MEMBERS HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS PANEL

Thursday, 15 August 2019

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

Councillors:
G. Davies and A.Vaughan Owen

The following Officers were in attendance:
S. Williams, Senior School Organisation Officer
L. McFarlane, Learner Travel Policy & Development Officer
T. Pilarz, Assistant Solicitor
L. Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer

Democratic Services Committee Room, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP. 10.30 - 10.45 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D.Price.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

UNANIMOUSLY 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as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007 that the following item was not for publication as the report contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.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 APPLICANT M.B. AGAINST A DECISION BY OFFICERS FOR THE NON-PROVISION OF FREE SCHOOL TRANSPORT.

Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY 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. Disclosure would support transparency and accountability in the decision making process, however, on balance 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 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 M.B. 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, together with the individual circumstances of the case.

RESOLVED that in line with the Authority's Home to School Transport Policy, the appeal be refused on the basis that M.B. was not attending the nearest or Local Education Authority designated school for the home address, due to parental preference.

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CHAIR **DATE**