

**Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting**

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION AWARDS (REVIEW) SUB-COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 10:00 HOURS**  
**IN HMS DARING ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,**  
**BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

**A G E N D A**

1 **NOTICE OF RECORDING**

Chairman to advise meeting to note that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies.

3 **MINUTES**

To note the public section of the Minutes of the last meeting.

**3 - 4**

4 **TO RECEIVE BRIEFING NOTES AND POLICIES FOR GUIDANCE OF MEMBERS ON REACHING DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEWS - EDUCATION TRANSPORT**

**5 - 6**

5 **UPDATE ON OMBUDSMAN REPORT (IF ANY)**

6 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chairman are matters of urgency.

7 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Chairman to move:-

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'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief

Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

8 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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

<b><u>Agenda Item etc</u></b>	<b><u>Relevant Paragraph of Exempt Information Under Revised Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972</u></b>
'Private' Minutes of the last meeting	1
Applications for a Review of the Decision of the Strategic Director for People not to make an Award	1

**PRIVATE AGENDA**

1 **MINUTES**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the last meeting.

2 **APPLICATIONS FOR A REVIEW OF THE DECISION OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR PEOPLE NOT TO MAKE AN AWARD**

3 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (EXEMPT INFORMATION)**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chairman are matters of urgency.

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

## EDUCATION AWARDS (REVIEW) SUB-COMMITTEE 21 JANUARY 2016

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDUCATION AWARDS (REVIEW) SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 21 JANUARY 2016 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE HMS DARING ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor Valerie Seabright (in the Chair); Councillors Matt Bennett and Chauhdry Rashid.

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#### **NOTICE OF RECORDING**

1942 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**

1943 An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Karen Trench.

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#### **MINUTES**

1944 Part I Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 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**

1945 The following briefing note for Members was received and noted:-  
  
(See document No 1)

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**AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

1946

**RESOLVED:-**

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

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**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

1947

**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

BRIEFING FOR  
EDUCATION AWARDS (REVIEW) SUB COMMITTEE

**EDUCATION TRANSPORT**

**BACKGROUND**

The Education Act 1996 (Section 509) sets out a minimum level of provision required of Local Authorities for providing transport assistance between home and school. It also gives Local Authorities considerable discretionary powers.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Part 6) has inserted Section 508 to the Education Act 1996. This means that from September 2008 this act has extended provision for some pupils from low income families.

Transport assistance can be in the form of a travel pass for use on public transport, or as necessary, specialised transport such as taxis, minibuses, wheelchair accessible vehicles, etc.

**POLICY**

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

In Birmingham the statutory walking distances are modified by discretionary power to the benefit of pupils up to 11 years of age. Bus passes will be issued to those pupils who have to travel more than the following distance criteria to the nearest available school measured by the shortest available walking route. Where pupils are attending denominational schools to fulfil religious beliefs then the nearest school requirement is modified:

Up to 8 years of age – 1 mile

Between 8 years and 11 years of age – 1.5 miles

11 years and over – 3 miles

**LOW INCOME FAMILIES (YEAR GROUPS 7 to 11 ONLY)**

From September 2008 children from low income families (children who are in receipt of free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum of working tax credit) may be eligible for free transport assistance to either:

- one of the 3 nearest qualifying schools, where they live more than 2 miles but less than 6 miles from that school;

OR

- the nearest qualifying school preferred on the grounds of the parent's religious or philosophical beliefs where that school is more than 2 miles but less than 15 miles from their home.

Sub Committee will consider those applications that fall outside these criteria. Applications will either have been refused because (a) the distance criteria has not been met or (b) there are nearer schools available within the stated distance.

### **SPECIALISED TRANSPORT**

This will be provided for those pupils who hold statements of special educational need on the recommendation of the Head Teacher concerned.

### **APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW**

If parents are not entitled to assistance then they can request that their application is reviewed. Evidence would need to be provided of severe financial hardship as well as other exceptional reasons.

### **EXAMPLES OF EXCEPTIONAL CRITERIA**

- Has there been a sudden drop of income? Has there been a sudden change in family circumstances?
- Is there a supported medical reason as to why the pupil cannot walk? Has medical evidence been submitted together with support from the school concerned or other agencies
- Mobility problems occurring as a result of the disability of a parent are referred to the Adults and Communities Directorate.
- Are there any other available schools within walking distance?
- Has the pupil moved house after deciding in Year 9 GCSE options? Have family been forced to move house?
- Have exceptional reasons been provided as to why a pupil cannot attend a particular school? E.g. bullying, harassment etc.
- Secondary Transfer Choices – what choices did parent make? What schools were offered?
- Medical Reasons – has evidence been provided by a medical practitioner to show that a pupil would have difficulty either walking or using public transport e.g. broken bones, temporary medical conditions, etc? Do parents have a car? Could pupil travel on public transport with an escort?
- Is there some exceptional reason as to why pupil cannot walk or go on public transport, e.g. bullying, harassment, etc?