

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

19 JUNE 2008

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Children, Education & Social Care - Lead Cabinet Member – Alex Cunningham

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES – 2009/2010 & PROTOCOLS FOR FUTURE YEARS

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is, following consultation, to present a proposed calendar of school term and holiday dates for the 2009/2010 academic year, together with a set of protocols for future years.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The school term and holiday dates, shown at **Appendix 1** to this report, be agreed.
- 2.2 The protocol of guiding principles, shown at **Appendix 2** 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 2009/2010 which fall in line with other Local Authorities throughout the North of England.

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 judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same

purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;

- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must 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**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is, following consultation, to present a proposed calendar of school term and holiday dates for the 2009/2010 academic year, together with a set of protocols for future years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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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 Officers have, as part of the consultation process, met with colleagues from neighbouring authorities to endeavour to reach consensus on a proposed model. This has proved successful and as a result the group this year has been widened to include all authorities from Doncaster to Northumberland and Kirklees to Cumbria.
3. As well as producing proposals for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 academic years, agreement was reached to consult on a set of guiding principles that could be used in future years.
4. Attached as **Appendix 1** are the proposed dates for 2009/2010 and as **Appendix 2** the proposed guiding principles.
5. These documents, together with the matrix for 2010/2011, were duly circulated to schools and all other relevant parties, including unions and associations.
6. The proposals were also discussed at the Joint Consultative Committee for the School Workforce where the guidelines and the Calendar for 2009/2010 were endorsed but issues surrounding the timing of the Easter 2011 break were expressed.

7. Few other comments were received (formal responses attached as **Appendix 3**), however, there was sufficient concern about the proposal for 2010/2011 that this will be subject to further discussion within the region and then formal consultation again next year.
8. To date, all authorities that have published their dates have endorsed the Guiding Principles and the proposed matrix for 2009/2010. This level of agreement between authorities is unprecedented and will relieve many of the cross boundary issues that many families have suffered in the past.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. The School Term & Holiday dates 2009/2010 are categorised as low to medium 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 Children and Young People and Safer Communities.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13. This report has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and has been judged to have a negative impact. This has been judged necessary because the pattern of school holidays around the christian festivals of Christmas and Easter and a long summer break between years is a national pattern that cannot be varied significantly locally or regionally. Exams and national tests together with School Teachers Pay and Conditions dictate the broad framework leaving only changes at the margins determined locally. Remedial actions have been identified and included in the EIA action plan.

CORPORATE PARENTING

14. As outlined in paragraph 8, the joint agreement of the 2009/2010 matrix will ensure that, where children, families and carers live in one Borough but the children attend school in another, there is a consistency across the area.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

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

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Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not applicable

Property

There are no implications for council property