

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 BACKGROUND

3.1.1 Food in schools across Scotland sits within a wide range of food and drink regulations, but most notably within the Health Promotion and Nutrition (Scotland) Act 2007 and its associated guidance, the Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2008.

3.1.2 Since these regulations were published, the scientific and dietary advice on which they were based has changed, which led to the Scottish Government updating the Scottish Dietary Goals in 2016. This, in turn, led to the establishment of a Technical Working Group in 2017, which had the remit of bringing the school food and drink regulations into closer alignment with the revised Scottish Dietary Goals.

3.1.3 The Technical Working Group designed a range of proposals, which they developed into four key themes for public consultation. These were:

- a. Increase access to fruit and vegetables
- b. Reduce access to sugar
- c. Set a maximum level for provision of red and red processed meat
- d. Amend the way in which secondary school food and drink is provided

The consultation did not include asking for views on how food and drink is provided in schools (for example, on dining facilities, or allocation of time for lunch), nor on food education.

3.1.4 Guidance for schools is in development, but has been delayed as a result of the pandemic. It is expected to be available to all Local Authorities some time during Autumn 2020.

3.1.5 A paper outlining the wide ranging impact of these changes was presented to the Community Services Committee in December 2019. This paper also outlined a number of mitigation measures being explored by both the Catering Service and the Education Service.

3.1.6 Arising from this, the Committee asked officers to bring forward another paper to update on progress with mitigation, and to outline options around Secondary pupils leaving school grounds and on whether sugar free, caffeine free branded soft drinks should be introduced.

3.2 PROGRESS MADE WITH MITIGATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE CHANGES

3.2.1 Immediately following the Community Services Committee, a clear work plan was drafted to ensure that all mitigation measures were addressed. This was developed in collaboration between Education and Commercial Services, to ensure consistency of messaging and common understanding of how this would impact both services, as there are clear implications for both teams.

3.2.2

	years about these products t being suitable or pupils to consume	as harmful to health.	to health.
Impact on reputation	The Council may be criticised for curtailing pupil choice.	The Council may be criticised for introducing products that are not nutrient dense. These products do contain artificial sweeteners.	This would not be seen as a either reducing choice, or of introducing a wide range of flavoured and coloured products.
Other Impacts	May reduce the amount of single use plastic waste in schools.	Could lead to an increase in single use plastics waste. Not all pupils may be able to afford these products, and therefore pupils in receipt of free school meals may choose to spend a significant proportion of their entitlement on these products, leaving littl	

