

EXECUTIVE BOARD
26TH MARCH 2018

SCHOOL MEAL PRICES 2018/19

Purpose: to agree the charge for school meals for the 2018/19 financial year

Recommendations / key decisions required: To retain the price of a school meal at £2.50 for the 2018/19 financial year.

Reasons:

- To address the concerns raised by the Executive Board Member of Education and Children's Services
- To address the concern in regard to a drop in take-up of school meals following 4 consecutive price rises which have seen Carmarthenshire school meal prices become amongst the most costly in Wales

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Glynog Davies

Directorate

Education & Children

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Name of Head of Service:
Gareth Morgans

Director of Education &
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
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SCHOOL MEAL PRICES 2018/19

At its meeting on 21st February 2018, the County Council approved the budget for 2018/19, which included an above-inflationary increase of 10p in the price of a school meal from April 2018, rising from £2.50 to £2.60.

At the County Council meeting on 7th March 2018, a question was asked of Executive Board Member for Resources, Cllr David Jenkins, about the increase.

The response was that, at the request of the Leader of the Council and the Executive Board Member for Education & Children, officers were looking at ways of absorbing the funding shortfall which would be caused by retaining the price of meals at £2.50 for 2018-19.

This funding shortfall has now been identified, so the recommendation is to retain the price of school meals at £2.50 for the financial year 2018-19.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	No
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: David Astins, Strategic Development Manager

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Managemen t Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Finance

Retaining the price of school meals puts a funding pressure on the Department of approximately £190k. This will be met from within Departmental budgets as follows:

£50k from a reduction in the responsive maintenance budget within the Catering Service

£50k from allocated funding for budget 'growth' areas

£90k from a number of smaller savings including a reduction in senior management & back office costs

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: David Astins, Strategic Development Manager

1. Scrutiny Committee N/A
2. Local Member(s) N/A
3. Community / Town Council N/A
4. Relevant Partners N/A
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: THERE ARE NONE