

## 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 for  
People Directorate to Cabinet  
(20<sup>th</sup> February 2019)

### SCHOOL TERM TIMES AND HOLIDAY DATES FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS 2020-2021

#### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the term times and holiday dates pattern for the 2020-2021 school year to maintain the three year rolling programme of dates.

#### **2 Recommendations**

**It is recommended that:**

- 2.1 **Option 1 of the proposed term times and holiday dates for 2020-2021 be approved for adoption.**

#### **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 Term dates are determined by a set of agreed principles adopted by 26 Local Authorities in the North East of England (please see Appendix 3).
- 3.4 For 2018-19, consideration was given to a proposed change from the traditional model and Barnsley Council undertook discretionary consultation with a wider group of stakeholders than was required statutorily.
- 3.5 Following analysis of the responses, Cabinet determined that the 'traditional' pattern of a long summer break would remain and that full consultation would not be required for the following years unless there was a significant demand for change, to acknowledge that the overall response previously was to remain with the traditional pattern.

#### **4.0 Proposals and Justification**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the continuation of the current 'traditional' pattern of school term and holiday dates be adopted for the academic year 2020-2021

## **5.0 Consultation**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The relevant Trade Unions have been consulted and responses have been received from NUT, NAHT and NASUWT. Feedback was received regarding the original Option 1 circulated. As a result, Option 2 was drafted and further comments requested. Following consideration of both options, all three union representatives preferred Option 1 on balance. (See Appendix 4)

## **6.0 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 although informal consultation in order to maintain an open and transparent process has been undertaken as above.
- 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.

## **7.0 Financial and Employee Implications**

- 7.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

## **8.0 List of Appendices**

- 8.1 Annex: Guiding Principles  
Appendix 1: Term and Holiday Dates – Option 1  
Appendix 2: Term and Holiday Dates – Option 2  
Appendix 3: Guiding Principles For Community And Voluntary Controlled Schools Compliance Summary  
Appendix 4: Option Comparisons and Feedback from Unions Summary

## **9.0 Background Papers**

- 9.1 If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please e-mail [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk) so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

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## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1 The school year will consist of 195 school days. Pupils must attend on 190 of those days.
  - 2 The starting point for consideration of each year's holiday pattern will be the pattern recommended by the LGA for that school year modified as per these principles.
  - 3 Wherever possible, in any academic year, terms should be of equal length and split weeks avoided or kept to a minimum. Where there are an odd number of weeks the second half term should be shorter of the two.
  - 4 **Start of the School Year**  
The school year will normally start on the first day of September\*
  - 5 **Autumn Half Term**  
The autumn half term break will be five days which are the last period Monday to Friday in October. According to the year, October half term can start as early as Monday, 21 October and as late as Monday, 27 October.
  - 6 **Christmas Break**  
The Christmas break will include at least 10 school days, and will normally start at the end of the school day on the Friday which is on, or otherwise immediately prior to, 22 December. It will include the New Year's Day holiday which is outside that period, and the day after New Year's Day, where this is a weekday.
  - 7 **February Half Term**  
The February half term holiday will be five days Monday to Friday, which divides the term as far as possible into two equal parts. Where there are an odd number of weeks the second half will be the shorter of the two.
  - 8 **Easter Break**  
The Spring Term will normally end at the close of the afternoon session on the Friday before Good Friday. The holiday will be 10 schools days.  
  
Where the LGA recommended patterns would result in a break between the Easter bank holidays and the school Easter holidays, consideration will be given to modifying Easter to incorporate the bank holidays in the school holiday. The Easter bank holidays could be at the start (with the Spring Term ending at the close of the afternoon session on the Thursday before Good Friday), middle, or end of the school Easter break, but never outside the break itself.
  - 9 **Spring Bank Half Term**  
The Spring Bank half term will be five days Monday to Friday from the statutory holiday which falls as the last Monday in May.
  - 10 **End of School Year**  
Taking into account the above pattern, term will end on the date which achieves 195 school days of which five days shall be declared training days. The term will normally end on the third Friday in July  
  
The summer break will not be less than five weeks and preferably not less than six weeks.
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