

**Glasgow City Council****Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee****Report by Executive Director of Education Services****Contact: Lorna Goldie Ext: 72442****EXPANSION OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS UPDATE****Purpose of Report:**

To update committee on the progress to date of the expansion of free school meals for primary 6 and primary 7.

Recommendations:

Committee is asked to note

- (i) the Capital Expenditure award of £5.334m
- (ii) the formation of the working group for the infrastructure planning
- (iii) the roll out of Free School Meals for those children and young people whose parents/carers are eligible for Scottish child payment from February 2025.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

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1. EXPANSION OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS UPDATE

- 1.1 Free School Meals have been operating in all Glasgow schools for p1-p5 and for all primary school children within stand-alone ASN provision since January 2022.
- 1.2 In 2023/24 the Scottish Government announced that it would be rolling out free school meals for those children whose families are in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment in advance of the roll out for all p6 and p7.

2. SCOTTISH CHILD PAYMENT

- 2.1 The Scottish Child Payment is a weekly payment of £26.70 that parents/carers can get for every child they look after who's under 16 years of age. The payment is made every 4 weeks.
- 2.2 Scottish Child Payment is paid if all of the following apply:
 - they live in Scotland
 - the parent/carer or partner are getting certain benefits or payments
 - they or their partner are the main person looking after a child who's under 6 years old
- 2.3 Application can be made whether they're in work or not, if they or their partner are getting one or more of the following benefits:
 - Universal Credit
 - Child Tax Credit
 - Working Tax Credit
 - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- 2.4 Social Security Scotland also accept claims if they alone are named on one of these benefits:
 - Pension Credit
 - Income Support
 - income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- 2.5 If their partner is named on any of the above 3 benefits and they are not, their partner should apply.
- 2.6 There were estimated to be just under 3,000 children within Glasgow who would be eligible for entitlement to free school meals through their families being entitled to the Scottish Child Payment.

3. CAPITAL INVESTMENT

- 3.1 The Scottish Government asked Local Authorities to provide costed information on what works would be required to buildings to ensure that the extra capacity can be accommodated within the buildings for the introduction of both Scottish Child Payment and the longer-term aim of Free School Meals for all primary children.
- 3.2 Following a review of the funding requests Glasgow received £5.334m of capital funding for infrastructure projects to ensure that elements of capacity issues can be addressed. A working group has been formed and Education is working with Property and Consultancy Services (PCS), and Catering and Facilities Management (CFM) to ensure that we can prioritise spend across a planned programme of capital works. Funds are being focused on those schools which have a high number of lunch sittings, or have other capacity issues within serveries and kitchens. These issues can result in lengthened lunches for schools.
- 3.3 The programme of works, once agreed, will be reported through the Capital Programme Board and the Education Estates Board. It is anticipated that the works will include, but not be limited to creation of additional dining space, innovative seating solutions, redesign of kitchen and servery areas for greater and more efficient throughput, and production kitchen equipment.

4. PLANNED ROLLOUT

- 4.1 Glasgow intends to offer free school meals to those in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment with children in primary 6 and primary 7 payment from February 2025. These dates are in line with Scottish Government guidance.
- 4.2 It is hoped that this will contribute to reducing the high levels of outstanding balances in relation to school meal debt within the primary sector.

5. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	All capital works will be funded from within the Scottish Government grant monies. All revenue consequences will be contained within the Education budget.
<i>Legal:</i>	None
<i>Personnel:</i>	None
<i>Procurement:</i>	None

Council Strategic Plan: Grand Challenge 1 Mission 1 End Child Poverty in our city using early intervention to support families.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

Outcome14
Glasgow City Council (Education Services) has continued to improve outcomes in relation to attainment and achievement for children and young people including those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

(no significant impact, positive impact or negative impact)

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

Yes the threshold raising to include SCP for entitlement to free school meals for p6 and p7 will be a benefit to families.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

N/A

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report
No

No – will use existing systems for recording such as SEEMIS and Parent pay where DPIA's have already been completed.

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Committee is asked to note

- (i) the capital expenditure award of £5.334m;
- (ii) the formation of the working group for the infrastructure planning;
- (iii) the roll out of FSM for those children and young people whose parents/carers are eligible for Scottish child payment from February 2025.