

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

15 JUNE 2006

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Children and Young People-Lead Cabinet Member -Councillor Cunningham

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES – 2007/2008

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is, following consultation, to present a proposed calendar of school term and holiday dates for the 2007/2008 academic year.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the school term and holiday dates, shown at Appendix 1 to this report, be agreed.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To inform all schools and interested parties of the school term and holiday dates for 2007/2008 which, with the exception of North Yorkshire, fall in line with all other Local Authorities in the area.

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgment of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held, whilst the matter is being considered; not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (paragraph 12 of the Code).

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SUMMARY

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the school term and holiday dates for the 2007/2008 academic year be agreed as shown in Appendix 1 to this report.

DETAIL

1. In line with statutory requirements, consideration has been given to compile a set of term and holiday dates for schools in the Borough.
2. In recent years the Local Government Association (LGA) has encouraged local authorities to consider moving towards a six-term year or at least reach agreement on the principle of a "fixed Easter".
3. The position locally has been that our neighbours in Hartlepool had attempted to co-ordinate a move regionally to a six-term year. This has been unsuccessful, primarily because schools in the area would only support such a move if it were part of a national move.
4. For 2007/2008 Hartlepool have again taken the lead and asked all Authorities in the North East region to consider a matrix of dates which would provide uniformity across the region.
5. A further proposal was received from the LGA for National consideration.
6. The matrices, as shown as Appendix 1 & 2 to this report, were duly circulated to schools in the Borough and all other relevant parties, including unions and associations.

7. During consultation we received verbal comments from Associations and Unions together with individual comments from a number of schools. The responses are detailed in Appendix 3 to this report.
8. All were supportive of the North East regional proposal. The Associations and Unions, however, expressed concern with both models, that by fixing the Easter Holiday away from the religious festival week-end their annual conferences, already arranged, would fall in term time. There is, however, an agreement in place that allows members time off with pay to attend to such matters.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

9. None

Legal

10. The recommendation complies with the requirements of the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999.

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. The School Term & Holiday Dates 2007/2008 are categorised as low risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

12. The report impacts on the key policy platform area of Education & Lifelong Learning.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

13. All schools, Teacher Associations and Trade Unions, neighbouring Local Authorities and neighbouring Diocesan Authorities.

Name of Contact Officer: Ian Short

Post Title: Manager, School & Governor Support Service

Telephone No. 01642 527687

Email Address: ian.short@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not applicable

Property

There are no implications for council property

SCHOOL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2007/8 – CONSULTATION RESPONSES

ASCL

No response received.

ATL

No response received

GMBATU

No response received

NASUWT

“The dates proposed for the Easter break would leave our Annual Conference in Term Time”.

NUT

“The dates proposed for the Easter break would leave our Annual Conference in Term Time”.

NATFE

No response received

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HEADTEACHERS

No response received.

PAT

No response received

UNISON

No response received.

BOWESFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

I think as far as possible neighbouring authorities should have the same holidays. I think the NE proposal is best – more time after Christmas so people come back to school refreshed.

HARTBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The proposed North East Calendar looks fine.

INGELBY MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The North East option looks much better, it'll be strange having just the two days holiday off at Easter though.

MILL LANE PRIMARY

In favour of still having the discretion to specify the timing of our five PD days, so the North East model is preferred option. Also totally in favour of the six term year.

ST.GREGORY'S RC PRIMARY

Stockton Catholic Primary Schools generally like to keep children in school over Holy Week. I think we would have no objection.

VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

I prefer the North East model especially with the two full weeks at Christmas. I also think moving Easter is good, with just the long week-end. It will also make the summer holidays for 2008 five weeks and two days which I think is long enough.

WESTLANDS SPECIAL SCHOOL

Would wish to go with the Hartlepool model that protects our choice of PD days.