

Deputy Leader Decision to be taken not before

13 June 2014

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Recommendations

That:

1. £1,025,172 of ring-fenced DfE grant for the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals is added to the capital programme.
2. £47,828 of previously approved resources from Physical Assets Capital Maintenance Programmes are allocated to support the provision of Universal Infant Free School Meals.
3. That a programme of works totalling £1,073,000 is carried out to implement this programme.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 In December 2013 the Department for Education announced capital funding to support the implementation of the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) entitlement policy by September 2014. Warwickshire was awarded £1,025,172 to meet the needs at Warwickshire County Council maintained schools.
- 1.2 The announcement in December also identified an award of £266,071 to Voluntary Aided Schools to meet their needs and that Academy Schools were be able to apply for funding through the Academies Capital and Maintenance Fund (ACMF). These are separate funding streams and are not available to, or managed by, the authority.
- 1.3 Funding was made available from April 2014, with authorities required to deliver the entitlement to infant free school meals from September 2014.
- 1.4 Although Academy Schools apply separately through ACMF, the authority is obliged to consider any Academy or other school that provides meals for a Warwickshire maintained school and also to treat fairly any school converting to Academy status which would otherwise have been eligible for funding from the authority's allocation.
- 1.5 Officers asked all schools with an infant setting to submit an application, including Voluntary Aided, Academy and Free Schools. Schools were also asked to identify whether they provided or received meals from another school. This helped establish the extent of the authority's funding requirement.
- 1.6 Officers visited schools, carried out surveys, assessed needs and advised on buildings and building services matters.

- 1.7 Schools were invited to submit an application based on advice received from either officers of the County Council, their own professional advisers or their catering providers. All submissions were assessed on a common basis and adjustments where required, were applied across all submissions. For example the cost of additional lunchtime assistants or catering staff were disallowed as these costs fall to revenue.
- 1.8 It is a matter for each local authority to prioritise expenditure of its grant. Warwickshire County council has taken the view that funding should be targeted at ensuring that school kitchens are adequate in size and sufficiently well equipped to deliver the anticipated increase in the number of meals provided and to meet, as far as possible, the requirements for other equipment, furniture and the like. Minor building works and alterations to services / utilities have also been included. Funding from the UIFSM grant will not allow expansion of dining halls or other major building works.
- 1.9 The outcome of the application process was as follows:

Responses received:

Local Authority Schools	126
Voluntary Aided Schools	36
Academy Schools	19
Total	181

Other schools either did not submit an application or do not provide meals.

- 1.8 Notification has been sent to the Catholic and Church of England Diocesan authorities to advise them of the needs identified by their schools which will be met from a separate allocation of funding for Voluntary Aided Schools held centrally by DfE.
- 1.9 Of the 19 Academy school bids, one bid was from a Voluntary Aided school which converted during the application process. The published guidance is unclear regarding liability for funding aided schools that convert to Academy status. While we seek further guidance from the DfE, officers have made provision within the proposed programme should the liability for funding fall to the authority. Funding for other Academies should come through the Academies Capital and Maintenance Fund.
- 1.10 Notifications will be sent to all schools to advise them of the outcome of their submission.
- 1.11 The programme of works includes minor alterations to the building fabric, adjustments to service and utilities but is predominantly the provision of equipment. Maintenance and servicing of that equipment will fall to the school. Where schools buy-back into WES Catering Services, existing maintenance and servicing arrangements will be extended to cover the new equipment. There are no ongoing financial liabilities for WCC.

2.0 Funding

- 2.1 The award of £1,025,172 of ring-fenced grant for Universal Infant Free School Meals available to the authority in 2014/2015 has not yet received approval for inclusion in the Capital Programme
- 2.2 At its meeting in February 2014, Council made an allocation of £5,680,000 of funding for maintenance which sits within the Physical Assets Capital Programme.
- 2.3 Local authorities are encouraged to consider how they might use their school maintenance and improvement budgets to support the delivery of universal infant free school meals. The funding gap between DfE grant and the proposed programme is £47,828. It is proposed to add the grant of £1,025,172 to the Physical Assets Capital Programme and to allocate £47,828 from maintenance funding to support the UIFSM programme.

