

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 27 APRIL 2000

UPTAKE OF SCHOOL MEALS

Report by the Director of Education

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the committee with information on the uptake of school meals during 1999/2000.

2 BACKGROUND

Primary schools

- 2.1 The results of customer surveys involving Parents, Teaching staff and Pupils were used to allow the department to refocus its services and a change in the service provided resulted during the summer term. This was following concern over a reduction in the number of pupils using the service identified during 1998/99. The Catering Charter was introduced as a clear commitment by **onsite** services to offer a choice of catering services to schools and to discuss in partnership, which type of service best meets the requirements of each individual school.

Secondary schools

- 2.2 The service provided in Secondary schools is at this time being re-appraised with a variety of pilot schemes currently operating in schools throughout East Ayrshire. The results of these initiatives will be reported to the committee at the conclusion of the trial period together with a proposed strategy.

3 CURRENT POSITION

Primary Schools

- 3.1 The Primary schools Catering Charter was introduced during the last financial year initiative enables **onsite** Services and schools to work in partnership and to achieve the service that best suits the school and the community. This has proved to be a very successful strategy and facilitates a closer working with Primary schools. This in turn has produced an exceptional increase in the number of paid meals for the year to date of 13%, which is an additional 60,000 customers transactions over the previous year.
- 3.2 It is therefore envisaged that the concept of individual Charters or Service Level Agreements for schools has been successful and will be extended to Cleaning and Janitorial Services.
- 3.3 An analysis comparing the trend in the uptake of meals for periods 1-13 for 1999/2000 and a comparison between 1998/99 and 1999/00 reflecting an improvement in the uptake of meals is attached to this report.

3.4 There are a number of indicators which demonstrate the impact of the changes in service, including:

- no. of paying customers per day (Primary) – increased from 2421 to 2739 (+13%)
- cash income per day (Primary) – increased from £2287 to £2441 (+7%)
- Average % of paying & free customer (Primary) – 55% Paid & 45% Free
- Average spend per pupil – reduced from £0.81 to £0.76

Secondary Schools

3.5 Pilot projects currently underway in Secondary Schools show a very encouraging response which is aimed at improving a position where the uptake of Secondary meals is static but there is a reduction in income of 8%.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report provides information that supports a number of Council Policies and commitments

5 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The increase in the uptake of meals has increased cash income to the department of Education thereby improving the overall viability of the Education Catering Service.

6 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 It is recommended the members of the Education Committee:

- Note the positive trend in the uptake of Primary schools meals during this financial year and that a number of initiatives are being developed for Secondary schools, the outcome of which will be reported to a future meeting of this committee.

