

30 August 2012

SCHOOL CATERING WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ward(s) All

Portfolio: Councillor A. Harris – Leisure, Culture and Environment
Councillor R. Andrew – Children’s Services
Councillor B. McCracken – Social Care and Health

Report:

At its meeting on 18 June 2012 the Community Services and Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel appointed a working group to consider making recommendations on the future of school catering.


Since then the working group has held one meeting to draft its terms of reference. The terms of reference are attached at Appendix 1 to this report for the Panels consideration.

Recommendations:

That:

- 1. subject to any comments Members may wish to make the terms of reference for the School Catering Working Group be approved;**
and;
- 2. Councillor Gareth Illmann-Walker be appointed Lead Member of the working group.**

Contact Officer:

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Work Group Name:	School Catering Working Group
Panel:	Community Services & Environment (Lead) Children & Young Peoples Health
Municipal Year:	2012/13
Lead Member:	Councillor Illmann-Walker
Lead Officer:	Darrell Harman Dave Porter Anne Doyle
Scrutiny Officer:	Craig Goodall
Membership:	Councillor V. Woodruff (CS&E) Councillor I. Azam (CS&E) Councillor G. Ilmann-Walker (CS&E) Councillor R. Martin (CYP) Councillor E. Russell (H)
Co-opted Members:	HT from school meals working group to be invited

1. Context	<p>The Council runs a school catering service for 66 schools. This costs the Council £1.2m a year from a total budget of £3.5m. The service is required to make efficiencies.</p> <p>The school landscape is changing with increasing numbers of schools becoming Academies and no longer being local authority controlled. Schools will become commissioners of the services they require.</p> <p>Walsall is a deprived area and recent research has shown that a nutritious meal can improve attainment in pupil performance. The area also suffers from poor health so there are potential long term health benefits of providing children with good quality food.</p>
2. Objectives	<p>To make recommendations to Cabinet and local schools on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a school meals strategy for primary and secondary schools; <p>To make recommendations to Cabinet on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. the future of the councils school catering service.
3. Scope	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National and international comparisons and research; 2. Quality of school meals; 3. Cost effectiveness of the school catering service; 4. External providers 5. Cost/benefit analysis of school meals 6. Benchmarking.

4. Equalities Implications			
Members will ensure that their recommendations take into account food preferences of religious communities and those with dietary preferences.			
5. Who else will you want to take part?			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schools: Head teachers and children who use: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. School catering service; b. External providers; c. Schools who don't provide school meals. 2. School catering service staff; 3. Local external school catering providers; 4. Portfolio Holder for Children's Services; 5. Public Health and Physical Activity; 6. Other local authorities; 7. Welfare Rights Service; 8. Food Dudes; 9. Rosie Beauford 			
6. Timescales & Reporting Schedule			
<p>To report to the Community Services and Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel on:</p> <p>Terms of reference – 30 August 2012</p> <p>Final report – 14 November 2012</p> <p>To report to Cabinet: 12 December 2012</p> <p>DATE</p>			
7. Risk factors			
	Risk	Likelihood	Measure to Resolve
	Not completed in time for budget setting process	HIGH	<p>A series of meetings is arranged until the end of October 2012.</p> <p>Consider an interim report with partial recommendations.</p>
	Difficulties speaking to all required witnesses in short time available	MEDIUM	<p>Schedule of meetings arranged.</p> <p>Consider asking for written submissions to avoid having to meet all required witnesses.</p>

Date Agreed:		Date Updated:	
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Timetable:

DATE	ACTIVITY
5 Sept 2012	Interviews with: Portfolio Holder for Children's Services School Catering Service Management The experience of Social Care and 'Meals on Wheels'
19 Sept 2012	Interviews with: Public health and Physical Activity Food Dudes Welfare Rights Service
4 Oct 2012	Interviews with: Local external school meal suppliers
31 Oct 2012	Conclusions and recommendations.
Dates TBC	Visits to schools to eat school meals from different providers, meet head teachers and talk to children about school meals.