

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education
Date of Decision:	21 January 2015
Decision Title:	School Meal Prices from April 2015
Decision Reference:	6408
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 2015.
- 1.2. This paper, like the equivalent reports for previous years provides only a very brief update 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 one in three children are overweight or obese by the time they leave primary school. All HC3S school dinners are served with vegetables or salad sourced from local south coast growers. By sourcing local ingredients wherever possible the service supports the local economic development agenda.
- 2.5. This emphasis on quality has ensured that the meals provided by H3CS already meet the new standards introduced by Department for Education on

1 January and mandatory for local authority schools which stipulate that meals include

- one or more portions of vegetables or salad as an accompaniment every day
- at least three different fruits and three different vegetables each week
- an emphasis on wholegrain foods in place of refined carbohydrates
- an emphasis on making water the drink of choice
- limiting fruit juice portions to quarter pints (150ml)
- restricting the amount of added sugars or honey in other drinks to 5%
- no more than two portions a week of food that has been deep-fried, batter-coated or breadcrumb-coated
- no more than two portions of food that include pastry each week
- a portion of milk (lower fat and lactose reduced) to be made available once a day

2.6. The quality and production of the meals provided by H3CS were recognised nationally with two separate awards in 2014. H3CS received the inaugural FreeFrom Eating Out Award in the Schools, Colleges and Universities section for the quality of the Primary Menu. The policy of providing all pupils with freshly made gluten free sausages and fish fingers so that every pupil can eat the same meal was particularly commented upon *'For taking the 'special' out of children's special diets by letting everyone eat 'freefrom'*. H3CS also received the "Good Pig" award from Compassion in World Farming for the use of pork and pork products that meet strict animal welfare criteria, using exclusively pigs that are reared in better living conditions so that they have a longer and healthier lifespan. This follows on from two previous awards from Compassion in World Farming - Good Chicken in 2011 and Good Egg in 2008, the latter for the use of local free-range eggs.

2.7. The recommendation to hold school meal prices at £2.00 for a seventh year is 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 steady growth in the number of pupil meals taken and the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.

Year	Price	Year	Price
2010	£2.00	2015	£2.00
2009	£2.00	2014	£2.00
2008	£1.90	2013	£2.00
2007	£1.80	2012	£2.00
2006	£1.70	2011	£2.00

3. Performance in 2014

- 3.1 By the end of October 2014 primary school meal uptake was just under 62%, fully 20% higher than in October 2013 which at 42% was a then record high. The increase this year was mainly due to the uptake of Universal Infant Free Meals. The latest figures suggest that 81% of all infant pupils are taking up the offer which shows that there is still room for further growth, especially as schools were funded for an anticipated 87% take-up.
- 3.2 At 62% uptake it is expected that 10,000,000 primary school meals will be delivered in Hampshire this year, up from 7,000,000 only two years ago.
- 3.3 H3CS lost the contracts with four secondary schools during the year but gained two new ones. In spite of this the uptake of meals has increased and around 10,000 are served in H3CS schools every day, giving an annual figure in excess of 3,000,000.
- 3.4 The impact of 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 for Education agrees that the price of school meals is maintained at the current level of £2.00 per meal from April 2015 for a seventh consecutive year.

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):	

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