

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Lay Members Appointments Committee**
held on Monday, 11th May, 2009 at Committee Suite 2, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach. CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor R Parker (Chairman)
Councillor C Beard (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors A Barratt, D Cannon, S Conquest and L Smetham

Officers:

Brian Reed, Democratic Services Manager
Paul Mountford, Democratic Services
Melissa Andrews, Solicitor

Apologies

Councillor D Thompson

1 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the item involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

2 APPOINTMENT OF LAY MEMBERS TO SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEAL PANELS AND EXCLUSION APPEAL PANELS

The Committee considered a report on the appointment of lay members to sit on both School Admission Appeals Panels and Exclusion Appeal Panels.

Where an admission authority refused a child a place at a particular school the parent had the right to appeal the decision to an independent appeal panel under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Where a pupil had been permanently excluded following a disciplinary offence by a head teacher, parents had a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, admission authorities were required to ensure that every school admission appeal hearing consisted of at least one lay member. Under Section 67 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, local education authorities were required to make

arrangements for enabling the relevant person to appeal against any decision of the governing body under section 66 not to reinstate a pupil who had been permanently excluded from a school maintained by the authority. The Chairman of any exclusions appeals panel must be a lay member.

A proposed list of panel members was set out in an Appendix to the report. The majority of the panel members listed were longstanding panel members who had previously been appointed by Cheshire County Council. All were trained, had experience and had given good service for a number of years.

RESOLVED

That

- (1) the appointment of the lay independent appeal panel members listed in the Appendix to the report be approved; and
- (2) Members of the Committee be invited to attend a future training session for lay members.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.20 pm

Councillor R Parker (Chairman)