

## **CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA**

### **AGENDA ITEM 5**

#### **REPORT TO CABINET**

**7 JUNE 2007**

#### **REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **CABINET DECISION**

#### **Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Cunningham**

#### **SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES – 2008/2009**

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is, following consultation, to present a proposed calendar of school term and holiday dates for the 2008/2009 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 2008/2009 which fall in line with 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).

**AGENDA ITEM**

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MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET DECISION**

**SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES – 2008/2009**

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present a proposed calendar of school holiday dates for the 2008/2009 academic year.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the school term and holiday dates for the 2008/2009 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.
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 2008/2009 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 no comments from the associations or unions but did receive comments from a number of schools. The responses are detailed in Appendix 3 to this report.

8. All except one were supportive of the Hartlepool regional proposal as this model allows schools the flexibility to decide when they will take their 5 Professional Development Days for staff, which the LGA model does not.

## **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 2008/2009 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 neighboring 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](mailto: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 2008/9 – CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

**ASCL**

No response received.

**ATL**

No response received

**GMBATU**

No response received

**NASUWT**

No response received

**NUT**

No response received

**NATFE**

No response received

**NAHT**

No response received.

**PAT**

No response received

**UNISON**

No response received.

**BOWESFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

I would also prefer option B, as I agree with the reasons in your letter - it also seems more straightforward.

**DURHAM LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Hartlepool model looks fine to me. Thanks,

## **EGGLESCLIFFE SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Proposal B looks fine for Eggescliffe.

## **HARROWGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

I definitely prefer the Hartlepool version so we have flexibility over the INSET days ~ so that gets my vote.

## **INGELBY MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

In discussion with a couple of colleagues we whole-heartedly agree with the Hartlepool model. We want the flexibility to choose training dates ourselves to reflect school need.

## **JUNCTION FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Our Governors considered the proposals for term dates 2008/2009. Perhaps as there was strong parent governor representation they preferred the model that fixes 190 school days. This they felt would ensure all school closures happen at the same time, and so they would need only one arrangement to cover all school closure days, rather than the current situation where a Primary and its neighbouring Secondary can close for ten different dates in any one year. If you have children at both it causes childcare issues.

## **MILL LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

After a brief consultation with colleagues in school we are in favour of your plans to adopt the Hartlepool model for 2008/2009. We also think that we are in favour of the six-term year if it ever comes up for discussion again.

## **ST.GREGORY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Hartlepool proposals look best to me, not least because it allows schools most flexibility to choose when they take INSET days, which can be very important if you are booking an external speaker.

## **ST MARK'S ELM TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

I prefer the Hartlepool model, where we can choose where we locate our PD days.

## **ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

I would prefer to follow the Hartlepool example to allow me to timetable my PD Days as I see fit.

## **THE OAK TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Glad to support the authority (as ever!) on this issue.

## **THE VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Hartlepool one gets my vote! I prefer to organise my own PD Days. October half term is late though isn't it?

**TILERY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

I would opt for proposal A mainly because I think the timing of PD days is best left under the control of individual schools.

**WM CASSIDI PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Having looked at the two models and read your commentary I am quite happy with the Hartlepool model to be further explored.