

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

5 August 2014

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

**NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERS THAT RECOMMENDED SELLING PRICE
OF SCHOOL MEALS TO REMAIN SAME - ALL SCHOOLS –
(CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)**

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Cabinet that there will be no increase in the recommended selling price of a school meal to children and adults in Secondary, Primary and Nursery and for pupils in Special Schools from 8th September 2014.

2. Information and Analysis

The school catering budget was delegated to Primary schools from April 2013, having already been delegated to Secondary schools. Under delegation, the responsibility for charging now lies with schools. However Derbyshire County Council will continue to recommend a selling price to aid schools and to provide consistency. As part of this recommendation, schools would be reminded that, under Section 533 Education Act 1996, the price they charge to pupils for school meals must not exceed the cost of providing them.

The recommended prices for all school meals were last reviewed and increased by 5p for Primary and Nursery Schools and 5p in Secondary and Special Schools in September 2013. The current recommended prices for meals are:

Primary/Nursery Schools	£1.95
Secondary/Special Schools	£2.05
Adult Meals including VAT	£2.76

Although the service faces some rising costs it has been possible to mitigate these through the development of efficiencies and an income generation programme.

We have ensured that our policy of procuring quality food items and producing healthy, nutritionally balanced meals for our customers is maintained. This will contribute to a key Council priority in tackling obesity.

Furthermore, during the past 12 months the service has again seen an increase in the take up of both paid and free meals. The figures show an increase in Primary, Special and Nursery Schools of 2.4% over the previous year to 51.2% (School Lunch Take up 2013-2014). Secondary Schools have increased by 2.2%, to a total of 48%. These increases have helped improve the efficiencies of the service.

It is also expected that the price freeze will prevent the trend for a 2% fall in demand following increases as reflected in previous years. This will help to ensure we maintain a good take up of meals in order to support the Catering Service Plan.

The increased take-up experienced in the last 12 months has contributed to the surplus, as well as the exceptionally mild winter (no school snow days) of £1.2m in 2013/14.

In the next trading year the service has a number of significant challenges. The introduction of the Living Wage will mean an additional cost of £670k for the service. However this will be mitigated by the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals for all Key Stage 1 pupils from September 2014. It is proposed that the meals provided will be charged at £2.00 per meal with a review at the end of each term. The additional 5p is to cover additional set-up costs for the service.

The Catering Service has undertaken a benchmarking review of selling prices and identified that the proposed increase compares favourably with other authorities. These comparisons are shown at Appendices A, B and C to this report.

3. **Financial Considerations**

Covered in the body of the report.

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, and human rights, personnel, property and transport considerations.

5. **Background Papers**

File in County Catering Service office.

Call-in Is it required that the call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report? No.

6. **Key Decision**

No

7. **Officer's Recommendation**

That Cabinet notes the selling price of the paid meal in all schools from 8th September 2014 is to remain the same and also approves the value of the Free School Meal offer to remain at £1.95 Primary and £2.30 Secondary. That the Universal Infant Free School Meals are charged at £2.00 per meal, subject to termly reviews.

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

Appendix A – Near Neighbours

Neighbouring Authority	Proposed Primary Meal Price September 2014	Current Primary Meal Price April 2014	Primary Meal Price September 2013
Derby City Council	£2.15	£2.15	£2.15
North Lincolnshire County Council	£2.10	£2.10	£2.10
Nottinghamshire County Council	£2.10	£2.10	£2.00
Tameside MBC	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00
Derbyshire County Council	£1.95	£1.95	£1.95
Cheshire West & Chester Council	TBC	£2.15	£2.15
Staffordshire County Council	TBC	£2.10	£2.10
Cheshire East Council	TBC	£2.10	£2.10
Shropshire County Council	No set price (range from £2.00 - £2.35)		
Leicestershire County Council	TBC	£2.05	£2.05
Nottingham City Council	£1.70	£1.70	£1.65

Neighbouring Authority	Proposed Secondary Meal Price September 2014	Current Secondary Meal Price April 2014	Secondary Price September 2013
North Lincolnshire County Council	£2.30	£2.30	£2.30
Cheshire East Council	TBC	£2.25	£2.25
Cheshire West & Chester Council	£2.25	£2.25	£2.25
Derby City Council	No set price (free school meal price set at £2.15)		
Leicestershire County Council	£2.30	£2.30	£2.30
Staffordshire County Council	TBC	£2.20	£2.20

Derbyshire County Council	£2.30	£2.30	£2.30
Shropshire County Council	TBC	£2.15	£2.15
Nottinghamshire County Council	No set price		
Nottingham City Council	£1.75	£1.75	£1.70
Tameside MBC	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00

*Price without a drink/price with a drink

Appendix B - Statistical Neighbours

Authority	Proposed Primary Meal Price September 2014	Current Primary Meal Price April 2014	Primary Meal Price September 2013
Lancashire County Council	£2.20	£2.20	£2.20
Nottinghamshire County Council	£2.10	£2.10	£2.00
Dudley MBC	£2.00	£2.00	£1.90
Kent County Council(5 contractors)	No set price (range from £2.00 - £2.50)		
Derbyshire County Council	£1.95	£1.95	£1.95
Staffordshire County Council	TBC	£2.10	£2.10
Wigan Council	No set price		
Northamptonshire County Council	TBC	£2.00	£2.00
Warwickshire County Council	Set by individual school		
Lincolnshire County Council	Set by individual school		
Cumbria County Council	Set by individual school		

Authority	Proposed Secondary Meal Price September 2014	Current Secondary Meal Price April 2014	Secondary Price September 2013
Derbyshire County Council	£2.30	£2.30	£2.30
Nottinghamshire County Council	£2.10	£2.10	£2.00

Dudley MBC	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00
Kent County Council(5 contractors)	Set by individual school		
Staffordshire County Council	TBC	£2.20	£2.20
Lancashire County Council	TBC	£2.20	£2.20
Northamptonshire County Council	Set by individual school		
Wigan Council	Set by individual school		
Warwickshire County Council	Set by individual school		
Cumbria County Council	Set by individual school		

Appendix C - Comparison of Adult Meal Selling Price Inclusive of V.A.T

Neighbouring Authority	Proposed Price September 2014	Current Meal Price April 2014	Price September 2013
Derby City Council	£3.20	£3.20	£3.20
Leicestershire County Council	£2.76	£2.76	£2.76
Derbyshire County Council	£2.76	£2.76	£2.76
Cheshire West and Chester Council	£2.70	£2.70	£2.70
Nottingham City	£2.10	£1.98/£2.04	£1.98/£2.04
Tameside MBC	Set by individual school		
North Lincolnshire County Council	TBC	TBC	TBC
Shropshire County Council	TBC	£3.00	£3.00
Staffordshire County Council	TBC	£4.84	£4.84
Cheshire East	TBC	TBC	£2.52
Nottinghamshire County Council	TBC	TBC	£2.40