

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, TRANSPORT, PROPERTY &  
ENVIRONMENT.****OPERATIONAL REPORT - SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES CATERING  
SERVICE****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides the nine monthly performance summary for the Schools and Academies Catering Service for the period ending 31 December 2014.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Environment & Resources Department provides a range of Catering & Facilities related services to schools and other customers across the County largely on a self-financing bought back basis. **Appendix 1** provides a table summary of overall results.

**Operational Report**

3. The Schools Catering Service served an average 41,656 meals per day over the 9 month period representing an increase of 14.4% on 2013/14. Overall cumulative uptake for the year is now 59% in Primaries and 44.6% in Secondary's.
4. Take up of Universal Infant Free School Meals for the Autumn Term 2014 is 78.4%. Following national guidance plans were made on the assumption of the likely figure of 85%. Anecdotal evidence suggests that nationally actual levels range between 75% and 90%. The calculations for Nottinghamshire are based on the assumption that every entitled pupil attends school every day.
5. Other free school meals are recorded at a 75.2% take-up and it is pleasing to note that the increase seen in September has been maintained.
6. Expenditure on both food and wages remain within budget forecasts for the year to date and projected contributions will be achieved.
7. The changing market provision in respect of Academies continues to apply pressure in ensuring services are bespoke to individual requirements and with the development of Academy Trusts more and more services are being consolidated in to a sole provision, this linked with investments will attract an increase in private sector provision. NCC's recent bid covering services at National, Holgate and Tuxford Primary has unfortunately not been successful and the operational transfer of the service to Chartwells will be carried in April 2015.

8. In understanding the reasons behind the decision to award contracts to the private sector so far appears to be both price and NCC's marketing/sales literature offer.
9. Although the Schools Catering Service is now expected to lose approximately £450k in turnover over the coming months this will be offset by an increase in the provision of Infant Free Meals and will ensure the overall financial viability of the business is maintained. Not all Academies and Schools have selected to award contracts via a formal tendering process. Where this is the case NCC continues to work closely at a local level to ensure service demands are identified and developed.
10. A report is currently being finalised on a recent customer satisfaction survey conducted and with a response from 185 customers it is hoped this will identify any issues around current performance and provide a steer for actions necessary to develop the service further. The report will be brought to the May Personnel committee on the overall outcomes.

### **Other Options Considered**

11. None – report for noting only

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

12. The monitoring of performance of the Catering & Facility Management service supports the aspirations of the County Council to secure good quality affordable services.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

14. The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) That the Committee notes the contents of this report

**Jas Hundal**

**Service Director – Transport, Property & Environment**

### **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments**

This report is for noting only no Constitutional Comments are required

## **Financial Comments (TMR 03.03.15)**

The financial implications are set out in the report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **None**

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All