

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 18 MAY 2021**

**SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2022-25 – CONSULTATION OUTCOME**

**REPORT BY KELLY MCINTOSH, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING**

**ABSTRACT**

This report gives an overview of the outcomes of the consultation exercise with parents and carers, school staff and unions and seeks full approval of the school holiday dates for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

**1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Approve in full the school terms and holiday dates for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN**

- Local Outcome 4 – the best start in life for children

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Reference is made to Item 22 of the minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of [17 November 2020](#), which notes that the Committee agreed to a consultation being carried out on the proposed school terms and holiday dates for sessions 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. The proposed dates are enclosed as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.2 The proposed dates refer to all Angus primary and secondary schools, and Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings offering a term-time delivery model. A separate calendar of dates will be developed for ELC settings offering Delivery Model 3 (DM3). The DM3 calendar is not subject to consultation and will be published on the Angus Council website.
- 3.3 The consultation exercise took place in March 2021, running for one calendar month. Head teachers, staff consultative groups, trade unions and Parent Council representatives were asked if they agreed with the proposed dates.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 A total of 59 responses were received to the consultation. The respondents came from the following groups:
  - Head teachers (32%)
  - Staff consultative groups (32%)
  - Parent Council Chairs (27%)
  - Trade Union representatives (9%)
- 4.2 80% of respondents agreed with the proposed school terms and holiday dates.
- 4.3 20% of respondents did not agree with the proposed terms and holiday dates. Comments were invited where this was the case. The comments and the service response are summarised below.

*Length of the October Holiday*

Respondents suggested that the two-week October break is not necessary and could be reduced to one week.

In response, we note that 80% of respondents agreed with the proposed dates and as such no change is required.

### *Timing of the November in-service days*

Respondents queried the timing of the November in-service days and holidays, noting that the days are sometimes not near St Andrew's Day.

In response we note that the St Andrew's Day holiday is a fixed Angus Council holiday and falls on the first Friday after 30 November ([Report 174/16](#) refers). Due to this requirement, the in-service days are set alongside this fixed day, to avoid two separate breaks.

### *Timing of the Christmas Holiday 2023*

Respondents noted that the Winter Term in 2023 finishes very late. It is suggested it would be better to the break to run mid-week to mid-week.

In response, we note that it is not unusual for term to conclude on 23 December. This last occurred in 2020. In addition, it is considered preferable to have the Christmas holidays running for complete weeks as this gives three complete weekends as part of the break. A midweek start would mean only two weekends during the holiday period.

### *Length of the Spring Term 2025*

Some respondents noted that the 62-day term in 2025 is too long for children.

In response, we note that this is a long term but is considered reasonable when the mid-term February break is factored in. As 80% of respondents agreed with the proposed dates no change is required.

### *Timing of the Spring Holiday*

A respondent queried whether changes should be made to the structure of the Spring Term, reducing the length of the April holiday and increasing the February mid-term break.

In response, we note that this is not under consideration at the current time. As 80% of respondents agreed with the proposed dates no change is required.

### *Length of Summer Holiday*

Some respondents expressed a preference for a return to an older model whereby there is a seven week break for summer every five years.

In response, we note that there is no statutory requirement for a seven-week holiday to take place. All school terms and holiday dates are set against the key principle of 190 teaching days for children and young people. In addition, Angus Council has other constraints including the timing of the Spring, November and Christmas breaks. These constraints leave limited flexibility for setting a seven-week summer break. As 80% of respondents agreed with the proposed dates no change is required.

### *Alignment to Dundee City Council Holidays*

A respondent expressed a preference to have holidays aligned with Dundee City Council.

In response, we note that where possible dates are aligned. The main area of variation is the October break. Angus Council has previously consulted on moving this break to the second and third week of October but the proposal was not approved ([Report 433/15](#) refers).

## **5. PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 It is proposed that Children and Learning Committee approve the school terms and holiday dates for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 in full.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## 7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- [Report 433/15](#)
- [Report 174/16](#)
- [Report 281/20](#)

**REPORT AUTHOR: Beth Reader, Manager – Support Services**

**EMAIL DETAILS: [childrenandlearning@angus.gov.uk](mailto:childrenandlearning@angus.gov.uk)**

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – School Terms and Holidays 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25