

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People
Date:	16 September 2020
Title:	School Meal Price from November 2020
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Shaun Le Picq

Tel: 03707 790482

Email: shaun.lepicq@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People approves that the guide price of a primary school meal provided by HC3S will be increased to £2.50 from November 2020.
- 1.2. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People approves that the charge to schools for those meals which are provided by HC3S under the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals funding will be increased to £2.40 per meal from November 2020.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Each year the price of the income based free school meal (FSM) is reviewed. In Hampshire, this price has traditionally also been applied to paid meals in primary schools and meals funded by the Universal Infant Free School Meals (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 November 2020. 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 £2.40 to £2.50 represents a 4.2% price increase. This assumes an estimated increase in staffing costs of 6%, based on a pay award of 2.75%, a 1.3% increase in employer's pension contributions and 1.95% for annual increments (taking account of historic levels of staff turnover). Further food inflationary pressures are also being forecast due to the Covid-19 impact and the potential impact of leaving the EU on 31 December 2020. HC3S is actively sourcing alternatives to single-use plastic across its operations, which are often at higher cost and

there may be additional cost pressure in future arising from the Government's plan to introduce a Plastic Packaging Tax from April 2022.

2.4. It is proposed that the price charged directly to schools by HC3S for the meals which are funded by UIFSM will increase to £2.40 from November 2020. The Government funding to schools is at £2.34 per meal from September 2020 which is an increase for the 2020/21 academic year of 4 pence per meal. However, this is the first increase in the UIFSM funding since its introduction in September 2014.

2.5. All primary school meals provided by HC3S are from the same set menu and they all meet the school food legislation requirement, regardless of whether they are paid meals, FSM or UIFSM. It is therefore considered appropriate to keep the price differential to a maximum of 10 pence per meal.

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:

Approved by:

Date:

**Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and
Young People**

16 September 2020

Councillor Patricia Stallard