

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 11 NOVEMBER 2003

CASHLESS MEALS – A PILOT SCHEME FOR SCHOOL MEALS

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the approval of members to develop a pilot scheme for cashless meals in schools.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive's report 'Hungry for Success' recommendation 25 and principle 4 – Eliminating Stigma – indicates that Education Authorities should adopt 'early introduction of a school meal application for multi-use cards, in particular In secondary schools'.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is proposed to establish a pilot scheme at Auchinleck Academy, utilising the company, CRB Solutions Limited, who are the preferred supplier of our neighbouring authorities and have installed cashless systems in some 200 schools throughout Scotland. The pilot would be used to assess customer acceptance and efficiency. If the pilot is successful it is proposed to develop a framework contract under EU procurement rules with a number of suppliers, in conjunction with the Council's Contracting & Technical Services Section. The framework contract will allow a call off basis for up to 4 years. This will allow the cashless meals system to be extended potentially to all other schools, as funding can be made available.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the initial pilot will be in the region of £18,000. The roll out to all secondaries on a phased basis will be a similar cost per location.
- 4.2 It is proposed to establish the initial scheme from the Council's 'Hungry for Success' funding allocation of £296,000 in the first instance. Thereafter to look for an opportunity to involve the Modernising Government Fund as the recommended source of funding identified in the Executive Report 'Hungry for Success'.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 A successful pilot scheme will support a range of Council policies embodied in the Community Plan. The system also has the potential to use smart cards with the Dialogue Youth Initiative.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that members;

- (i) approve a pilot scheme for cashless meals
- (ii) that following satisfactory evaluation of the pilot scheme a Framework Contract is developed with the Council's Contract & Technical Service Section to allow the cashless meals to be extended to other schools as funding allows.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
10 October 2003

Background Papers: Scottish Executive Final Report of the Expert Panel
on School Meals – 'Hungry for Success'.

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

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