

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a key decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

Report of the Executive Director People
To Cabinet on
9th March 2016

SCHOOL TERM TIMES AND HOLIDAY DATES FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS 2017-2018

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the proposed term times and holiday dates for the 2017-2018 school year to maintain the three year rolling programme of dates.

2 Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 the proposed term times and holiday dates for 2017-2018 be approved.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 The setting of the three year rolling programme of term times was introduced to enable schools to plan strategically over a longer period.
- 3.2 It was agreed that in each successive year the pattern will be extended by a further year to maintain the rolling three year programme
- 3.3 The Government's Draft Deregulation Bill was proposing that all Governing Bodies would be given the power to set their own term and holiday dates. Currently the holiday dates for community and voluntary controlled schools are determined by the Local Authority.
- 3.4 The DfE confirmed, (18th September 2015), that the above provision will NOT now be commenced. Community and voluntary controlled schools will not, therefore, have this power and term and holiday dates will continue to be determined by the Local Authority.
- 3.5 Term dates are determined by a set of agreed principles adopted by 26 Local Authorities in the North East of England. (Annexe 2).
- 3.6 Discussions have also taken place between the four South Yorkshire Local Authorities, as they do on an annual basis, in order to co-ordinate holiday dates as far as possible.
- 3.7 There are three options for consideration (please see Annex 1(a-c)):
 - Option 1 is the 'traditional' pattern
 - Option 2 is an alternative pattern having two weeks in October and a 5 week summer break

- Option 3 is an alternative pattern having 2 weeks in October, 2 weeks at Spring Bank and a four week summer break.

3.8 The alternatives were discussed in meetings with neighbouring authorities to give Local Authorities different options with more equal splits across the year and a shorter summer break.

4 Proposals and Justification

4.1 All options meet the majority of guiding principles, and an exact summary is provided at Annex 1.

5 Consultation

5.1 Consultation has been undertaken, (10th December 2015), with the Professional Associations and Trade Unions on the Consultative Committee for People

5.2 The favoured option of the CCP was Option 2.

5.3 Headteachers of primary and secondary schools were also informed of the proposals at meetings held in January/February 2016.

5.4 Primary headteachers did not voice any strong concerns with the favoured option. Two weeks at Spring Bank was discussed but this would not fit in with secondary school exam timetables etc.

5.5 Secondary headteachers raised the issue of Option 2 having two weeks in October which would mean a loss of one weeks teaching time prior to exams.

6 Risk Management

6.1 The statutory duty for determining term times and holiday dates for community and voluntary controlled schools remains that of the Local Authority and therefore in agreeing this proposal that duty has been met.

6.2 There are often minor variances at voluntary aided schools and academies since it is the responsibility of their respective governing bodies to determine their individual dates.

7 Financial and Employee Implications

7.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

8 List of Appendices

Proposed term times 2017-2018 Option 1

Proposed term times 2017-2018 Option 2

Proposed term times 2017-2018 Option 3

Annex 1 – Guiding Principles Options Summary

Annex 2 – Guiding Principles

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