

IV FREE SCHOOL MEAL EXPANSION (P4/P5) – CAPITAL FUNDING

There was submitted Agenda Note AN3-2023 which made reference to the Scottish Government announcement in May 2021 on a phased approach to universal free school meals (FSM) for primary children. Primary 4 children were now receiving FSM from August 2021 and Primary 5 children from January 2022. In Dundee this provision would now benefit overall 2,881 pupils in the above age groups.

Officers had identified that in order to facilitate and enhance the dining experience for the larger number of overall pupils now receiving school meals, further expansion work was necessary to both dining and kitchen facilities in 19 primary schools across the school estate. The Scottish Government had allocated the Council a grant of £635,000 in 2022/2023 to carry out such works.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) that to ensure that the works were progressed in accordance with the funding allocation to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children and Families Service, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services, to agree the scope of improvements to be undertaken and award the necessary tenders to complete the works; and
- (ii) that the Chief Executive be remitted to write to COSLA and if required thereafter the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to clarify the position in relation to the timeline for the roll out of free school meals for Primary 6 and Primary 7 children and that a copy of responses received be circulated to the membership of the Committee.