

AGENDA ITEM 9

WALSALL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

From: CONSTITUTIONAL SERVICES **To:** RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Copy Resolutions: CABINET **Date:** 20 OCTOBER 2004

TAKE-UP OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS

- (1) That the Cabinet notes and welcomes the work of the Resources and Performance Scrutiny and Performance Panel in respect of free school meals and endorses:
 - (a) That, as part of the targeted campaign already underway on the take-up of free school meals, the planned reminder letter to potential claimants includes a translated explanation (in the same languages as used for the existing council tax and housing benefit claim form) of the purpose of the letter and the importance of registering and claiming for free school meals. The reminder letter to include a question to people who do not want to claim, why they do not take-up a free school meal;
 - (b) That officers be requested to explore the possibility of involving local neighbourhood partnerships in the campaign to increase the take-up of free school meals;
- (2) That the Cabinet notes and endorses that the Resources and Performance Scrutiny and Performance Panel supports the remaining findings of their working group in respect of the eligibility and take up of free school meals and confirms that these will be considered as part of the Council's review of the catering service.
- (3) That the Cabinet endorses the existing work of the revenues and benefits service to address the issue of eligibility for free school meals so enabling maximisation of both registration for and take up of meals.