

MINUTES OF APPEALS COMMITTEE MEETING - MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2019

Present:

Councillor Ryan (in the Chair)

Councillors

Mrs Callow JP

Elmes

Mitchell

In Attendance:

Ms D Goodall, Head of Corporate Legal, Blackpool Council

Miss Y Burnett, Senior Democratic Governance Advisor, Blackpool Council

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2019

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved: That under Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the whole item, including the decisions referred to at Agenda item 4 on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

4 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEAL

The Committee considered an appeal that had been lodged in connection with a decision taken by officers within the Children's Services Directorate not to provide assistance with home-to-school transport.

Mrs L Rowbottom presented the case on behalf of the Authority.

The Appellant was in attendance at the meeting.

Also in attendance at the meeting were Mrs Goodall, Head of Corporate Legal and Miss Burnett, Clerk to the Committee.

The Committee carefully considered all the information submitted by the appellant and the Authority both in writing and verbally at the meeting and took into consideration the appellants' personal circumstances and the reason for the change of home address.

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The Committee considered the appellant's reasons for wanting assistance with home-to-school transport costs and acknowledged her willingness to change the eldest child's school and her reluctance to separate the younger siblings.

The Committee noted that the specified walking distance for a child under the age of eight from a low-income family was two miles and that at the time of application places were available for the two younger children at a qualifying school closer to the family home. However, due to personal reasons it had been parental preference for the appellant's younger children to continue to attend Kincaig Primary School following the family move.

The Committee was aware that the walking distance to Blackpool Aspire Academy was under the walking distance of 2 miles, as per the policy for a child aged 11-16.

The Committee gave careful regard to the appellant's circumstances and after carefully considering all the evidence before it, the Appeals Committee was satisfied that the decision not to provide assistance with home to school transport costs was made in accordance with the Council's Home to School and College Transport Policy.

Resolved:

To uphold the officer's decision not to provide assistance with home to school transport costs on the grounds that the decision was made in accordance with the Council's Home to School and College Transport Policy and did not consider that there were sufficient special circumstances or considerations to override the policy.

Background papers: Exempt

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 10 JUNE 2019

Resolved: To note the date of the next meeting as 10 June 2019.

Chairman

(The meeting ended 10.32am)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
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