

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2023

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025-26, 2026-27 AND 2027-28

REPORT BY KELLY MCINTOSH, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

ABSTRACT

This report seeks the approval of the Children and Learning Committee for a consultation exercise on proposals for the 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 school terms and holiday dates.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Authorises a consultation exercise on the draft schedule of school terms and holidays dates for session 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28, provided in Appendix 1; and
- (ii) Notes that the outcome of the consultation exercise, if authorised, will revert to Children and Learning Committee for further consideration in April 2024.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the Angus Community Plan 2022-30:

- The best start in life for children.

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 (except where prevented by circumstances out with the control of the education authority). In addition, the Council must set aside 5 days within the school year for the purposes of in-service training for staff.

3.2 Reference is made to the meeting of the Education Committee of 24 April 2009 (Article 9 refers, a copy can be requested via this [form](#) on the Angus Council website and the approved proposal that, in future, the October school holiday should commence on the first Monday of October each year. Reference is also made to the meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 10 November 2015 (Article 7 refers, as above a copy can be requested using the form) which confirms the result of a consultation on the proposal to amend the October school holiday to the second and third week of October. The recommendation following this consultation was that the October school holiday should not be amended, and that it should continue to start on the first Monday in October.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The schedule provided in Appendix 1 represents a pattern which is consistent with that adopted in recent years.

4.2 The dates proposed for the Spring holidays in 2026, 2027 and 2028 include Easter Monday. This is consistent with recent years.

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 The timings of the summer holiday and the Christmas/New Year holiday are usually 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.
- 4.5 Neighbouring Councils will be given the opportunity to comment on the attached tables in accordance with standard consultation procedures.
- 4.6 In 2010 the Education Committee agreed to the setting of school holiday dates several years in advance. Such an approach allows publication of school holiday dates in advance, allowing parents and staff to plan with a greater degree of certainty. Aberdeenshire, Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Councils also set their school terms and holiday dates two or more years in advance.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The principal constraint under which the proposed schedule must operate is the need to ensure precisely 190 pupil days in the course of the school year.

The principal issues on which comment is now being sought are:

- The dates of the Christmas, Spring and Summer Holidays
- The dates for the mid-term holiday in February
- The dates of in-service school closure days
- The dates for the St Andrew's Day and May Holiday

- 5.2 It is proposed to undertake a consultation exercise on the draft schedule of school terms and holidays dates for session 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28, provided in Appendix 1. Parents / carers, school staff and trade union representatives will be invited to express their views on the proposed dates. The proposed consultation will take place in January and February 2024.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the outcome of the consultation exercise, if approved, will revert to Children and Learning Committee in April 2024.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Director of HR, Digital Enablement and Business Support has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared and accompanies this report.

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.

REPORT AUTHOR: Stuart Gray – Team Leader, School Operations

EMAIL DETAILS: childrenandlearning@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – School Terms and Holidays 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28