Proposed funding

UIFSM Grant allocation	£1,025,172
Maintenance funding	£47,828
Total	£1,073,000

3.0 Recommendations

That

1. £1,025,172 of ring-fenced DfE grant for the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals is added to the capital programme.
2. £47,828 of previously approved resources from Physical Assets Capital Programmes is allocated to support the provision of Universal Infant Free School Meals.
3. That a programme of works totalling £1,073,000 is carried out to implement this programme.

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	John Harmon	johnharmon@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 01926 412177
Head of Service	Steve Smith Nigel Minns	Stevsmithps@warwickshire.gov.uk nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	David Carter Wendy Fabbro	davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk Wendyfabbro@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Alan Cockburn, Deputy Leader, Warwickshire County Council	

Resources

John Harmon
Assets Strategy
Resources Group
Shire Hall
Warwick
CV34 4RH
Tel: 01926 412177
Fax: 01926 418173
e-mail: johnharmon@warwickshire.gov.uk
www.warwickshire.gov.uk

12 March 2014

Dear colleague,

Universal Infant Free School Meals

The Children and Families Bill places a legal duty on state-funded schools in England, including academies and free schools, to offer a free school lunch to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2. The Bill received Royal Assent in March 2014 and the duty will come into force from September 2014.

The available funding is as follows:

Local Authority	£1,025,172
Voluntary Aided	£266,071
Academies	By application to ACMF (see also details below)

The funding is intended to ensure that school kitchens have the capacity to deliver the Infant free school meal entitlement and we will be seeking to ensure that each kitchen is sufficiently well equipped to deliver the anticipated increase in the number of school meals provided each day.

The programme is unlikely to provide for any increase in dining space requirements through extensions to halls, conversion of other spaces or the like. We would nevertheless ask that you record in your submission, any impacts that you anticipate in terms of space requirements, sittings, storage and furniture requirements.

We are aware that there are a number of different providers delivering school meals and would ask that you make your provider aware of this opportunity to submit a bid for funding.

Further details are set out on the attached.

Yours faithfully

John Harmon
Assets Strategy Manager
Physical Assets

Synopsis

Funding

Local Authority	£1,025,172
Voluntary Aided	£266,071

Timescales

Submission of bid by end	March 2014
Evaluation by end	April 2014
Approval by end	May 2014
Notification to successful applicants	May 2014
Delivery	September 2014

Assessment of impacts / need

Equipment needs	School meals provider
Impacts on space, tables and chairs etc	School
Building and Engineering Services	Suitably qualified person

Submission of bid to

Sharon Feeney, Assets Strategy, Resources Group, Shire Hall, WARWICK, CV34 4UL

sharonfeeney@warwickshire.gov.uk

Evaluation

By independent external consultant with extensive experience of school meals provision

Consideration will be given to the transitional funding available to small schools (detailed in the Departmental Advice – link below)

Evidence

Assessment of anticipated increase in meals provided

Assessment of impact

Assessment of equipment or other measures necessary to meet the impact

Payment

Up to the agreed amount on submission of relevant invoices

For Voluntary Aided Schools, funding will be at the rate of 90%

Shared provision

If you are a Community, Controlled or Aided School whose meals are prepared by another school whether Maintained or Academy your provider school should make the submission for funding.

You may also ask to be considered for the provision of a new kitchen facility

Academies

If you are an academy school, providing meals for a maintained school then you should apply to WCC for funding.

Academies should otherwise apply to ACMF for funding

Academy converters

If your school is currently in the conversion process you should apply the WCC

Further details are available at the following links

Departmental advice:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/287804/UIFSM_DEPARTMENTAL_ADVICE.pdf

Funding:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-allocations-for-basic-need-and-infant-free-school-meals>

Advice and toolkit – The Children’s Food Trust

<http://www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/resources/fsm/free-school-meals-matter-toolkit>