

CABINET – 6 FEBRUARY 2012

ADDENDA

Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee 2nd February 2012

Property and Facilities External Services Contract – Food with Thought / Quest Cleaning Services

The Committee considered the above report to Cabinet on 6th February by the Director for Environment and Economy specifically in relation to the Food with Thought service and future provision of school meals.

The Committee asks the Cabinet to consider the following comments and recommendations:

- Section 35 of the Education Act 2011 gives new responsibilities to school governing bodies in relation to charges for school meals. The plans for future services should take account of the Act's provisions and implications.
- The current average take-up of Food with Thought services across Oxfordshire schools is 33% and needs to be increased. Any new service provider should be committed to growth and confident of increasing the average take-up.
- The Committee heard that the externalisation of the Food with Thought service would reduce the Council's exposure to risk as schools become autonomous Academies and potentially choose different service providers. The Cabinet should therefore:
 - (1) be satisfied that these risks would be neutralised by including Food with Thought in the Property and Facilities external services contract and the service level information given by possible providers.
 - (2) consider the impact that schools' conversion to academies (with the expectation that all secondary schools are academies by 2015) may have on the contract.

Councillor Nick Carter
Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Chairman
02.02.12