

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 20 September 2023	Decision Taker: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Refugees
Report title:		Kitchen equipment for secondary schools	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Multiple	
From:		Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Refugees approve the allocation of a £187,032 grant fund between six schools for kitchen equipment and installation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On 20 February 2023, The Mayor of London unveiled a £130m scheme to provide all primary school children in the capital with a free school meal for one year from September 2023. Southwark Council already fund universal primary school meal provision through the Free Healthy School Meals grant.
3. Following a presentation at Council Assembly on 22 February 2023, the Leader of the Council announced on 24 February 2023 that Southwark Council intend to use the expected Free Healthy School Meals grant saving to tackle hunger in secondary schools.
4. From September 2023, for one academic year, Southwark Council will provide a school meal to all secondary school pupils from families who are in receipt of Universal Credit and are not currently eligible for benefits related Free School Meals (FSMs).
5. A comprehensive external audit of secondary school catering provision has now been completed. The audit identified the necessary catering equipment each secondary school in Southwark will need to make to successfully participate in the Free Secondary School Meals project. Importantly, the audit found £187,032 of kitchen equipment will be required across six Southwark Schools.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The equipment requirements are set out below

School	Equipment	£ Cost (exc. VAT)
Ark Globe	Pod, Till, Cutlery & Crockery, Electrics, Installation	39,656
Bacon's College	Oven, Fridge, Cutlery & Crockery, Installation	27,000
St Michael's	Till, Oven, Hot Plate, Cutlery & Crockery, Installation	25,313
The Charter North Dulwich	Oven, Brat Pan, Cutlery & Crockery, Installation	24,750
St. Saviour's & Olave's	Pod, Till, Oven, Cutlery & Crockery, Installation	51,750
City of London Academy	Oven, Cutlery & Crockery, Installation	18,563
		187,032

7. By funding the cost of kitchen equipment through a grant to schools, schools will have autonomy over purchasing decisions and will enter into servicing and maintenance contracts directly.

8. Support will be given to schools from a catering consultant, Cohesion Consulting, throughout the autumn and spring term 2023-24. This will include project managing site surveys, equipment provider selection and equipment installation. Suitable and proven equipment suppliers will be recommended to schools during this process.

9. Timetable for approval and implementation

Meeting name / Activity	Date	Action
DMT approval	08.08.2023	Business case for discussion and DMT approval
CAB discussion	16.08.2023	Business case for discussion
Strategic Director, Children & Adult Services	25.08.2023	Final report for clearance & submit to Cabinet Member
Cllr Ali LMB – for decision	29.08.2023	Final report clearance by Cabinet Member
Departmental Coordinator	20.09.2023	RoD sent to Constitutional Team
Constitutional Team	22.09.2023	Publish Report
Constitutional Team	22.09.2023	Notification of 3 days notice
Constitutional Team	09.10.2023	Call – in period ends
Constitutional Team	10.10.2023	Notification of decision
Finance	11.10.2023	Grant awarded to schools for purchase of kitchen equipment

Policy framework implications

10. The Leader of the Council announced on 24 February 2023 that Southwark Council intend to use the expected Free Healthy School Meals grant saving to tackle hunger in secondary schools.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

11. There is no anticipated negative equality impact on pupils who are entitled to benefits related Free School Meals (FSM), or the proposed extension to provide a school meal to all secondary school pupils from families who are in receipt of Universal Credit and are not currently eligible for FSMs. Care will be taken to avoid stigma for pupils who are offered funded meals.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

12. There are no equality impacts arising from this report.

Health impact statement

13. A high-quality lunch contributes to narrowing health inequalities, helps to tackle food insecurity and supports families during the cost of living crisis. School provides an ideal setting to encourage young people to eat well and learn to cook. This not only helps protect their health, but also sets the foundations for improved behaviour and success with their studies.

Climate change implications

14. There are no climate change implications arising from making this grant.

Resource implications

15. Alongside this grant, schools will be given support from a catering consultant to mobilise Free Healthy Secondary School Meals throughout the autumn and spring term, including project managing site surveys, equipment provider selection and equipment installation. This contract with Cohesion Consulting is managed by the Policy Officer for School Food, as part of the School Meals Transformation Programme. No additional council staff resource will be required relating to this grant.

Legal implications

16. A grant-funded arrangement is the most appropriate route, it gives schools the autonomy to make procurement decisions, including the continuation of any existing supplier relationships and responsibility for ongoing equipment servicing cost. Public Health have sought advice from Legal who support taking this approach.

Financial implications

17. The grant to schools will be funded from FHSM budget for FY23/24, from the savings the Free Healthy School Meals grant.

	£ Cost (exc. VAT)
Equipment and Installation	187,032

Consultation

18. School leadership approval will be required to progress recommendations.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive - Governance and Assurance

19. This report seeks approval of the allocation of grant funding between six schools identified in paragraph 6 for the purpose of purchasing kitchen equipment and installation.
20. Section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 places a duty on the council to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area. The steps that may be taken include providing grants or loans (on such terms as the local authority considers appropriate).
21. The provision of the grant set out in the report assists the council in carrying out this duty.
22. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, in making this decision, the Cabinet Member must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty which requires there to be due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
23. Comments about the intended impact of the grant on those with protected characteristics are set out in the community and health impact statements above. These are all relevant matters that the Cabinet Member should give due regard to in considering this report.
24. The making of this grant is an executive function which is reserved to the Cabinet Member in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and Part 3D of the council's Constitution.

Strategic Director of Finance REF: [17-PHHZ2023-24]

25. The Strategic Director of Finance notes the value of the grant allocation of £187,032 (Exc.VAT) between six schools as per the recommendation set out in this report.

26. There is sufficient budget within the allocated available resources from FHSM budget for the financial year 2023-34 to fund the proposed grant allocation.

Other officers

27. Advice not sought.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director, Children and Adult Services	
Report Author	Gillian Boundy, Head of Programme – Place and Health Improvement	
Version	Final	
Dated	25 August 2023	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Assurance)	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
List other officers here	N/A	N/A
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	20 September 2023	