

ITEM No ...5.....

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 2021 – 21 JUNE 2021

REPORT ON: FREE SCHOOL MEAL EXPANSION

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT NO: 191-2021

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the expansion of Free School Meals and the arrangements for School Holiday Support.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following:

- P1 - P3 free school meal holiday support is paid to those families in receipt of the School Clothing Grant at £2.25 per day for 68 days of school holidays in 2021/22;
- P4 - S6 free school meal holiday support is paid to families who are eligible for free school meals on the basis of low income at £2.25 per day for 68 days of school holidays in 2021/22; and
- Note the expansion of universal free school meals to primary four children in August 2021 and primary five children in January 2022. This will result in an additional 970 P4 pupils and 1057 P5 pupils receiving a free school meal, saving parents on average £400 per year per child.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Scottish Government has provided funding to the Council of £885,000 for 2021/22 financial year. This is based on £2.50 per pupil for 60 days of school holidays and equates to £150 per child per year.

3.2 If the eligibility for P1-P3 reflects those in receipt of school clothing grant there are 5,639 eligible pupils made up as follows:

P1 - P3	(eligible for school clothing grant)	1,483
P4 - S6	(eligible for free school meals)	4,156

3.3 The recommended rate of £2.25 per day would cost £862,767 (5,639 children x £2.25 x 68 days) for the 21/22 academic year holidays. This equates to £153 per child per year.

3.4 Phase two and phase 3 will be funded from the Scottish Governments £28 million expansion of universal free school meal funding. The Council's share of this funding is £668,000

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Scottish Government are providing £49.74 million to local authorities in 2021/22 which is split on the following basis:-

- £21.75 million – phase one - free school holiday support
- £28 million – phase two and three – expansion of universal free school meals to P4 and P5 children

4.2 Phase one, will start from summer 2021 and will see the introduction of a free school meal support to cover all school holidays.

- 4.3 Funding is being provided to enable the provision of alternative free school meal provision to all children and young people who are eligible for free school meals on the basis of low income.
- 4.4 Phase two in August 2021 would see the current universal provision to all P1 – P3 children extend to P4 children.
- 4.5 Phase three in January 2022 will introduce the universal provision of free school meals to all P5 children.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Council Management Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.

ROBERT EMMOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

08 JUNE 2021