



REPORT TO: EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON 11 AUGUST 2021

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT: SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANT NATIONAL MINIMUM PAYMENT AND INDEXING FROM ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee that the Scottish Government are increasing their school Clothing Grant contribution and introducing a national minimum school Clothing Grant level.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Education, Communities and Organisational Development Committee following a decision of Moray Council on 17 June 2020 to agree a simplified committee structure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the case of this committee the combining of the delegated responsibilities of Children and Young People Services, Governance, Strategy and Performance, (para 9 of the minute refers)

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Families receiving free school meals on the basis of low income are eligible for a discretionary grant towards the cost of school clothing and footwear. The school Clothing Grant payment is currently £100 per school-aged child per financial year, made up of a £50 Moray Council contribution and a £50 Scottish Government contribution.
- 2.2 Scottish Government has advised that with effect from the start of the 2021/2022 academic year in August 2021, the national minimum school Clothing Grant level will be £120 per eligible primary school pupil and £150 per eligible secondary school pupil.
- 2.3 To enable the national minimum payment, the Scottish Government financial contribution will increase by £20 per eligible primary school pupil and by £50 per eligible secondary school pupil. Funding will be provided through redetermination of the General Revenue Grant to local authorities in March 2022.

- 2.4 The Scottish Government contribution will be baselined and will rise each year to allow the school Clothing Grant level to rise in line with inflation.
- 2.5 Local authorities will retain the flexibility to decide by how much they wish to increase school Clothing Grant amounts, from their existing level, on the condition that the minimum grant amount is at least met.
- 2.6 School Clothing Grant payments begin from May so that the parent/carer can purchase items in advance of the new school term in August. School Clothing Grants that have already been paid at £100 per child between May and August 2021 will require a 'top-up' payment to ensure that the minimum grant amount is met for 2021/2022. Thereafter payments will be made at the national minimum level.

3. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The contents of this report relate to Moray 2026 Priority 2 – 'Ambitious and Confident Children and Young People'

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no policy or legal implications.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications as the additional funding required to meet the school Clothing Grant national minimum payment will be provided through redetermination of the Scottish Government General Revenue Grant to local authorities in March 2022.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no known risk implications.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications other than minimal resourcing on a 'one-off' basis to enable 'top-up' payments for any families who have already received the £100 school Clothing Grant payment between April and August 2021.

(f) Property

There are no property implications.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

The Equal Opportunities Officer has confirmed that there are no equalities implications.

(h) Consultations

Senior Officers in Education, Communities and Organisational Development; Paul Connor, Principal Accountant; and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report as regards their respective responsibilities.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report.

Author of Report: Fiona Michie, Business Support Administration Manager
Background Papers: Scottish Government letter dated 25 June 2021
Ref: Free school meals and clothing grants

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