

MEETING: Council Executive

DATE: 6 October 2020

Note the action taken in terms of Standing
Order 31 (Urgent Business)

DATA LABEL: OFFICIAL



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – HOLIDAY PROVISION

REPORT BY DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree the provision for Free School Meals during the remaining school holidays (excluding the Public Holidays) within the current financial year.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Executive:

1. Notes the update on the uptake of free school meals provision during the summer holiday period.
2. Approves the proposal to provide all children entitled to free school meals with a packed lunch or pick-up a hot meal and a breakfast cereal bar/cereal during the remaining school holidays (excluding public holidays) within the current financial year 2020/21.
3. Approves the use of £254,000 of resources to fund the cost of the service during the current financial year 2020/21.
4. Notes that the free meals will be provided at 7 secondary schools and 34 primary schools, with an additional 5 primary schools continuing to distribute packed lunches only, and that delivery arrangements continue for Additional Support Needs (ASN) for Education during the remaining school holidays (excluding public holidays) as set out in Appendix 1.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; providing equality of opportunities and making best use of our resources
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Continued provision for children entitled to free school meals.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	
IV	Impact on performance and performance	The proposals in the report will enable provision during September, October, Christmas and

	Indicators	February break.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The total cost of school meal provision over the period is estimated to be approximately £254,000 and this will be funded the contingency held within the 2020/21 General Fund revenue budget to cover potential food related costs.
VII	Other consultations	Finance, Education Services, Operational Services

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

- D 1.1 The council had previously agreed that all children entitled to free school meals would continue to receive a packed lunch or pick up a takeaway hot meal and a breakfast cereal bar/cereal during the summer holiday period.
- D.1.2 The service was accessible via 7 secondary schools and 34 primary schools, with an additional 5 primary schools continuing to distribute packed lunches only. Delivery arrangements continued for vulnerable children identified by Social Policy and Additional Support Needs (ASN) for Education.
- D.1.3 The uptake was 42% of those eligible and 2,400 meals were provided daily. In addition to this service, meal deliveries were made to Additional Support Needs (ASN) children with around 90 meals being delivered daily to 57 families.

D.2 Free Meal Provision during the remaining School Holiday Period 2020/21

- D 2.1 Further to the summer programme, it is now proposed that all children entitled to free school meals will be able to continue to receive a packed lunch or pick up a takeaway hot meal and a breakfast cereal bar/cereal at 7 secondary schools and 34 primary schools, with an additional 5 primary schools continuing to distribute packed lunches only, and that delivery arrangements continue for Additional Support Needs (ASN) for Education. The service will be extended to cover the remaining School Holiday period for 2020/21(excluding public holidays). This extension also takes account the Education Executive decision to allocate 4 additional holidays during its meeting on the 8 September 2020.
- D.2.2 The total cost of school meal provision during the remaining school holidays within the current financial year is approximately £254,000 excluding delivery on public holidays. This will be funded from the £505,000 balance held as a contingency to cover potential food related costs over the remainder of 2020/21, agreed by Council Executive on 18 August 2020.
- D.2.3 These arrangements will require sessional staff (cooks, cleaners and pupil support workers) to volunteer to work through their holiday period. Discussions with staff indicate that staffing resources should be available to meet this requirement. However to assist this Council Executive are being asked to agree the provision for the remainder of the financial year to give staff as much notice as possible of change in provision.

E. CONCLUSION

The proposal to extend the provision of free meals will enable the council to provide children entitled to free school meals with a packed lunch or pick up a takeaway hot meal and a breakfast cereal bar/cereal during the remaining school holiday periods (excluding public holidays) within the current financial year 2020/21.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Emergency actions taken under delegated powers and Standing Order 31 and reported to Council Executive on 26 May 2020

Council Executive, 26 May 2020 – COVID-19 Update on Estimated Financial Impact on the Council

Council Executive, 23 June 2020 – Re-opening of Schools and Early Learning and Childcare

Council Executive, 18 August 2020 – General Fund Revenue Budget Month 3 Monitoring Report

Education Executive, 8 September 2020 – Revised School Session Dates

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 – Free School Meal Collection Points

Graeme Struthers
Depute Chief Executive
6 October 2020

APPENDIX I – FREE SCHOOL MEAL COLLECTION POINTS

Secondary schools open for takeaway hot meal or packed lunch:-

- Broxburn Academy
- Linlithgow Academy
- Inveralmond Community
- The James Young High School (to be replaced with Bankton Primary School)
- St Margaret's Academy
- St Kentigern's Academy
- Whitburn Academy

Primary schools open for takeaway hot meal or packed lunch:-

- Addiewell Primary School
- Armadale Primary School
- Balbardie Primary School
- Blackridge Primary School
- Boghall Primary School
- Bridgend Primary School
- Carmondean Primary School
- Deans Primary School
- East Calder Primary School
- Harrysmuir PS, Livingston
- Howden St Andrew's Primary School, Livingston
- Kirkhill Primary School, Broxburn
- Kirknewton Primary School
- Knightsridge PS, Livingston
- Letham Primary School
- Longridge Primary School
- Mid Calder Primary School
- Murrayfield Primary School, Blackburn
- Our Lady's Primary School, Stoneyburn
- Parkhead Primary School
- Polkemmet Primary School, Whitburn
- Pumpherston and Uphall Station Primary School
- Riverside Primary School, Livingston
- Simpson PS, Bathgate
- Springfield PS, Linlithgow
- St Anthony's, Armadale
- St John The Baptist Primary School, Fauldhouse
- St Mary's PS. Bathgate (to be replaced with Balbardie Primary School)
- St Mary's, Polbeth
- St Ninians PS, Livingston (to be replaced with Bankton Primary School, Livingston)
- Torphichen Primary School
- Westfield Primary School
- Winchburgh Primary School
- Woodmuir Primary School

Van collection points:-

- Bellsquarry Primary - layby in front of school
- Dechmont Infant School - main road in front of school
- Greenrigg Primary - main road in front of school
- Peel Primary - main school car park
- Seafeld Primary - Cousland Terrace (Behind School)