

## **School Term Dates and Holidays 2011/2012**

### **Summary**

- 1 This report:
  - Requests that term dates and holidays for the school year, 2011/2012 be formally approved.
  - reports on action taken by the LA to align the dates with those of neighbouring authorities

### **Background**

- 2 The responsibility for setting the school term and holidays dates rests with the local authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools. Voluntary Aided schools have the discretion to set their own term dates, but do not usually depart significantly from the pattern established for other schools in the authority.
- 3 It is a statutory requirement that schools are open for 190 days in the year. Teachers are required to work for a further 5 professional development days. Under current arrangements, the term dates and holidays decided by the LA allow for the full 195 days. Individual schools are free to decide on the timing of the 5 Professional Development Days which are usually added to the beginning and end of terms. For the 2011/12 school year, however, there will be an extra bank holiday for the Queen's Jubilee which falls on 5 June 2012, meaning that schools will be open for 189 days.
- 4 Work continues to ensure greater consistency over term dates and the Regional Group of Local Authorities has been in liaison with the LGA in the hope that national term dates would be introduced from 2011. This has not been possible and therefore the Regional Group agreed that authorities should go ahead in agreeing their own term dates for 2011-12, and recommended that consultation on term dates for 2012 onwards take place with schools in the autumn term 2010, in lieu of any movement towards national agreement.
- 5 On 10 June 2008 the term dates for 2011/12 were provisionally set with a direction that a further report be brought to the panel in 2010 to confirm or amend the 2011/12 term dates. The proposed term dates are as provisionally set with the exception of the half term in the summer term 2012, which has

been moved from 28 May – 4 June to 1 June – 8 June. This is to take account of the extra bank holiday on 5 June and the timing of examinations in May and the resulting expectation from the Department for Education that the half term will fall during the week commencing 4 June.

### **Consultation**

- 6 The Authority is required to consult with the professional associations and has also chosen to discuss the term and holiday dates with all schools.
- 7 During spring term 2008, the LA undertook consultations with schools and the Joint Consultative Group on options for school terms and holidays in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 based on the regional discussions.
- 8 Officers from the regional Local Authorities have continued to meet on a regular basis to as far as possible agree consistent term dates. City of York proposed dates are broadly similar to the proposed dates for North Yorkshire Authority for 2011/12, although these are yet to be formally agreed.

### **Analysis**

- 9 The setting of term dates is a process which generates considerable interest and not always consistent views. The principles established on a regional basis are worthy but not always easy to apply in practice. All recognise the potential benefits and applaud the efforts to seek a more consistent regional picture as well as attempts to plan dates on a more than single year basis. It is still hoped that there will be a move to a national setting of term dates in the future, although this has not been possible for 2011/12.

### **Corporate Priorities**

- 10 It is a statutory duty of the authority to set term and holiday dates. One key aspect of setting dates must be to support the teaching and learning experience and therefore decisions in this paper do relate to the corporate priorities of:
  - improving the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and their families in the city
  - Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects

### **Implications**

- 11 There are no Financial, HR, Equality, Crime and Disorder Property or IT implications of this paper.

### **Legal**

- 12 Under s.21 of the Education (No.2) Act 1986, as amended by s.115 of The Education Reform Act 1988, it is the duty (stated in the school's articles of government) of the LA, in the case of a county or controlled school, or governing body of an aided or special agreement school, to determine the dates when schools terms and holidays are to begin and end.

## Risk Management

- 13 The responsibility to set term and holiday dates does not represent a major risk for the authority.

### Recommendation

The Executive Member is recommended to approve the pattern of school terms and holidays for:

- 2011/12 as proposed in Annex 1

Reason: To provide clarity for parents, schools and pupils on term dates in City of York

### Contact Details

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Report Approved

Date 28 June 2010

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** *List information for all*

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

### Annex

Annex 1 – Proposed term dates for 2011/12