

Expansion of free school meals – Update noted.

3 There was submitted and noted a report by the Executive Director of Education Services regarding progress to date of the expansion of free school meals for primary 6 and 7 school children, advising

- (1) that free school meals had been operating in all Glasgow schools for primary 1 to 5 and for all primary school children within stand-alone ASN provision since January 2022;
- (2) that in 2023/24, the Scottish Government had announced that it would be rolling out free school meals for those children whose families were in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment in advance of the roll out for all school children in primary 6 and 7;
- (3) of information on the Scottish Child Payment, as detailed in the report, which was a weekly payment of £26.70 that parents/carers could get for every child they looked after who were under 16 years of age;
- (4) that the Scottish Government had asked local authorities to provide costed information on what works would be required to buildings to ensure that the extra capacity could be accommodated within the buildings for the introduction of both the Scottish Child Payment and the longer-term aim of free school meals for all primary children;
- (5) that following a review of the funding requests, Glasgow had received £5.334m of capital funding for infrastructure projects to ensure that elements of capacity issues could be addressed and that a working group had been established to ensure that the spend was prioritised across a planned programme of capital works and that the agreed programme of works would be reported through the Capital Programme Board and Education Estates Board; and
- (6) that the Council intended to offer free school meals to those in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment with children in primary 6 and 7 from February 2025, which was in line with Scottish Government guidance.