

EE15. Provision of Meals During Holidays for Children Entitled to Free School Meals

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided information, options and assessment around providing meals for children, entitled to free school meals during school holiday periods.

Information was provided on the current holiday food programme which was developed during 2017/18 by the Council and key partners. A multi-faceted approach was taken in order to deliver a number of initiatives which aimed to provide children and their families with food, when school meals would not be available. The current approach also ensured that children were not only provided with food, but had access to additional benefits and activities.

Due to the success of the holiday programme, work is ongoing to expand and provide similar initiatives during 2018.

The report also highlighted the issues and challenges which would require to be considered if the Council were to provide a free school meal for all those who were eligible, during the summer holiday period.

Councillor McCue, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn, moved that the Education Executive:-

- (1) notes the success of the 2017/18 holiday meal programme;
- (2) notes the challenges outlined should Members wish to adopt a more universally targeted provision, and
- (3) agrees that the current plans for the 2018/19 holiday meal programme continue and that a report is presented at a future date evaluating the outcomes.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Nimmo, seconded by Councillor Bissett, moved that the Education Executive:-

- (1) notes the great success of the Labour Holiday Meal programme as detailed in the report;
- (2) agrees that the current plans for 2018/19 continues, and
- (3) instructs Officers to bring forward an options report in relation to a pilot providing hot meals to all Primary School children during the school holiday periods (including Public/Bank Holidays/In Training days etc.) This is to be brought to the next meeting of the Education Executive on 4 September 2018. The report should include all the appropriate financial/accommodation information to support such a venture.

In terms of Standing Order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 12 members and 3 religious representatives present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (9) – Councillors Alexander, Collie, Harris, McCue, Meiklejohn, Murtagh and Patrick; M Harkins and M Tait.

For the amendment (6) – Councillors Bissett, Coombes, Goldie, Kerr and Nimmo; and Rev M Rollo.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed the motion.