

# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>GENERAL PURPOSES (APPEALS) SUB COMMITTEE</b>
Date and time	<b>MONDAY, 17 MARCH 2008 COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs Lady Sarah Pigot (Chairman), Jonathan Fitzgerald-Bond, Susan Scoccia
Officers Present	John Brocklehurst, Laura Gaudion, Julie Martin

17. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

18. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED:

THAT, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

19. **Confidential Report of the Director of Children's Services**

To Consider an Appeal Relating to School Transport

The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced Members of the Committee. She confirmed that all members had read the papers and outlined the procedure that was to be followed.

The appellant outlined her case highlighting several points from the documentation that had previously submitted. The management representative had no questions to ask of the appellant. Members of the Sub Committee asked questions of the appellant.

Following representations from the management representative, the appellant, and the Sub Committee asked questions. All parties withdrew, whilst the Sub Committee adjourned to consider the appeal.

Upon reconvening the Chairman advised those present that, in reaching its decision, the Sub Committee had considered in full the report provided together with all appendices and representations made by the appellant. Specific consideration was given to appendix 5, the financial information provided by the appellant, in view of the fact that the appeal had been brought on grounds of exceptional financial hardship.

The Sub Committee had considered the current statutory duty together with the Isle of Wight Council's Education Transport Policy. Whilst it was acknowledged that the Policy did not provide specific discretionary grounds for exceptional financial hardship consideration was given to departing from the Policy.

The Sub Committee was not satisfied that, having due regard to appendix 5, that there was exceptional financial hardship, this was based on the high level of expenditure on items such as food bills and car expenses.

The Sub Committee urged the appellant to re-consider moving the children to an alternative school for which financial assistance would be available relating to transport.

**RESOLVED :**

- (i) THAT the Notice of Appeal be refused in accordance with the Children's Services Authority Transport Policy 2006.
- (ii) THAT the Children's Services Authority review the Transport Policy to include Transport Appeal criteria and guidance.

CHAIRMAN