

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	8 May 2019
Title:	School Meal Price from September 2019
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. The Decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves that the price of a school meal will be increased to £2.40 from September 2019.
- 1.2 That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves that schools will continue to be charged £2.30 per meal for those which are provided under the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals grant.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 Each year the Executive Lead Member is asked to review the price of income based free school meals. In Hampshire, this price has traditionally also been applied to paid meals in both primary and secondary schools and meals funded by the UIFSM grant. There is, however, no statutory requirement to agree a consistent price should alternative arrangements be more appropriate.
- 2.2 The price of a school meal is based on the forecast cost of providing a hot two course meal (main and dessert) from September 2019. School meals are outside the scope of VAT, provided that, overall, they are being supplied 'at or below cost'. Ensuring the price of school meals remains outside the scope of VAT helps to keep the price as low as possible for Hampshire residents. The definition of 'at cost' includes relevant and reasonable overhead costs.
- 2.3 The proposed 10 pence increase in the meal price from £2.30 to £2.40 represents a 4.3% price increase. This is compared to the hourly pay rate for catering assistants rising by 6.4% from 1st April 2019.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the price charged directly to schools for the meals which are funded by UIFSM will remain at the current price of £2.30 from September 2019. This is because the Government funding to schools will also remain at £2.30 per meal for the 2019/20 academic year.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 None

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

In reaching this decision I will also look to review, with the Department for Education, the relationship between universal tax credits and entitlement to free school meals.

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Keith Mans
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services

8 May 2019