



Ian Thomas  
Strategic Director for Children and Younger Adults  
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To: All maintained schools, PRUs and  
academies  
(Nursery schools for information)

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Minicom	
Our ref	DCS/IT/CC
Your ref	
Date	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2013

Dear Colleague

### **Living Wage**

I am writing to seek your views on an issue which has recently attracted national and local attention, namely the Living Wage and, in particular, its potential impact on the School Catering Service.

Derbyshire County Council is committed to paying the Living Wage as soon as possible as it believes there are benefits for the employee, employer and wider community. These benefits include:

- Business – improved quality of service, reduced absenteeism and reduced staff turnover;
- Employees – increased ability to provide for themselves, increased quality of work, increased flexibility;
- Community – increased time for family life, reduced reliance on benefits.

The Council recognises that payment of the Living Wage, which is currently set at £7.65 per hour, will represent an increased cost to the Council as this rate is above that currently paid to many of its staff. As a result the charges to schools for a variety of services could increase. One key area which will be affected is the School Catering Service.

Currently the costs of the service are met by a combination of charges to schools' delegated budgets and sales income from parents. The Council is keen to know your school's thoughts on the introduction of the Living Wage and specifically how it may affect your decisions regarding the provision of school meals.

Attached is a very brief questionnaire which I should be grateful if you would complete and e-mail to [schoolfunding@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolfunding@derbyshire.gov.uk) by **29<sup>th</sup> November 2013**.

I'm regret that this is a short timescale but I'm anxious that your views are incorporated into the on-going debate on this important issue.

I look forward to receiving your views.

Regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Thomas', enclosed within a simple circular outline.

**IAN THOMAS**  
**Strategic Director for**  
**Children and Younger Adults**

**Copies to:** Councillor Anne Western, Leader of the Council  
Councillor Kevin Gillott, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet  
Member for Children and Young People  
Councillor Jim Coyle, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young  
People

## **Living Wage/Catering Questionnaire**

***Please return your school's completed form to [schoolfunding@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolfunding@derbyshire.gov.uk) by 29 November 2013***

- Fields with a \* are mandatory and must be completed

**\*School Name:**

**\*DfE No:**

**\*Name of Person Completing Form:**

**\*Position within School:**

**\*Contact**

**email:**

Please select the box that matches your school's response to each question. After each section there is an expandable comments box; please feel free to use these boxes to express any views and/or support the reason for your response.

Q1. Do you agree with the principle that Derbyshire should be a Living Wage Employer?

☐ Agree

☐ Disagree

☐ Don't Know

Comments:

Q2. How should any increased costs be passed on to schools? (please mark your preference):

☐ Increase in the flat rate ☐ Increase the per pupil charge ☐ Other

☐ Don't Know

Comments:

Q3. How likely is it that your school would pass on the increased cost to parents, rather than meeting it from within the school's delegated budget?

☐ Very Likely

☐ Likely

☐ Unlikely

☐ Very Unlikely

☐ Don't Know

Comments:

Q4. How likely would an increase in the charge result in your school transferring to another provider?

☐ Very Likely

☐ Likely

☐ Unlikely

☐ Very Unlikely

☐ Don't Know

Comments:

Q5. How likely would an increase in the charge result in your school taking over the catering service function directly?

☐ Very Likely

☐ Likely

☐ Unlikely

☐ Very Unlikely

☐ Don't Know

Comments:

Q6. How likely would an increase in the charge result in your school ceasing to provide/procure a paid meals service?

☐ Very Likely

☐ Likely

☐ Unlikely

☐ Very Unlikely

☐ Don't Know

Comments:

**\*Please save a copy of your school's completed response form so that it can be referred to in any future consultations on this issue.**

**Please return your school's completed response form by email to  
[schoolfunding@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolfunding@derbyshire.gov.uk)  
by 29 November 2013**

**Thank you for completing the response form – your school's opinion is very important for aiding the debate on this key issue.**