



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Appeals & Awards Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Wednesday, 13 July 2022 at 10.00 am

Present:

Councillor(s)

P M Black
J W Jones
H M Morris

Councillor(s)

J P Curtice
R D Lewis

Councillor(s)

A Davis
W G Lewis

Officer(s)

Gareth Borsden
Craig Davies
Barrie Gilbert
Rhodri Jones
Sarah Thyer
Rhiannon Warwick
Catherine Watkins

Democratic Services Officer
Associate Lawyer
Senior Transport Officer
Head of Achievement & Partnership Service
Legal Executive
Educational Psychologist
Panel Co-ordinator and Lead Transport Officer -
Education

Also present

Appellant's and their solicitor

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): J A Hale

1 To elect a Chair for the Municipal Year 2022 - 2023.

Resolved that Councillor J P Curtice be elected Chair for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

(Councillor J P Curtice presided)

2 To elect a Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2022 - 2023.

Resolved that Councillor W G Lewis be elected Vice-Chair for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year

3 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City & County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

4 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meetings of the Appeals and Awards Committee held on 21 April 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

5 City and County of Swansea - Home to School Transport Policy.(For Information)

The Welsh Government - Learner Travel - Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance was noted.

6 Welsh Government - Learner Travel - Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance. (For Information)

The Welsh Government - Learner Travel - Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance was noted.

7 Exclusion of the Public.

The Committee was requested to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the item(s) of business identified in its recommendation(s) to the report on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the disclosure of exempt information as set out in the exclusion paragraph of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, relevant to the item(s) of business set out in the report.

The Committee considered the Public Interest Test in deciding whether to exclude the public from the meeting for the items of business where the Public Interest Test was relevant as set out in the report.

Resolved that the public be excluded for the following items on the agenda.

(Closed Session)

8 School Transport Appeal.

The Committee heard an appeal by the parents of the pupil outlined in the report.

The appeal was brought against the Department's decision in relation to eligibility for free transport from the home address to Bishop Gore.

The parents of the pupil and their legal representative then made verbal representations to the Committee in support of their written submissions and outlined the particular circumstances of her appeal relating to the child and his personal circumstances and conditions.

They referred to the evidence previously submitted and referred to the additional documentation submitted the day before the meeting.

Minutes of the Appeals & Awards Committee (13.07.2022)
Cont'd

Officers of the Education and Transportation sections also made verbal representations in support of their written submissions.

The issues around the policy relating to the distance from the property to the school, available walking/bus routes and parental availability to convey the child to school were outlined and detailed by the officers to the committee.

Members of the committee asked various questions of both the appellant and officers who responded accordingly.

The Committee considered fully all the verbal and written submissions, including the two additional documents submitted by the parents yesterday which had been circulated to members.

Resolved that the appeal on behalf of the pupil outlined in the report be dismissed as the committee felt there were no exceptional circumstances to the case.

The meeting ended at 11.20 am

Chair