

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET MEMBER (CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)

ITEM:	SCHOOL MEALS POLICY
Date of Decision:	16 February 2006
This is a key decision because it is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards	
A notice was served in accordance with section 15 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulation 2000	
Purpose:	<p>The Government has made a commitment that there will be universal hot lunch provision for all children by Sept 2008. Cost and practicalities rule out the possibility of every Herefordshire School having a kitchen. Furthermore the introduction of a centralised cook-chill facility would require significant capital expenditure both in initial set up and in creation of a transport system across the county.</p> <p>It is proposed that Herefordshire's school meal service will be based on each High School, or other appropriate kitchen supplying its feeder primaries with lunches. This will enable existing facilities to be used and keep transport costs to a minimum.</p> <p>A Draft School Meal Policy is enclosed which explains the proposal in greater detail.</p> <p>In addition a School Meals Advisory Forum will need to be convened to oversee implementation and ongoing success of the service.</p>
Decision:	<p>THAT</p> <p>(a) the School Meals Policy be approved;</p> <p>(b) a school meals service based on supplying primary schools from their pyramid high school kitchen or other appropriate production kitchen be developed;</p> <p>(c) contractual and monitoring arrangements for caterers be improved to ensure consistency, quality and the health promoting nature of school meals;</p> <p>(d) school catering staff are trained in healthy cooking techniques; and</p> <p>(e) the amount of fresh, unprocessed and locally produced food used in school meals be increased.</p>
Reasons for the Decision:	To give the majority of children access to healthy, nutritious,

	<p>appetising school lunches</p> <p>To contribute to a reduction in levels of childhood obesity in Herefordshire</p> <p>To ensure schools can provide a whole school approach to food and healthy eating</p> <p>To increase the contribution that school meals can make to the local economy by encouraging and enabling greater local food sourcing.</p>
Options Considered:	<p>1 Creation of one large centralised cook-chill facility to supply the whole school population. This would require a new production facility and a comprehensive transport system. The creation of such a facility would be a major financial commitment.</p> <p>2 The provision of a fully equipped kitchen in every school. Due to the small size of many of our rural schools, this would be prohibitively expensive.</p>
Declaration of Interest:	
Date the key decision is due to take effect:	22 February 2006

COUNCILLOR DW RULE Date: 16 February 2006
CABINET MEMBER (CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)

To be completed by officer:	
Date consent received from Chairman of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee:	13 February 2006
Subject to Call-in:	No
If yes was the decision modified?	
If yes Cabinet Member (.....) decision reference:	
Date original decision took effect:	22 February 2006