

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

4th September 2012

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children &
Younger Adults**

**INSTALLATION OF SCHOOL MEAL KITCHENS TO CONVERT FROM
SERVERIES TO COOKING KITCHENS – (EDUCATION)**

1. Purpose of the Report

To approve capital expenditure of £500k from the Dedicated Schools Grant underspend for the conversion of school kitchens from serveries to cooking kitchens.

2. Information and Analysis

During the 2007/08 internal review of the School Meals Catering Service it was identified that Primary School serveries have in general a low take up of school meals in comparison to cooking kitchens. It was recommended to identify some schools where conversions to cooking kitchens could be carried out. There are currently 103 dining serveries from a total of 346 Primary Schools.

The aim is to re-invest into the service by carrying out further conversions of Primary School serveries into cooking kitchens. This supports the increase in meal take up and the anti-obesity strategy.

It is proposed to invest in cost effective kitchen conversions with the following aims.

- Reduction in overheads by increasing take-up.
- Savings on the cost of transporting meals to these schools, average saving is £10,000 per year.
- With a minimum increase of 25% in meal take-up, there will be an additional revenue/income of £35,000 per year.
- Improving the food quality and nutrition by having prime cooked meals on site.
- Support the school as this is seen as an improvement on the transported meals service that they currently receive.
- Reduction in the over capacity at 1 site (Wirksworth Junior) to avoid Health and Safety concerns.

Schools receiving the proposed conversions would be:

- Primary schools with high numbers on roll and relatively low uptake, thus having maximum potential to increase meal numbers.

It is proposed to use Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) underspend to fund this investment and this has been discussed with Schools Forum who are supportive of the proposals.

The schools identified as meeting the criteria and costs are as follows:

NOR	School	Cost	Work Brief
117	Findern Primary	£125k	Numbers on roll at Hilton Primary continue to rise causing the kitchen capacity to be fully utilised for on-site service. It is also one of the longest journeys for a school meals transport vehicle. Findern Primary is very supportive of an upgraded facility.
43	Wirksworth County Infant	£125k	The Wirksworth Junior kitchen is at full capacity and the situation needs to be addressed to avoid concerns regarding Health and Safety.
165	St Andrew's Junior	£125k	This receives a large export delivery and a cooking kitchen would increase the numbers of pupils taking up school meals and eliminate the transportation of multiple boxes.
68	Buxworth Primary	£125k	The current export facility at Whaley Bridge Primary is at capacity and could not cope with any further increases in numbers. There is sufficient space to fit a kitchen in the existing servery kitchenette
Total		£500k	

3. **Financial Considerations**

The capital investment in the primary kitchens described above will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant underspend. This has been

discussed with the Schools Forum which is supportive of resources being used in this way.

4. **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, and environmental, health, legal & human rights, human resources, property and transport considerations.

5. **Background Papers**

File in County Catering Service office.

6. **Key Decision**

Yes

7. **Officer's Recommendation**

That Cabinet approves the capital expenditure of £500k on converting serveries to cooking kitchens, to be financed from the DSG underspend.

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults