

## Placing in Schools Appeal Committee

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### The City of Edinburgh Council

29 April 2004

#### Purpose of Report

- 1 To ask the Council to approve new appointments to Panel 3 of the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee.

#### Main Report

- 2 The Placing in Schools Appeal Committee is established under Section 28C of the Education (Scotland) Act 1981 to hear appeals from parents against Council decisions to refuse placing requests, exclude pupils and record children with special educational needs.
- 3 An Appeal Committee is made up from three Panels. Panel 1 comprises all members of the Council or the Education Executive. Panel 2 comprises parents of school age children, nominated by the Consultative Committee with Parents. Panel 3 comprises suitably qualified people with experience in education or acquainted with educational conditions in Edinburgh, nominated by the Director of Education.
- 4 Rosemary Crichton a member of Panel 3 has resigned. In addition Janet Perry has indicated that she will not be available to undertake her duties as a Panel 3 member for the foreseeable future. It is essential that replacements for both are made before the annual training event and the peak period for appeals against placing requests for the new academic year.
- 5 The Director of Education has nominated Catherine Mackenzie, retired Head Teacher of East Craigs Primary School, for the permanent vacancy in Panel 3.

- 6 In addition, a former Panel 2 member, Kathryn Blaikie a lawyer, whose children are now beyond school age, has 3 years experience and has expressed interest in nomination as a Panel 3 member. The COSLA Code of Practice encourages authorities to have regard for previous experience in the conduct of hearings when appointing a Chair. The Director of Education has been consulted and has raised no objection.
- 7 If these nominations are approved, the membership of the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee will be as detailed in the appendix to this report.
- 8 Training is being held for all new and existing members on Friday 14 May 2004.

### Recommendation

- 9 That Catherine MacKenzie and Kathryn Blaikie be appointed to Panel 3 of the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee.

  
**Jim Insh**  
Director of Corporate Services

21/04/04

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<b>Appendices</b>	Membership of Placing in Schools Appeal Committee
<b>Contact/tel</b>	Jan Macrae, Committee Officer, ☎ 0131 529 4106; e-mail <a href="mailto:jan.macrae@edinburgh.gov.uk">jan.macrae@edinburgh.gov.uk</a>
<b>Wards affected</b>	City-wide
<b>Background Papers</b>	Education (Scotland) Act 1981; Executive 15 August 2000

## Current Membership of Placing in Schools Appeal Committee

### Panel 1

All members of the Council or the Executive when dealing with Education Matters

### Panel 2

Parents of pupils of school age, nominated by the Consultative Committee with Parents –

Graham Bryce	Riccarton PS
Adrian Croll	Tynecastle High School
Donna Caldwell	Abbeyhill Primary School
Brenda Devlin	Leith Academy
Iain McGillivray	Comiston PS
Charles Meehan	St Cuthbert's
Wendy Simpson	Queensferry Community High School
Carol Telfer	Kaimes School
Karen Traill	Liberton PS

### Panel 3

Suitably qualified people with experience in education or acquainted with educational conditions in Edinburgh, nominated by the Director of Education, to act as Chairpersons of the Appeal Committee, currently –

D Briggs, J Dames, M Price, J Perry, A McRostie, T McMillan, C MacKenzie and K Blaikie.

Each Appeal Committee consists of one member from Panel 1, one member from Panel 2 and one member from Panel 3.

The Council Secretary acts as Clerk to the Appeal Committee, with authority to choose Panel Members for each Appeal Committee.