

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	8 November 2017
<b>Decision Title:</b>	School Meal Price from September 2018
<b>Report From:</b>	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 Lead Member for Children's Services to agree the price of school meals in Hampshire schools from September 2018.

### 2. Background information

2.1. Each year the Executive Lead Member is asked to review the price of free school meals (it does not need to be so but in Hampshire this has traditionally 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. The County Council does not subsidise the cost of school meals in Hampshire.

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. 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 ensures that the meals provided by H3CS meet the standards introduced by Department for Education on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 which are mandatory for local authority schools.

- School menus are nut free
- HC3S provide 1,948 tailored menus for children with medically proven food allergies

- Gluten free items on the standard primary menu have been increased to include battered fish, reducing the chance of food allergy children being served the wrong fish.
- All fish is from well managed, sustainable fisheries. Products are all Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) approved.
- All meat is UK sourced, and holds Red Tractor Assurance accreditation or higher
- Eggs are free range
- Local produce is used as much as possible

2.6. **Quality** - The quality of the ingredients and of the meals provided by H3CS have been recognised by several national awards over a number of years:

- Best in Show at LACA Finishing Touches catering skills competition 2017 – Leanne Oliver-Pulford
- Hyperactive Children’s Support Group – Highest Award for Excellence in School Meals: re-accredited November 2016. Have kept approximately 70 additives out of primary school meals since 2005.
- Gold Award for Schools, Colleges and Universities: FreeFrom Eating Out November 2016. Praised by the judges for our inclusive approach to school meals and comprehensive process for serving special diet meals to pupils.
- 2015 Lead Association for Catering in Education (LACA) Business of the Year Award
- 2014 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 fishfingers 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’.*
- 2013 and retained since, “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.
- 2011 and retained since, Good Chicken from Compassion in World Farming
- 2008, and retained since, Good Egg from Compassion in World Farming for the use of local free-range eggs.

### 3. Performance

#### 3.1. Number of Meals Served: Financial Year

	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
Hampshire Primary Schools	10.2m	11.3m	11.6m
External Primary Schools*	0.6m	0.7m	0.8m
Secondary Schools	1.8m	1.7m	1.7m
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.6m</b>	<b>13.7m</b>	<b>14.1m</b>

### 4. Future price of school meals

4.1. A programme of planned price changes was agreed in January 2016, see table below, which sought to cover the introduction of the Living Wage, allow HC3S to maintain the high quality of meals and generate sufficient income to reinvest in kitchens and equipment.

2015	£2.00
2016	£2.10
2017	£2.10
2018	£2.20
2019	£2.20
2020	£2.30

4.2 This agreed plan has since been superseded by events. Following the unexpected 20% reduction in the value of the pound during 2016 and food inflation of between 4% and 8% in 2017 the Executive Lead Member agreed in January 2017 an extraordinary rise from £2.10 to £2.15, effective from April 2017.

4.3 Continuing inflationary pressures and the imminent impact of the Living Wage are leading HC3S to seek a rise to £2.30 from September 2018. A number of other local authorities have already increased their price to £2.30.

4.4 As a comparison, meal prices elsewhere from September 2017 are:

- Cambridgeshire £2.30
- Hertfordshire £2.30
- Lancashire £2.30
- Nottinghamshire £2.29
- Surrey £2.25

- Southampton £2.20
- Portsmouth £2.05

## 5. Recommendation

- 5.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services agrees an increase of £0.15 in the price of school meals from September 2018, taking the price from £2.15 to £2.30.

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

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	No
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u> School Meal Price April 2016 School Meal Prices	<u>Date</u> 20 Jan 2016 18 Jan 2017
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

### 4. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- No impact
  
- **Impact on Crime and Disorder:**
- No impact
  
- **Climate Change:**
- How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?  
No impact
- How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?  
No impact