

Notice of KEY Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	In year Fees & Charges price increase
Decision Maker:	Kathy Freeman
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Oscar Ford
SLT Lead:	Trevor Cook
Report Author and contact details:	Dennis McKenzie, dennis.mckenzie@havering.gov.uk 01708 434 739
Policy context:	Traded Services
Financial summary:	<p>School meal charges to Primary schools will be aligned with the rates used to calculate Government funding for schools in the 23/24 academic year.</p> <p>Universal Free School Meals grant funding to Primary schools in Havering of c. £4.8m, will be based on £2.65 per meal.</p> <p>Universal Infant Free School Meals funding has increased from £2.41 to £2.53 per meal.</p> <p>The increased charges will ensure that the Catering Service maximises the Government funding available to it.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians will not be affected by the above changes as all Key Stage 1 and 2 meals will be supplied at no cost for the 23/24 academic year.</p>
Reason decision is Key	(c) Significant effect on two or more Wards
Date notice given of intended decision:	7th July 2022

Key Executive Decision

Relevant OSC:	People OSSC
Is it an urgent decision?	<i>This is a decision pursuant to para 11 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, made under "special urgency" with the consent of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board for acceptance of grant funding from the GLA for the Mayors funded meals</i>
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	Yes

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Things that matter for residents

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place. X

Key Executive Decision

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

To approve

1. the in year increase to the Fees and Charges schedule for Key Stage 2 meals from £2.45 to £2.65 with effect from 1 Sept 23
2. an increase in the Key Stage 1 Universal Infants Free School Meals (UIFSM) charge to schools from £2.41 to £2.53.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

3.10.3 S151 Officer Functions

(m) To accept grants and the terms and conditions thereof for and on behalf of the Council.

The s151 officer is recommended to:

- 1) Accept the grant funding to provide meals to all Non FSM eligible KS2 pupils .
- 2) To note the price increase charge in the KS1 UIFSM charge to schools

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To ensure the KS2 Mayors Meals programme is captured for Governance and both Universal UIFSM and UFSM meal increases are accepted in lines of grant and T&Cs

The in year increase to the Fees and Charges schedule for KS2 meals from £2.45 to £2.65 is in line with the FLA funded “Mayors meals” UFSM scheme” which runs from 1st September 2023 – 20th July 2024, this additional funding is to provide meals to all “non FSM” eligible KS2 pupils within London.

The second decision required is for an increase in the KS1 UIFSM charge to schools from £2.41 to £2.53 which is in line with the increased funding schools will receive from the DFE from 1st September 2023 to combat the rising food inflation costs. The UIFSM has not been published within the “Fees & Charges schedule for 23/24.

The mid-year increase is for KS1 children which whilst falls under UIFSM we published the price in April 23 for this year, but last month the DFE announced that funding for UIFSM was increasing from £2.41 to £2.53 so the request is bring the KS1 charge in line with funding and to change the published price that has been communicated to schools previously

Key Executive Decision

The deficit last year for catering was £348K variance to budget.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not accept grant conditions and proposal and therefore not introducing London Mayors UFSM into Havering. Not increasing KS1 UFSM in line with DFE funding

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

N/A

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Dennis McKenzie

Designation: Catering Services Manager

Signature: *D McKenzie*

Date: 10/07/2023

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

No apparent legal risks or implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Primary school meals will be free to parents in the academic year 23/24. These will be funded by 2 Government grants to schools:

1. Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) Grant – ongoing funding that applies to all Infant pupils and eligible Primary pupils.
2. Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) Grant – one off funding for 23/24 that applies to all Primary pupils who are not eligible for UIFSM.

Government funding for the above is based on a set price per meal. With effect from September 2023 that price will be £2.53 for UIFSM and £2.65 for UFSM.

In order to maximise income to Havering Catering Services, the charges it makes to schools should align with the rates used in the funding calculation. For UIFSM this would be an increase from the current charge of £2.41 to £2.53, with a new charge of £2.65 being introduced for UFSM.

If the charges to schools are set below the proposed levels Havering Catering Services would not recover the full amount of income available.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The decision in accepting the grant proposals presents no risks to any of the any of the protected characteristics, but will enhance both parents and KS2 children within Havering through accessibility to a free school lunch for 12 months without means testing.

An EA is not required for this decision

Key Executive Decision

HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The decision to accept the UFSM grant funding will enhance the health and wellbeing of KS2 children within the borough of Havering by opening up access to a free school lunch to not only those that are eligible via means testing, but all KS2 children under the similar model to UFSM (KS1 children)

Studies have shown the benefits of a health school meal vs a packed lunch on both the health of children but also fits within the overall “Obesity strategy” for the borough.
publichealth@haverling.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

No additional impact to the catering services delivery of meals as the menus have been changed to cope with the additional uptake of menus to keep the delivery schedules the same as pre UFSM.

No additional delivery miles will be created by the acceptance of the grant proposal of UFSM

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None/List

Key Executive Decision

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APPENDICES

Key Executive Decision

Part C – Record of decision


I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker

Signed:



Name: Kathy Freeman

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title: **Strategic Director Resources**

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date: **10/08/2023**

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____