


<b>Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma</b>  Decision Log No: 57	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Robert McCulloch-Graham	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Free School Meals for Primary Age Pupils</b>	

<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Decision Notice Publication Date:</b>	18 March 2014
<b>General Exception or Urgency Notice published?</b>	<b>Yes</b> General Exception Notice Required.
<b>Restrictions:</b>	N/A

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

43% of the Tower Hamlets primary school population is eligible for statutory free school meals. Since September 2013 a local initiative has provided a free school meal for Reception and Year 1 pupils who are not otherwise eligible. From September 2014, this local scheme will be replaced by a Department for Education national scheme (known as Universal Infant Free School Meals – UIFSM), funded from specific grant, to provide a free school meal for Reception – Year 2 pupils who are not otherwise eligible.

This report considers the Health and Wellbeing considerations in promoting greater take-up of primary age pupils taking a nutritional meal at lunchtime. It then seeks a decision on whether a new local scheme should be introduced from September 2014 – July 2015 (one academic years) to provide free school meals for all Year 3 – Year 6 pupils who are not otherwise eligible at an estimated total cost of **£2.675m** for one academic year.

There is currently no funding to meet this estimated cost, the precise level of which depends on take-up and on overall primary pupil numbers, as well as the intended length of this local scheme. A decision to proceed will, therefore, require an update to the Medium Term Financial Plan. **Moreover, this will require a virement of more than £1m, so it will require a Council decision to come into effect.**

## DECISION

1. Confirm that a local scheme for free school meals for primary age pupils (Year 3 – Year 6) who are not otherwise eligible for statutory free

school meals be introduced from September 2014 to July 2015 at a total estimated cost of £2.675m.

2. Agree that the costs of this initiative be funded from corporate reserves and for corporate reserves to be reinstated to currently agreed levels by 2016/17 through additional savings in future years.
3. Seek Council agreement to vire resources to allow this proposal to proceed.

## APPROVALS

1. **(If applicable) Corporate Director proposing the decision or his/her deputy**

I approve the attached report and proposed decision above for submission to the Mayor.

Signed  Date 26/3/14

2. **Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy**

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed  Date 26/3/14

3. **Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy**

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

(For Key Decision only – delete as applicable)

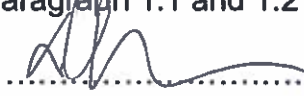
I confirm that this decision:-

(a) has been published in advance on the Council's Forward Plan OR  
(b) is urgent and subject to the 'General Exception' or 'Special Urgency' provision at paragraph 18 or 19 respectively of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Signed  Date 26/3/14

4. **Mayor**

I agree the decision proposed in paragraph above for the reasons set out in paragraph 1.1 and 1.2 in the attached report.

Signed  Date 26/3/14