

Members Home to School Transport Appeals Panel

Thursday, 13 January 2022

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

Councillors:

G. Davies, E. Dole and D. Jones

The following Officers were in attendance:

R. Edgecombe, Legal Services Manager
A. Evans, Operations Manager - Passenger Transport
S. Williams, Senior School Organisation Officer
J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer
K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

Virtual Meeting - 11.00 - 11.20 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. MINUTES

3.1. 16TH DECEMBER, 2021 (10.00 A.M.)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2021 (10:00a.m.) be signed as a correct record.

3.2. 16TH DECEMBER, 2021 (10.10 A.M.)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2021 (10:10a.m.) be signed as a correct record.

4. 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 public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item as the report contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

5. TO CONSIDER AN APPEAL BY APPLICANT DPJN 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 4 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 Panel considered the written representations of the appellant in respect of the refusal of the Stage 1 Review Panel to grant D.P.J.N. free school transport to the nearest LEA designated school which was located within the statutory walking distance and therefor, did not meet the criteria outlined in the Council's policy for the provision of assistance.

The Panel considered the individual circumstances of the case, together with the observations of the departmental officers.

RESOLVED that the appeal submitted by D.P.J.N. for free home to school transport be deferred to enable officers to re-assess the safe route to school in light of the issues raised at the meeting and to liaise with the Welsh Government on the issue of rural safe routes to school where there was no street lighting and on the 3 mile walking limit.

CHAIR

DATE