

MEMBERS HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS PANEL

Tuesday, 29 November 2016

PRESENT: Councillor H.A.L. Evans (Chair)

Councillors:

G.O. Jones and R. Thomas

The following Officers were in attendance:

S. Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways
L. McFarlane, Learner Travel Policy & Development Officer
S. Williams, Senior School Organisation Officer
S. Rossiter, Assistant Solicitor
K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

Committee Room 2 - 3 Spilman Street - 12.30 - 12.50 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
G.O. Jones	4 – To consider an appeal by applicants TR & PR against a decision by officers for the non-provision of free school transport	Governor Ysgol Bro Myrddin

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2007 that the following item was not for publication as the report contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

4. TO CONSIDER AN APPEAL BY APPLICANTS TR & PR AGAINST A DECISION BY OFFICERS FOR THE NON-PROVISION OF FREE SCHOOL TRANSPORT.

(NOTE: Whilst Councillor G.O. Jones had previously declared an interest in this application he had received legal advice confirming that the nature of that interest, as a school governor, would not preclude him from considering the appeal)

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute 3 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to a particular individual.

The public interest test in this matter related to the fact that the report included personal information relating to the applicant. Although disclosure

would support transparency and accountability in the decision making process, the public interest in maintaining confidentiality outweighed the public interest in disclosure because of the need to protect the identity of the applicant and the family.

The Chair welcomed officers from Legal, Environment and Education & Children's Services to the meeting.

The Panel considered the written representations of the appellant in respect of the refusal of the Stage 1 Review Panel to grant T.R and P.R. free school transport to a school which was not the nearest or Local Education Authority designated school for the home address and therefore did not meet the criteria outlined in the Council's policy for the provision of assistance.

The Panel considered the observations of the departmental officers and sought clarification on elements of the Authority's Home to School Transport Policy. Clarification was also sought on the educational arrangements provided at the appellant's chosen school. It was confirmed those were available at all of the Authority's secondary schools.

RESOLVED that the appeal be refused on the basis that TR and PR were not attending the nearest or Local Education Authority designated school for the home address, due to parental preference.

CHAIR

DATE