John Mulgrew
Director of Education

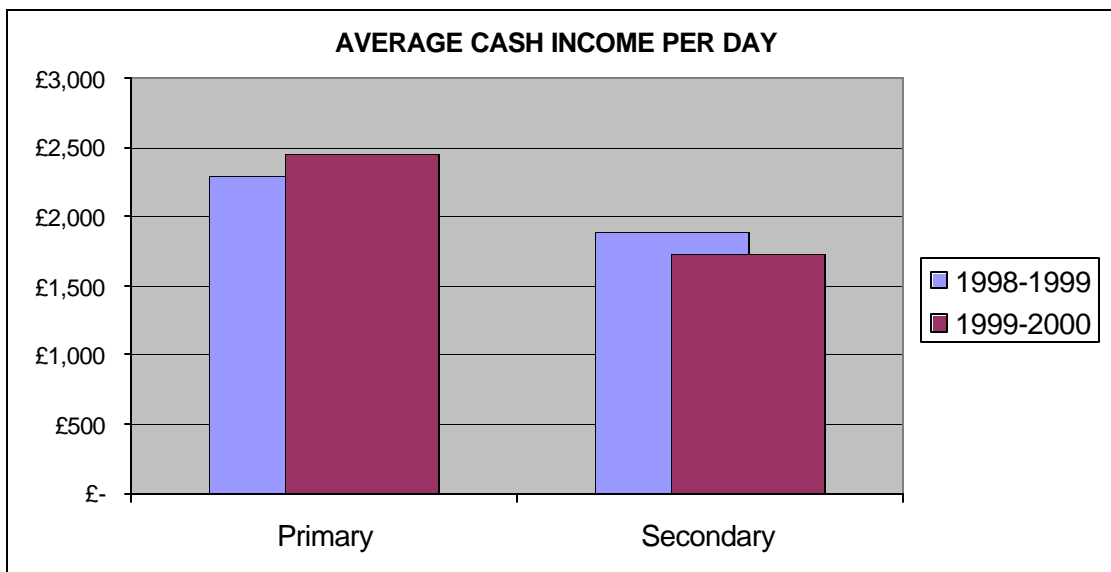
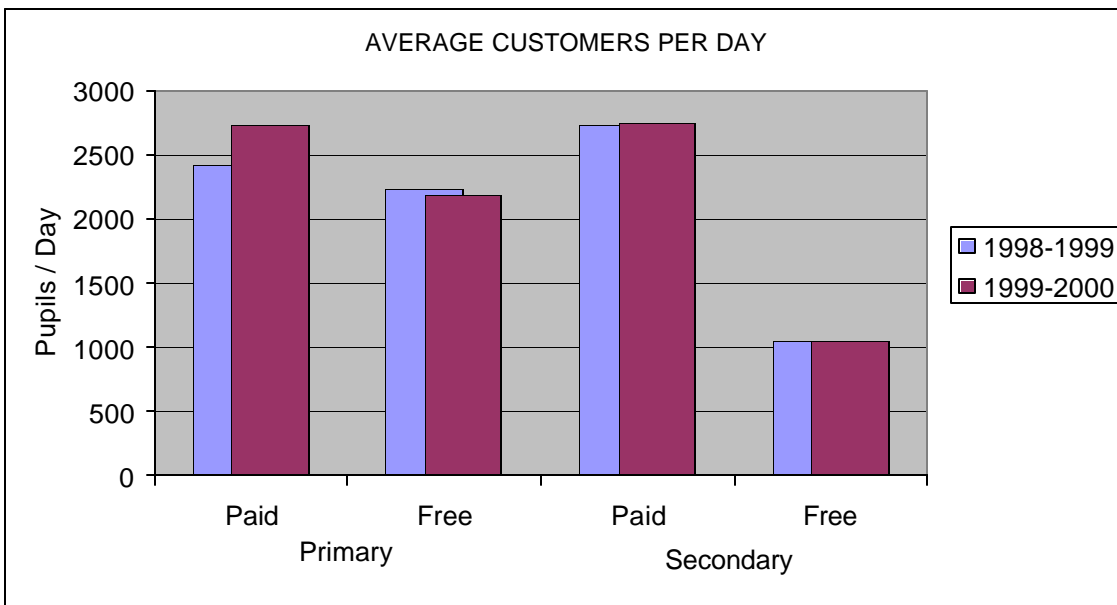
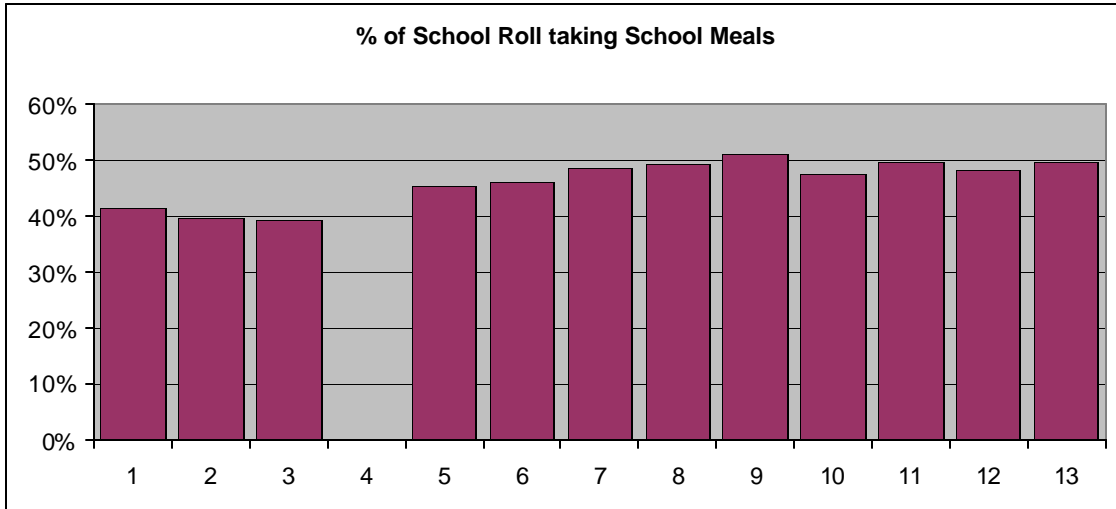
AJ/RG
13 April 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact John Mulgrew, Director of Education, Tel: (01563 576017) or Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager, Tel: (01563 555710).

MEALS ANALYSIS



AGENDA