



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the Appeals & Awards Committee

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, 26 January 2021 at 10.30 am

Present: Councillor D W W Thomas (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

J E Burtonshaw
H M Morris

Councillor(s)

J A Hale

Councillor(s)

J W Jones

Officer(s)

Claire Abraham

Charlotte Bellis-Williams

Gareth Borsden

Melisa Perry

Cath Swain

Stephanie Williams

Deputy Manager & Admissions Officer

Legal Executive

Democratic Services Officer

Trainee Solicitor

Integrated Transport Manager

Principal Lawyer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): J P Curtice

29 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

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

30 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meetings of the Appeals and Awards Committees held on 18, 20 & 24 November be signed and approved as a correct record.

31 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)

32 School Transport Appeal.

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

The appeal was brought against the Department's decision in relation to eligibility for free transport from their home address to a school in Carmarthenshire.

The grandparent of the pupil then made verbal representations to the Committee in support of the written submissions and outlined the particular circumstances of their appeal relating to both the child's and family situation and issues relating to and arising from when the family moved house in January 2020.

They indicated they were prepared to both take the child to the departure point and cover the costs of the transport if a place on the correct school bus could be secured.

Officers of the Education and Transportation sections also made verbal representations in support of their written submissions, and detailed the current policies both relating to transport to catchment area schools, and the Covid related situation in both authorities relating to the suspension of the sale of spare seats on school transport.

Members of the Committee asked a series of questions of both the appellants and officers who responded accordingly.

The Welsh Government - Learner Travel - Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance and the City & County of Swansea – Home to School Transport Policy outlined in the appendix to the report were noted.

The Committee considered fully all the verbal and written submissions.

Resolved that the

- 1) appeal on behalf of the pupil outlined in the report be refused.
- 2) parents be advised that given the circumstances of the case, they should consider also making an appeal to Carmarthenshire Council.

The meeting ended at 11.20 am

Chair