

Decision Record – Universal Infant Free School Meals

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Alan Cockburn Deputy Leader
Date of Decision	13/06/2014

Decision Taken

1. That £1,025,172 of ring-fenced DfE grant for the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals is added to the capital programme.
2. That £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.

Reasons for Decisions

In December 2013 DfE announced an allocation of grant funding to support the roll-out of Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM).

The Funding was made available from April 2014 and the entitlement to UIFSM's must be achieved by September 2014.

Resources Group has polled all of the eligible schools and assembled a picture of needs. In accordance with WCC corporate policy it is necessary to add the UIFSM funding to the capital programme before expenditure is incurred.

Background Information

More detail is available in the attached report.

Financial Implications

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

Report Author	John Harmon
Head of Service	Steve Smith
Strategic Director	David Carter
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Alan Cockburn

Checklist

Urgent matter?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>This ring-fenced grant has not yet received approval for inclusion in the capital programme and is therefore not available to spend.</p> <p>To deliver this programme in line with the government's expectations, WCC will need to place orders for equipment and works as soon as practically possible.</p> <p>A delay until the next available cabinet or council meeting would not allow sufficient time to deliver this programme.</p> <p>Following an extensive survey, assessment and application process, the cost of the programme and the need for additional financial support was only established at the end of May, leaving insufficient time for normal reporting procedures to be observed.</p>
Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information)	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered - please include link to report

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cmis5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3186/Committee/551/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None other than published papers listed in report.

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Alan Cockburn
 All Strategic Directors
 Legal – Jane Pollard
 Finance – Liz Firmstone

Equality – Minakshee Patel
Democratic Services – Janet Purcell

Corporate Services OSC – party spokes:

Councillors June Tandy – agreed urgency procedure, Cllr Colin Hayfield

For information: Cllr John Whitehouse & Cllr Nicola Davies, Cllr Bob Hicks.