

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education
Date of Decision:	22 January 2014
Decision Title:	School Meal Prices from April 2014
Decision Reference:	5533
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the information required by the Executive Member for Education to agree the price of school meals from April 2014.
- 1.2. This paper, like the equivalent report for 2013, provides a very brief update to more detailed paper presented previously as the recommendation is for no change.

2. Background information

- 2.1. Each year the Executive Member is asked to review the price of free school meals (it does not need to be so but in Hampshire this has been taken as the price of a school meal) and consider if an increase should be applied.
- 2.2. Historically, Hampshire has applied the same price to paid meals in primary and secondary schools.
- 2.3. In Hampshire, the County Council does not subsidise the cost of school meals.
- 2.4. The school meals service provides healthy meals. Good nutrition plays a vital role in enabling pupils to perform well in school. The service also encourages the healthy eating habits which are essential to combat child obesity; the latest figures indicate that 1 in 3 children are overweight or obese by the time they leave primary school. By sourcing local ingredients wherever possible the service supports the local economic development agenda.
- 2.5. In April 2013 no increase was applied for the fourth successive year. This was possible in spite of the costs associated with the improved food and nutritional content of the meal and general cost pressures on catering

services because of a steady recovery in the number of pupil meals taken and the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.

- 2.6. An important part of the annual review is to ensure that the current high quality of meals can be sustained over time.

Year	April 2006	April 2007	April 2008	April 2009	April 2010	April 2011	April 2012	April 2013	April 2014
Price	£1.70	£1.80	£1.90	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00

3. Performance in 2013

- 3.1 The record high numbers of meals taken by primary pupils have been surpassed again this year. The average take up in primary schools for the 2012/13 academic year was 40.8%. Take up is always higher in the autumn term and in the week ending November 15th 2013 it reached 46% suggesting that the increases will continue.
- 3.2 From September 2014 we anticipate provision of an additional 25,000meals a day (assuming 100% take up) as a result of the government's pledge of free school meals for all infant age pupils.
- 3.3 The total numbers of H3CS meals served in schools this year will exceed 10 million; 7 million in primary schools and 3 million in secondary schools. H3CS provide meals to 29 secondary schools in Hampshire.
- 3.4 The increased take up of meals is coming from within existing school customers rather than an increase in the number of schools using H3CS.
- 3.5 The impact of the academy programme has had little or no impact as the majority of meals are delivered to primary schools.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications for 2014/15 as this is a fully charged service and the service is able to absorb the inflation pressures.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That the Executive Member agrees that the price of school meals is maintained at the current level of £2.00 per meal from April 2014.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	No
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. No impact

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. No impact

3. Climate Change:

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No impact

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No impact