



## **Paper for Information**

### **School Meals: School Meal Revision Panel Recommendations**

- 1) The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) have published a consultation on the recommendations of the School Meal Revision Panel. The consultation will close on 30 December 2005. A copy of the School Meal Revision Panel Report is enclosed.
- 2) The Agency have had observer status on the School Meal Revision Panel and have also contributed input from our evidence base to inform the panel's deliberations.
- 3) Key points from the report
  - food provided at school lunchtime should meet nutrient standards for 14 nutrients and 9 food based standards over a period of 5 consecutive school days;
  - the food based standards aim to encourage access to healthier foods (bread, fruit, vegetables) and remove availability of less healthy foods (confectionery, high sugar fizzy drinks and pre-packed savoury snacks);
  - nutrient standards implemented using a phased approach – primary schools by 2008 and secondary schools by 2009;
  - food based standards implemented into all schools by September 2006;
  - intention is to monitor school food provision every 4 years and review the standards in 2011;
  - recommends that Government introduce statutory standards for other food and drink provision – break times, vending, breakfast and after school clubs;
  - suggests that school food policy includes impact of packed lunches and food brought into school;
  - encourages schools to adopt the Agency's voluntary target nutrient specifications for processed food;
  - recommends continued development of necessary skills for school caterers and school support staff;
  - emphasises the need to teach children practical cooking skills within the curriculum;
  - makes a number of recommendations regarding financial investment, particularly on how schools and local education authorities should improve accountability and transparency on school meal expenditure.

- 4) There are two recommendations in the School Meal Revision Panel Report that mention the Agency. These relate to the ongoing (UK-wide) consultation on Target Nutrient Specifications for Manufactured Food used in School Meals and availability of compositional information.