

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 23 SEPTEMBER 2014

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2017/18 AND 2018/19

REPORT BY STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PEOPLE

ABSTRACT

This report seeks the approval of the Children and Learning Committee for a consultation exercise on proposals for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 school terms and holiday dates.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Authorise a consultation exercise on the draft schedule of school Terms and Holiday dates for session 2017/18 and 2018/19, provided in Appendix A and B.
- (ii) Note that the outcomes of this exercise, if authorised will be the subject of a future report to the Committee.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** It is a duty of the Council to set a schedule of School Terms and Holiday dates. These dates must be set following consultation, and, must comprise a total pupil school year of 190 days, unless exceptional circumstances apply. In addition, the Council must set aside 5 days within school year for the purposes of In-Service Training for staff.

4. OVERALL PATTERN OF SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS DATES

- 4.1** Reference is made to the meeting of the Education Committee of 24 April 2009 (Article 9 refers) when the proposal that, in future, the October school holiday should commence on the first Monday of October each year was approved.
- 4.2** The schedule provided in Appendix A and B represents a pattern which is consistent with that adopted in previous years.
- 4.3** The dates proposed for the Spring holidays in 2017 and 2018 are consistent with the pattern which has been adopted for some time, which includes Easter Monday in any given year.

5 CONSULTATION WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS

- 5.1** Over the last few years, exchanges of correspondence about school terms and holidays have taken place with neighbouring Councils. Each Council undertakes similar consultation exercises. The clear outcome of recent exercises is that it is proving very difficult to agree a common pattern for each and every school holiday period, in particular, the October holiday.

However, the timings of the Summer holiday and the Christmas/New Year holiday are very similar to those of our neighbouring authorities. We have also reached an informal agreement that the Spring holiday should always start on the first Monday in April.

- 5.2 While there appears to be little prospect of a uniform pattern of school holidays/terms, neighbouring Councils should be given the opportunity to comment on the attached tables in accordance with standard consultation procedures.
- 5.3 In 2010 the Education Committee agreed to the setting of schools holiday dates several years in advance. Such an approach would allow parents and staff to plan with greater degree of certainty. Publication of school holidays dates 3-4 years in advance helps reduce related anxieties sometimes expressed by individual parents and parent groups. Aberdeenshire and Perth & Kinross Councils have also begun to set schools terms and holidays two or more years in advance.

6 ISSUES ON WHICH CONSULTATION SHOULD FOCUS

- 6.1 The principal constraint under which the proposed schedule must operate is the need to fix precisely 190 pupil days in the course of the school year.
- 6.2 The October holiday dates and the Spring holiday dates are effectively fixed, as described in paragraphs 3.2 and 5.1. However, given recent decisions taken by neighbouring Council areas, there may be merit in reviewing the timing of the October holiday dates for session 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- 6.3 The principal issues on which comment is now being sought are:
- The precise dates of the Christmas Holidays
 - The dates for the long weekends in February and timing of Spring holiday
 - The wish or otherwise to continue to adopt the first two weeks in October as the October school holiday fortnight
 - The dates for 'one day' holidays, namely:
 - St Andrew's Day
 - May Holiday
 - The dates of In-service school closure days
 - The extent of parental interest in future changes to the pattern of the four term school year
 - Specific feedback in relation to the length of the P1 half-day induction period.
- 6.4 It is proposed that the Committee should authorise a consultation exercise inviting comments on the specific issues listed in paragraph 6.3 above from Parent Councils, from all Trade Unions recognised by the Council and from any individual member of staff who wishes to comment. It is further proposed that the draft scheme should be shared for information and comment with neighbouring Councils.

7 RISK

- 7.1 This report does not require any specific risk issues to be addressed.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from the terms of this report.

9 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

9.2 There are no Human Rights implications arising from the consideration of this report.

10 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The issues contained in this report fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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Appendix One – School Terms and Holidays 2017/2018
Appendix Two – School Terms and Holidays 2018/2019

Angus Council

School Terms and Holidays 2017/2018				Pupil School Days
AUTUMN TERM	START	Tuesday	15 August 2017 (In-service Closure Day 1 – all schools)	33
		Wednesday	16 August 2017 (Full time commencement of P1 pupils TBC)	
	END	Friday	29 September 2017	
AUTUMN HOLIDAY		Saturday	30 September 2017 to	
		Sunday	15 October 2017	
WINTER TERM	START	Monday	16 October 2017	47
		Wednesday	29 November 2017 (In-Service Closure Day 2 – all schools)	
		Thursday	30 November 2017 (St Andrew's Day Holiday)	
		Friday	01 December 2017 (In-Service Closure Day 3 – all schools)	
	END	Friday	22 December 2017	
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY		Saturday	23 December 2017 to	
		Sunday	07 January 2018	
SPRING TERM	START	Monday	8 January 2018	57
		Thursday	15 February 2018 (In-Service Closure Day 4 – all schools)	
		Friday	16 February 2018 (Mid-Term Holidays)	
		Monday	19 February 2018 (Mid-Term Holidays)	
	END	Friday	30 March 2018	
SPRING HOLIDAY		Saturday	31 March 2018 to	
		Sunday	15 April 2018	
		(includes Easter Monday – 02 April 2018)		
SUMMER TERM	START	Monday	16 April 2018	53
		Monday	7 May 2018 (May Holiday – all schools)	
		Monday	28 May 2018 (In-Service Closure Day 5 – all schools)	
	END	FRIDAY	29 June 2018	
		TOTAL		190
SUMMER HOLIDAY		Saturday	30 June to	
		Sunday	12 August 2018	

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School Terms and Holidays 2018/2019				Pupil School Days
AUTUMN TERM	START	Monday	13 August 2018 (In-service Closure Day 1 – all schools)	34
		Tuesday	14 August 2018 (Full time commencement of P1 pupils TBC)	
	END	Friday	28 September 2018	
AUTUMN HOLIDAY		Saturday	29 September 2018 to	
		Sunday	14 October 2018	
WINTER TERM	START	Monday	15 October 2018	47
		Wednesday	28 November 2018 (In-Service Closure Day 2 – all schools)	
		Thursday	29 November 2018 (In-Service Closure Day 3 – all schools)	
		Friday	30 November 2018 (St Andrew's Day Holiday)	
	END	Friday	21 December 2018	
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY		Saturday	22 December 2018 to	
		Sunday	06 January 2019	
SPRING TERM	START	Monday	7 January 2019	62
		Thursday	21 February 2019 (In-Service Closure Day 4 – all schools)	
		Friday	22 February 2019 (Mid-Term Holiday)	
		Monday	25 February 2019 (Mid-Term Holiday)	
	END	Friday	05 April 2019	
SPRING HOLIDAY		Saturday	06 April 2019 to	
		Monday	22 April 2019	
		(includes Easter Monday – 22 April 2019)		
SUMMER TERM	START	Tuesday	23 April 2019	47
		Monday	6 May 2019 (May Holiday – all schools)	
		Monday	27 May 2019 (In-Service Closure Day 5 – all schools)	
	END	Friday	28 June 2019	
			TOTAL	190
SUMMER HOLIDAY		Saturday	29 June to	
		Sunday	11 August 2019	

