curriculum Appeals Committee - Terms of reference

These were noted.

216 Exclusion of the press and public

The Committee agreed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the exempt material relating to agenda item 7 because consideration of these matters in public would disclose information falling within one or more categories of exempt information contained in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as specified in agenda item 7 and, in all the circumstances of the case, the Committee considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

217 Home to school transport appeals - matters for decision

Discussion:

The Committee considered three appeals in respect of the provision of home to school transport.

Arising from consideration of one of the appeals, the Committee agreed to request that Cabinet review the Education Travel Assistance Policy. In particular, the Committee considered that Cabinet should consider amending the policy so that a pupil who gained a place in a Medway grammar school on appeal was also classed as selective under the policy, meaning Medway grammar schools would be considered as the nearest qualifying school. At present, only pupils who passed the Medway Test, or had been successful through the Test review process, were considered to be of grammar ability under the policy.

Decision:

- (a) That case number ST786, as set out in the exempt annex to the agenda, was upheld for a fixed period.
- (b) That case number ST785, as set out in the exempt annex to the agenda, was adjourned.

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- (c) That case number ST784, as set out in the exempt annex to the agenda, was not upheld.
- (d) That Cabinet be asked to review the Education Travel Assistance Policy and consider whether pupils who secure a place at a Medway Grammar School on appeal should also be classed as grammar ability under the policy.

Chairman

Date:

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