

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022 – EXEMPTION REQUEST

KELLY MCINTOSH, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval for the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to seek an exemption to the requirement to provide 190 days of schooling in session 2021-22. This exemption is being requested to enable celebration of the upcoming Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Approves the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning's request to seek an exemption from Scottish Government from the requirement to provide 190 days of schooling in session 2021-22.
- (ii) Approves the request for the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to have ongoing delegated authority to make similar requests in future, should they be required for any reason.

2. ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLANS

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the **Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan** and **Locality Plans**:

- The best start in life for children
- Improved physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance with [The Schools General \(Scotland\) Amendments Regulations 1987](#), local authorities in Scotland must ensure schools under their management are open for at least 190 school days in each school year.
- 3.2 Provisions exist to allow local authorities to apply to the Scottish Government for an exemption to this requirement.
- 3.3 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. The First Minister of Scotland has confirmed the introduction of an additional Bank Holiday to mark the occasion.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Director of HR, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support has prepared a proposal to amend the arrangements for public holidays in 2022 for Angus Council employees. The proposal has received initial sign-off from the Council Leadership Team and is now with Trade Union representatives for consideration. The final proposals will be brought to Policy & Resources Committee for approval by Members.
- 4.2 The proposed amendments include the granting of an additional day of leave to all employees, to be taken on 03 June 2022. If the proposals are agreed, this will result in the number of days of schooling being reduced to 189 in session 2021/22. Angus Council is required to seek an exemption from Scottish Government for this reduction. Confirmation has been received from Scottish Government that any requests of this nature will be granted.

4.3 At this time the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning does not have delegated authority to request this exemption. Approval is requested from Children and Learning Committee for an exemption request to be made in relation to 03 June 2022, and for an ongoing delegation should other exemptions be required in future.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that the Children and Learning Committee approve the request for the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to seek an exemption from Scottish Government from the requirement to provide 190 days of schooling in session 2021-22.

5.2 It is proposed that the Children and Learning Committee approve the request for the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to have ongoing delegated authority to make similar requests in future, should they be required for any reason.

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.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 The Director of HR, Digital Enablement and Business Support and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

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:

- [The Schools General \(Scotland\) Amendments Regulations 1987](#)

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