

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

Report of the Executive Director
(People) to Cabinet

SCHOOL TERM TIMES AND HOLIDAY DATES FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS 2021-2022

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the term times and holiday dates pattern for the 2021-2022 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 as this option meets more of the guiding principles than Option 2.**

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 (see Appendix 1).
- 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 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 2021-2022.

5 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 A number of authorities are now adopting a fixed Easter pattern and dependent on the pattern which Rotherham ultimately adopt, Barnsley could be out of sync with most of its neighbouring authorities in the future (See Appendix 2). Cabinet may wish to give this consideration in the future.
- 5.2 The relevant Trade Unions have been consulted and responses have been received from NEU and NASUWT. Feedback was received with no objections to the drafts circulated.

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 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 Financial and Employee Implications

- 7.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

8 List of Appendices

Option 1 Term and Holiday Dates
Option 2 Term and Holiday Dates
Appendix 1 Guiding Principles Compliance Summary
Appendix 2 Comparison with Neighbouring Local Authorities

9 Background Papers

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

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Financial implications/Consultation



Joshua Amahwe (12/02/2020)

(To be signed by senior Financial Services Officer where no financial implications)