

Headlines and key items discussed and agreed at ESCC Management Group meeting, 02 May 2019

This is an informative for all schools who buy into the school meals contract with Harrison Catering via the Ealing Schools Catering Consortium. It is intended to provide all consortium members with the headlines and key items discussed and agreed at the ESCC Management Group meeting which took place on 02 May 2019.

- The Consortium's accounts were reviewed and it was confirmed that the consortium was continuing to operate at a forecast deficit as reported at the previous ESCC Committee Meeting held on 24th January 2019.
- The deficit will be met from existing ESCC reserves.
- The Management Group agreed to keep the meal price at the current level of £2.30 for both paid and traditional Free School Meals.
- The Management Group elected to implement a 2% pay rise for all Harrison staff, in accordance with the Local Authority's own staff, to commence from August 2019.
- The Management Group elected to increase the basic school meal price by 5p, meaning new meal prices of £2.35 for pupils and £2.60 for adults.
- Due to reduction in uptake of school meals at one of the member schools and being unable to redeploy labour, it has been necessary to make one position redundant. There is a precedent set in previous years, where limited redundancy payments have been necessary, that the cost was not borne by the school and ESCC picks up the charge. It was agreed unanimously that this principle will be followed in this instance and the cost will be transferred to the ESCC operating account.
- Catering contract re-tender: It is expected that the tender will commence on or around 1st June 2019, which will involve assessing bids in the autumn of 2019 and entering into the new contract ready for a clear summer term of enabling after the 2020 Easter holidays.
- Harrison will be running pop-up events at as many schools as possible, which will be aimed at parents and pupils who are currently in KS1 and are receiving a UIFSM and will move to KS2 in September and will have to pay for lunch. The intention is to promote the benefits of having a school meal to collectively retain as many pupils in this year group as possible having a school meal.
- There is no update presently on Cypad, however is not anticipated that the current system will be affected before September 2019 at the earliest.