

Cabinet

Held on Tuesday 26th July 2022

(In person in The Salford Suite, Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton, Salford)

Present

John Merry CBE	Deputy City Mayor (in the Chair)
Tracy Kelly	Statutory Deputy City Mayor

Lead Members:

Barbara Bentham	Environment, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety
Bill Hinds	Finance and Support Services
Mike McCusker	Planning, Transport and Sustainable Development

Executive Support Members (at the invitation of the City Mayor):

Samantha Bellamy	Social Impact and Inclusion
Philip Cusack	Skills, Work and Business
David Lancaster	Environment, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety
Teresa Pepper	Education and Learning
Jack Youd	Finance, Procurement, Workforce and Industrial Relations

Also in attendance:

Manchester Evening News Reporter

Officers:

Tom Stannard	Chief Executive
John Searle	Strategic Director Place
David Seager	Asst Director, Operational and Community Services
Joanne Hardman	Chief Finance Officer
Iolanda Puzio	City Solicitor
Jacquie Russell	Asst Director, Strategy and Change
Sam Betts	Asst Director, Human Resources
Mike Relph	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Jane Woodall	Senior Communications Officer

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Paul Dennett, City Mayor and Councillors Sharmina August and Jim Cammell.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 14 and 27 June 2022 were both approved as correct records, subject to the latter being amended to (i) include

Councillor Barbara Bentham in the list of lead members in attendance and (ii) show Councillor Samantha Bellamy (*not Councillor Barbara Bellamy as recorded*) as having submitted apologies, rather than being in attendance.

3. Citywide Schools Meal Service Proposed Price Increase

Councillor Barbara Bentham, Lead Member for Environment, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, introduced a report which provided details of the school meals service provided by Citywide and indicating while it had previously performed well financially, challenges caused by the recent pandemic, a reduction in the number of 'paying pupils' and escalating service costs meaning that the service was currently operating in a deficit financial position for the first time. Consequently, it was proposed to increase the daily current school meal price by 10p to £2.20.

David Seager, The Assistant Director, Operational and Community Services, provided an overview of the contents of the report, together with the background to the circumstances and reasoning for the proposed price increase.

Members of Cabinet accepted the reasoning for the proposed price increase and while giving it their support, said it was on the basis that the current high standard and quality of meals provided would remain unchanged and every effort made to ensure the impact on the most vulnerable families in Salford was mitigated. It was also recognised, even after the proposed price increase, the school meals offered by Citywide, remained amongst the cheapest provided by any local authority in the northwest of England.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT Cabinet gives approval to 10p increase being applied to the Citywide school meal price with effect from 1st January 2023 .

(2) THAT given the current financial uncertainty, a further price review being undertaken in 6 months' time.

4. Any other urgent business

There were no items of any other business.