

Amendment by the Administration

Finance and Resources Committee

14 July 2022

Item 7.1 - Cost of Living Crisis: cost implications of motion approved by Council, 30 June

Replaces the recommendations in the report with the following:

1.1 Members of the Finance and Resources Committee agree to:

- 1.1.1 Note that the estimated cost implications of the approved motion by Cllr Biagi exceeds the amount available by circa £341,000.
- 1.1.2 Note that the uptake of free school meals could be higher than forecast due to the current economic circumstances and to the Ukrainian families arriving in Edinburgh.
- 1.1.3 Use the £1,212,000 set out in the report to Council on 30th June 2022 to:
 - i) clear the school meal related debt of £64,000;
 - ii) create a provision of £128,000 for school meal hardship in the coming school year;
 - iii) make the £100 payments for the 8,832 children whose families currently qualify; and
 - iv) use the remaining £136,800 (subject to audit) for making £100 payments to the families of children who are newly registered as eligible at the start of the August school term.
- 1.1.4 Note - notwithstanding 1.1.3 (above) - that in view of wider pressures and commitments affecting 2022/23 and subsequent years of the budget framework, the

recommendation that further discretionary expenditure should not be incurred.

- 1.1.5 Notes that the Council Leader has called a special meeting of key members of the Edinburgh Partnership to consider the above proposal and for their input to be noted in a report when Council considers the decision of the Finance and Resources Committee in relation to reserve spending.

Moved by **Councillor Mandy Watt**
Seconded by

Amendment by the SNP Group

Finance and Resources Committee

14 July 2022

Item 7.1 - Cost of Living Crisis: cost implications of motion approved by Council, 30 June

Delete 1.1.2 and replace with “approve the payment of the £100 per child on free school meals and write-off of all existing school meal-related debt as set out in the report”.

Moved by

Councillor Marco Biagi

Seconded by

Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

Finance & Resources Committee (Special Meeting) 14th July 2022

Item 7.1 - Cost of Living Crisis: cost implications of motion approved by Council, 30 June

In the first line of 1.1. replace 'are asked' with 'agree'

Insert new 1.1.2 – 'use the available level of funding from the unallocated element of the 2021/22 underspend to

- a. clear all school meal related debt;
- b. to make an additional payment of £100 for every child within a low-income household, identified with reference to the free school meals qualification.
- c. subject to working with the Edinburgh Partnership to develop a strategy which could more comprehensively support a broader range of citizens to fully access recurring welfare payments they are entitled to and appropriate measures that might provide relief from the cost of living crisis, such as food vouchers, as this would benefit more individuals.
- d. Request a report from the Edinburgh Partnership with an outline of appropriate proposals for the full council in August.'

Renumber existing 1.1.2 as 1.1.3.

Insert new 1.1.4 – 'request that the Council Leader writes to both the Scottish and UK Governments to

- e. urge them to increase recurring welfare payments to those in need, who are most directly affected by the cost of living crisis; and also
- f. intensify efforts to increase the uptake of welfare benefits, as many people are missing out on payments to which they are entitled.'

Renumber existing 1.1.3 as 1.1.5.

Moved by: Councillor Neil Ross
Seconded by: Councillor Lewis Younie

Amendment by the Green Group

Finance & Resources Committee

14 July 2022

Item 7.1 Cost of Living

Delete 1.1.2

Insert:

1.1.2 Recognises that school meal debt creates significant stress on families and young people and believes as a point of principle that no person should be in debt because their child needs to eat during the school day.

1.1.3 Notes that, if approved, the proposed £0.961m spend for the ERP project leaves £0.251m still unallocated from the current unallocated funds of £1.212m

1.1.4 Notes that the projected cost of cancelling school meal-related debt is £0.064m.

1.1.5 Therefore agrees to immediately cancel all school meal-related debt still outstanding.

And renumber accordingly.

Moved by: Councillor Mumford

Seconded by: Councillor Staniforth