

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Report to the Cabinet

Meeting Date:	6 July 2021
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Cemlyn Rees Williams
Contact Officer:	Owen Owens
Contact Number:	01286 679 169
Item Title:	Primary, Special and All-Through School Meal Price September 2021

1. DECISION SOUGHT

Not to raise primary, special and all-through school meal price in September 2021.

2. REASON WHY DECISION IS NEEDED

If the department do not raise the meal price in line with inflation from September 2021 it will create a deficit in the Education Department 2021/22 budget of £22,890. Therefore, it's appropriate to obtain the Cabinet's formal confirmation that not raising the school meal price this year is a priority for the Council.

3. INTRODUCTION

The primary school catering service budget relies on generating income by selling primary school meals. There is a need for income generated from primary school meals to keep up the inflation of the catering service costs.

Primary school meals income target has risen 1.16% in 2021-22 which would increase meal price from £2.50 to £2.53. In rounding up this would be £2.55 (equivalent to 2%).

However, when considering our relative position and priority we have in terms of reducing inequality, the Cabinet may wish to consider the price of school lunches in this context.

4. REASON AND JUSTIFICATION BEHIND THE DECISION

When comparing Gwynedd's primary, special and all-through school meal price of £2.50 with other Council's in Wales (Appendix 1), 4 charge a higher price, 4 charge same price as Gwynedd and 13 charge a lower price.

Increasing the meal price would mean increasing the price from £2.50 to £2.55.

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

Meal price will be operational from September 2021.

6. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION **Statutory Officers opinion:**

i. Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Head of Finance:

I confirm that the financial figures in this report are fair estimates. With regard to funding the relevant budget gap in the Education Department, I confirm that in drawing up the Council's budget for 2021/22, a general provision was set aside in a contingency budget that could be used for this purpose.