

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET - 22 AUGUST 2007

CHARGES FOR SCHOOL MEALS

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Council's financial regulations require departments annually to review internally set charges and to propose adjustments, where necessary. This report proposes revised charges for school meals and catering services to be implemented for this school year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** In the progress of construction of the Council's budget for 2007/08, the upgrade to the figure representing anticipated income from school meals has now been determined by the Department of Asset Management and Finance at 2.63% to reflect inflation.
- 2.2** In order to maintain the purchasing power of pupils entitled to free meals, the cash equivalent of a free meal in cash canteens should also be increased. Accordingly meals, drinks and snacks provided in schools for paid and free will be increased by an equivalent amount.
- 2.3** Other catering provided for community meals and staff facilities will be increased by a similar amount which ensures their financial sustainability

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1** In order to remain within the revised Education budget for 2007/08 to take account of inflation, the price of a set meal for pupils, and the value of a free meal, will require to be increased from £1.52 to £1.56 for this school year.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** This action fulfils the Council's financial regulations to review annually internally set charges and propose the necessary adjustments.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

6. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The provision of nutritious and affordable school meals Improves Health and is a factor in Eliminating Poverty.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant risk implications.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members of the Cabinet:

- (i) approve the above increase in charges to pupils, and for the equivalent value of free meals to increase by 2.63% to £1.56 for implementation for this school year;
- (ii) and that other charges for catering for meetings, community meals and staff catering are increased by a similar amount that ensures their financial sustainability; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

RG/ZM
30 July 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resources Tel: 01563 576090 or Robin Gourlay, Head of Facilities Management Tel: 01563 556089.

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