

**SODEXHO SCHOOL CATERING SCRUTINY TASK GROUP
RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) That the promotion of healthier menus be strongly recommended, whilst recognising the autonomy of schools. That, following completion of the inspection of all kitchen facilities and a thorough consultation with Sodexho, school staff, parents and pupils, consideration be given to financing the necessary additional costs, such as equipment and facilities, catering skills and time, either with forthcoming government and/or new council funding. This should be done alongside reducing the availability of unhealthy options.
- 2) That the Council determine an additional source of funding of £5,774 to be allocated to smooth out losses made by schools under the consortium fee with reducing pupil numbers on roll.
- 3) That the findings from the review of commercial rebates between the council and Sodexho ensure those supplier kitchens are properly compensated.
- 4) That further work be done by the Task Group on the proposal to provide a financial incentive to encourage schools and Sodexho to increase take up, as well as ways in which Sodexho can reinvest in the school meals service.
- 5) That consideration be given to raising the free school meal allowance in line with paid meal prices and that encouragement be given to children entitled to take them up. That the Government be lobbied to provide funding for cashless systems to remove stigma surrounding free school meals.
- 6) That there is detailed communication with all schools and Sodexho on the issues arising from this report, to ensure responsibilities are made clear and expectations are accurate.
- 7) That Sodexho be encouraged to create more innovative approaches that encourage pupils to choose healthier options, taking into account the suggestions made.
- 8) That more regular and thorough monitoring and inspection regimes be carried out to ensure a more consistent quality in schools
- 9) That the work currently taking place through the Healthier Wiltshire and Healthy Schools Projects be linked and related to the new Ofsted requirements.
- 10) That the current policy on beef be revisited, with consideration given to its re-introduction in schools within the current contract.
- 11) That sufficient time be allowed for future negotiations and consultation with school staff, parents and pupils and potential contractors during the new tendering stage.

- 12) That in future, the council move towards a contract with more locally sourced and organic food, where possible, and away from reconstituted products, and that nutritional standards be enhanced in line with forthcoming Government guidelines and the Caroline Walker Trust guidelines.
- 13) That the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee reconstitute the task group (albeit with new members) to take the findings of this review forward.
- 14) That the subject be considered again in a year, following the Sherston pilot and potential new Government guidelines in September 2006.