

Update on Central Catering Contract

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to note the:

- Update on meal prices for schools in the Council’s central catering contract from September 2023.
- Agreed subsidy level for paid KS2 meals.
- Outcome of a consultation regarding the extension of the current contract.

1. Meal Prices

1.1. Following a year of exceptionally high levels of food inflation, the prices paid by parents is set to increase.

1.2. Price to Parents

	Previous contract (2020-21) £	Year 1 of current contract (2021-22) £	Year 2 of current contract (2022-23) £	Year 3 proposed (2023-24) £
Nursery	1.75	1.75	1.75	2.00
Primary	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.30
Secondary*	2.36	2.10	2.24	2.54

**Notional FSM value*

1.3. KS2 Subsidy

In academic year 2022-23, the meal price to parents for paid meals in KS2 was set at £2.00, which required a subsidy from schools in the central catering contract of 20p per meal.

Prior to setting the above prices, all schools in the catering contract were asked for their views of any subsidy for KS2 paid meals in 2023-24. The options were:

- i. Maintain the 20p subsidy, giving a price to parents of £2.30.
- ii. Reduce the subsidy to 10p, giving a price to parents of £2.40.
- iii. Eliminate the subsidy, giving a price to parents of £2.50.

Of 30 schools who responded, 21 asked to maintain the 20p subsidy, with four choosing the middle option, and five asking to eliminate the subsidy completely. Consequently, we have decided to maintain the 20p subsidy.

1.4. Contract Price

The increase in contract in year three is primarily due to food and salary costs including the Living Wage.

	Previous contract (2020-21) £	Year 1 of current contract (2021-22) £	Year 2 of current contract (2022-23) £	Year 3 proposed (2023-24) £
Nursery	2.30	2.05	2.20	2.50
Primary	2.30	2.05	2.20	2.50
Secondary	2.36	2.10	2.24	2.54

2. Added Value Initiatives

2.1. As part of Taylor Shaw's catering contract commitments, the following initiatives were introduced from the start of the contract in 2021 and will run until the end of the contract term (which has now been extended to 31 July 2027 as per below).

Primary school initiatives:

- Free mini breakfast before school.
- Bronze Food for Life.
- Meat and sugar reduction, plant-based proteins.
- Vegetable and herb growing.
- Baking on site.
- Exercise – smoothie bikes.
- Litter picks to help portray environmental messages.
- Counter refreshes.

Secondary school initiatives:

- Free lunch.

- Supported exam results day.
- Feed family for a fiver.
- Counter refreshes.

3. Contract Extension

- 3.1. Schools in the catering contract were then asked whether they would like to take the option of extending the current contract from its end date of July 2025, for two years to July 2027.
- 3.2. Of 34 schools stating a clear preference, all were positive. As a result, the contract with Taylor Shaw is to be extended to the end July 2027.
- 3.3. A list of the 34 schools is provided in Appendix A.

4. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to note the:

- Above update on meal prices from September 2023.
- Agreed subsidy level of 20p for paid KS2 meals.
- Outcome of the consultation – to extend the current contract until the end of July 2027.

Appendix A

Schools which responded re. potential extension of the central catering contract (all of which were positive):

Abbey Lane
Acres Hill
Angram Bank
Athelstan
Beighton NI
Brightside NI
Clifford Infants
Dobcroft Infant
Ecclesall
Handsworth Grange
High Storrs
Hunters Bar Infant
Intake
Manor Lodge
Marcliffe
Mundella
Nether Green
Netherthorpe
Norfolk
Phillimore
Pipworth
Porter Croft
Rowan
Sacred Heart
Springfield
St Josephs
St Theresa's
Stocksbridge High School
UTC City Centre
UTC Derby
UTC OLP
Waterthorpe NI
Westways
Wybourn

No schools responded negatively to the proposal.