

Growth Type	Mayoral Priority
Title	Continuing to provide universal free school meals
Reference	MPG/ CHI 03 / 18-19
Strategic Priority Area	1.2 Children and young people feel they are protected and get the best start in life and realise their potential
Lead Member	Amy Whitelock-Gibb
Directorate	Children's Directorate
Service Area	Youth and Commissioning
Lead Officer	Ronke Martins-Taylor

Financial Information	Budget Allocation	Growth Bid		
	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	2019-20 £'000	2020-21 £'000
Employee Costs				
Other Costs		250		2,000
Income				
To Reserves				
Capital				
HRA				
Total		250		2,000

Staffing Impact	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Employees (FTE)	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a

Description & Justification				
<p>It is a continued Mayoral priority to provide universal free school meals to primary school age children. Sums of £2m per year for 2018-19 and 2019-20 were approved in February 2017 as part of the budget process and are included in the Council MTFs. This bid supports continuation of the offer and sets aside a further £2m in 2020-21.</p> <p>In addition to this, the current Mayor's Free School Meal arrangements reimburse Primary Schools at a rate of £2.30 per meal. For 2018/19 a price increase has been proposed which will see the price of a Primary School meal increase as set out in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="183 1462 1254 1541"> <thead> <tr> <th>Proposed 2018/19 prices</th> <th>Primary school meal price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>The price per meal that the school is invoiced at</td> <td>£2.45</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It is possible that Primary Schools could pass this price increase to parents thus negating the Mayoral Free School Meal programme. This growth bid will cover the 15p per meal price increase, over and above £2.30, and will enable the Mayor to continue to provide his free school meals programme.</p> <p>The growth bid for 2018/19 will cover the period April 2018 to August 2018 which will enable the Mayor and Primary School representatives' sufficient time to come to some agreement about future school price increases.</p>	Proposed 2018/19 prices	Primary school meal price	The price per meal that the school is invoiced at	£2.45
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Budgeted Outcomes/ Accountability (Focus on Improved performance)
<p>Priority - More people living healthily and independently for longer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free school meals are associated with improved education, social and health benefits, There is a take up of 96% in of the Mayor's Free School Meal programme in all relevant schools Reduction in childhood obesity as children have access to a nutritious, healthy school meal

Risks & Implications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the proposed price increase to the Mayor's Free School Meal programme is not covered by this growth bid then there is a risk that schools will charge parents for school meals potentially negating the programme.

Value for Money & Efficiency
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This growth bid represents value for money given the continued provision of the Mayor's Free School Meal programme.