

UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS - FUNDING**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 On the 23rd January, the Secretary of State for Education and Minister of State for Schools wrote a joint letter to all schools providing further information of the provision of universal free school meals for infants (UFSM) from September 2014.
- 1.2 Within this letter they gave details of new funding to support this policy – over £1billion between 2014 and 2016, including £150million of capital funding in 2014-15 to improve kitchen and dining facilities.

2.0 CAPITAL FUNDING

- 2.1 Within Cambridgeshire the capital funding to be received to support UFSM totals approximately £1.43m, of which £0.14m is specifically for Voluntary Aided Schools and as such will be administered separately. The remaining £1.29m will be allocated to maintained schools on a two-stage process.
- 2.2 Although £1.43m may sound like a significant sum of funding it is required to support 173 qualifying schools and over 18,000 qualifying infant age pupils. In practice this means that there is very limited scope for any building work or kitchen refurbishments.
- 2.3 Stage 1 - All non-VA schools providing meals for infant age pupils will receive a funding allocations based on kitchen type and infant pupil numbers as at the January 2014 census.

| Kitchen Type | Per R, Y1, Y2 FTE Pupil | Lump sum per school |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Production | £20.00 | £5,000 |
| Satellite | £20.00 | £4,000 |
| Service | £20.00 | £3,000 |

Stage 2 - A contingency of approximately £0.24m has been retained for schools to bid for additional funding where essential/unavoidable equipment or works are required which have been assessed to be unaffordable within the initial allocation.

- 2.4 The closing date for submission of bids was Friday 28th March. The total value of bids received is greater than the available contingency and as such LA Officers are currently assessing the submissions. Those schools which requested significant building work or kitchen refurbishments are unlikely to be successful and alternative options will need to be explored in some instances.
- 2.5 This capital funding will be allocated to all qualifying schools on receipt from the DfE in the 2014/15 financial year. To date it is still unclear when this funding will be received and as such we will update schools in due course along with details of accounting requirements. In instances where allocated funding remains unspent by 31st December 2014 the LA reserve the option to clawback the balance to allow reinvestment into other targeted projects.

3.0 REVENUE FUNDING

3.1 Additional information in respect of UIFSM was published by the DfE on 6th March 2014. Full details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-infant-free-school-meals>

3.2 The full document provides details of how revenue funding, including small school transitional funding will be allocated, (summary below):

3.3 Revenue Funding

Revenue funding will be based on a rate of £2.30 for each meal taken by pupils who will become newly eligible for a FSM as a result of the UIFSM policy. Schools will be expected to continue to fund meals for pupils eligible for FSMs under the existing criteria in the same way that they do currently.

The DfE will notify schools of their provisional full year revenue funding allocation for the 2014 to 2015 academic year in June 2014. Local authorities will receive the first 2014 to 2015 payment for maintained schools at the end of June 2014, with academies and free schools shortly after, and newly opening academies and free schools in early September. This payment will provide funding for the first two terms of the academic year (which represents the remainder of the 2014 to 2015 financial year).

This allocation will be based on pupil data from the January 2014 Schools Census as well as planning assumptions that (i) 87% of newly eligible pupils will take meals, and (ii) those pupils will take 190 school meals in the course of a full academic year. This provisional allocation will be revised later in the academic year based on actual take-up data derived from an average of the October 2014 and January 2015 Schools Censuses and the payment for the third term of the 2014 to 2015 academic year will be adjusted accordingly.

Schools with an actual take-up rate above the assumed take-up rate of 87% will have the provisional third term payment, to be made in April 2015, adjusted upwards and those below this rate will have it adjusted downwards. Those schools with low levels of take-up may receive no extra payment in the third term. We would expect the number of schools in this position to be very small.

The allocation methodology for the 2015 to 2016 academic year will be confirmed in due course. Our intention is that it will be based on take-up data from the Schools Census. Funding for this policy beyond the 2015 to 2016 financial year will be considered as part of the next Spending Review, along with all other government expenditure.

The department will provide detailed terms and conditions and further advice on issues such as closing schools and the year-end accounting treatment for an academic year grant.

3.4 Small schools transitional funding

The DfE are also providing additional transitional funding for one year only to small schools (schools with a total roll of up to 150 pupils according to the January 2014 Schools Census). Funding will be provided as a lump sum in June 2014. This can be spent as schools choose in support of their implementation of the policy, including for the purpose of improving kitchen or dining equipment, and will not be adjusted later to take account of take-up.

All small schools with infant pupils who were not eligible for FSM in the 2014 census will receive at least £3,000 of additional funding. Allocations will be calculated with reference to the units of funding detailed in the table below. Where that is below the minimum level the allocation will be uplifted to £3,000.

| <i>Total no. of pupils on school roll in latest census</i> | <i>Unit funding per non-FSM eligible infant</i> |
|---|--|
| <i>minimum additional funding per school with non-FSM infants in latest census data</i> | <i>£3,000</i> |
| <i>1-30</i> | <i>£210</i> |
| <i>31-60</i> | <i>£190</i> |
| <i>61-90</i> | <i>£160</i> |
| <i>91-120</i> | <i>£135</i> |
| <i>121-150</i> | <i>£100</i> |

4.0 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Officers will inform schools of their final capital allocations early in the summer term to allow works to be planned and undertaken. However, in instances where specific projects are not funded, alternative solutions will need to be explored.

On receipt of the revenue information from the DfE in June, schools will be notified of their provisional full year revenue funding allocation for the 2014 to 2015 academic year. This funding will be passported to schools on receipt.

CYCLE CITY AMBITION SCHEMES

The report states that:

Cycle City Ambition Schemes – in September 2013, The Department for Transport announced that the Council will be receiving over £4m of capital funding, which is to be spent by May 2015. Dft allocated £2.175m of this funding to the council in 2013/14, however it is not possible to spend the full level of this funding by 31st March 2014 due to resource, planning and consultation constraints in light of the late announcement. This therefore results in a forecast underspend of -£1m in 2013/14, with the remainder of the funding being carried forward to 2014/15.

To add some further detail to this:

The funding was originally expected to be confirmed in early June, but there were various politics related delays within the Dft, and thus funding was not confirmed until 13th August 2013, with a total of £4.1million to be spent by May 2015. Although Dft allocated £2.175m for the first financial year of the funding, there is flexibility to roll any underspend into the next financial year, so members should not be unduly alarmed.

The aim was always to try to spend the £2.175m allocated, but there are a number of reasons that this will not be achieved. Cycling schemes are often controversial, and are always subject to time intensive public consultation and thorough discussions with local members, Parish Councils, interest groups, adjacent landowners and other stakeholders. More staff have now been recruited to the Cycling Projects Team, but it has taken some time to work through the recruitment process.

The three schemes that started in this financial year were all on major roads (A10, A1307 and A505) for which construction works can only take place during restricted hours (9.30am to 3.30pm). This can make for lengthy construction periods, and means that money is not spent quickly (e. A505 is a 16 week construction period).

Other factors that have caused delays or meant spend is lower than expected include consultant resources, contractor resources, delays with contractors submitting invoices and delays with relocating BT poles.

In summary the entire £4.1million is still on track to be spent with one scheme complete, two under construction, one starting on site in April, two out to consultation and the final one due to be consulted on soon.

There are risks, not least that the final three schemes are subject to approval by the new Economy and Environment Committee.