

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO SCHOOL FORUM MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Schools Forum
2.	Date:	24th June, 2011
3.	Title:	Value for Money Review of School Catering Service
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's Office

5. Summary

It has previously been agreed by Head Teachers (in a meeting about DSG funding) that a Value for Money Review of the Local Authority's School Catering Services should be undertaken.

This review will be undertaken by the Local Authority's Corporate Commissioning Team. We aim to work with the Schools Forum to ensure that all schools are enabled to take part in this Value for Money Review.

Consultation with stakeholders will inform this review.

6. Recommendations

That Schools Forum Members agree that:

- 6.1 The members of the School Forum agree to be a part of the value for money review of School Catering.**
- 6.2 That a report on the findings of the review be presented to a future meeting.**

7. Proposals and Details

School meals are currently provided to Schools by the Local Authority's School Catering Service, with the exception of a few schools who have commissioned their own service.

A value for money review of the Local Authority's School Catering Service is being undertaken in June/July 2011.

The purpose of this review is to ensure that Schools are receiving the maximum benefit from the Service.

It is important in any value for money review that this is not just based on price but also the quality of the service and whether the balance between the two is right.

The Value for Money Review will consider:-

- the cost of a school meal in Rotherham;
- the quality of a school meal;
- the nutritional value of a school meal;
- the views of Head Teachers and Parents about the School Meals Service;
- past and present performance of the service;
- benchmarking with other Local Authorities;
- the additionally of the service.

A letter has already been drafted and sent to Schools, asking each Head Teacher to complete a satisfaction questionnaire. Head Teachers have also been asked to distribute parent satisfaction questionnaires to a selection of parents in their School. It is hoped that as many schools as possible are able to facilitate this consultation with parents.

Any opportunities for further consultation with parents will be taken, e.g Parents Forum and any suggestions or support from schools will be most welcome.

8. Finance

The only financial implications in undertaking the review relate to the costs associated with consultation and these should be minimal.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

That all stakeholders have the opportunity to put their views forward about the service.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Children and Young People's Plan in relation to improving the welfare of children and young people and ensuring they live a healthy lifestyle.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None .

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