

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

## EDUCATION AWARDS (REVIEW) SUB-COMMITTEE 19 NOVEMBER 2015

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDUCATION AWARDS (REVIEW) SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE HMS DARING ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Matt Bennett, Chauhdry Rashid and Karen Trench.

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### **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

It was:-

1902

### **RESOLVED**

That Councillor Matt Bennett be elected Chairperson for the meeting.

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### **NOTICE OF RECORDING**

1903

It was noted that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

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### **APOLOGY**

1904

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Valerie Seabright.

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### **MINUTES**

1905

Part I Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2015, which had been circulated to Members, were noted.

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**BRIEFING NOTE ON POLICY FOR GUIDANCE OF MEMBERS ON  
REACHING DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW – EDUCATION  
TRANSPORT**

1906 The following briefing note for Members was received and noted:-

(See document No 1)

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**UPDATE ON OMBUDSMAN REPORT(S)**

1907 Joe Yarnold, Interim Head of Transport advised the Sub-Committee of an application dismissed by the Education Awards (Review) Sub-Committee where there had been a complaint made to the Local Government Ombudsman. He reported that the matter had been a process issue where correct information had not been made available by an employee within the Education Transport Service. The child had since been provided with home to school transport and a letter of apology sent to the applicant. Furthermore, appropriate training had been provided. The Interim Head of Transport undertook to e-mail to Members what published information was available in respect of the outcome of the Local Government Ombudsman's investigations.

In response to a query from the Chair (Councillor Matt Bennett) regarding whether the appeal process was being reviewed, the Interim Head of Transport informed Members that the Local Government Ombudsman had suggested that applicants be allowed to attend Sub-Committee meetings. He reported that this matter was being looked into in conjunction with legal officers and that the Cabinet Member for Children's Services had been informed of the issue. Members were also advised by the Interim Head of Transport that Staffordshire County Council had been challenged last year but in referring to logistical issues had resisted attendance by applicants. The Local Government Ombudsman had not upheld the complaint. The Interim Head of Transport undertook to arrange for the Members to be sent a copy of the report.

The Chair (Councillor Matt Bennett) highlighted the need for Members of the Sub-Committee to be consulted. He indicated that he considered that in general the attendance of applicants at meetings was not necessary and another Member commented that she shared this view. The Interim Head of Transport undertook to contact the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

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**AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

1908 **RESOLVED:-**

That in an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair (Councillor Valerie Seabright) jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

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**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

1909

**RESOLVED:-**

That, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, which includes the following exempt information, the public be now excluded from the meeting:-

**Agenda Item etc.**

**Relevant Paragraph of  
Exempt Information Under  
Revised Schedule 12A of the  
Local Government Act 1972**

'Private' Minutes of the last meeting

1

Applications for a Review of the  
Decision of the Strategic Director of  
People not to make an Award

1