

EXECUTIVE

DATE: 20 APRIL 2009

SUBJECT: TERM DATES 2010/11

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN & LEARNING

CONTACT OFFICER: DEBORAH CRAIG, ADMISSIONS & PLANNING MANAGER 548015

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	✓	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING		OTHER

CONSULTATIONS:

COUNCILLORS CONSULTED	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTED
STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: All

LEAD EXECUTIVE MEMBER(S): CLLR T KHAN

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. The Executive is recommended to approve:
 - a. Adopting the Eastern Region Term Dates Model for academic year 2010/11 (Appendix B).
 - b. Setting two of the five training days on 1 September 2010 and 4 January 2011.

REPORT

2. The LGA's proposed academic calendar is set out at Appendix A.
3. At its meeting on 2 July 2008 the Term Dates Working Group resolved to consult with headteachers. Views were sought on three options:
 - a. Option 1 -the LGA's suggested term dates (Appendix A).
 - b. Option 2 – this model is based on the LGA calendar but trades an earlier start to the autumn term for a longer Christmas break (Appendix B).
 - c. Option 3 – a variation on option 2 which ensures that the Easter festival would fall in the middle of the Easter break. This option would result in a 7 week spring term (2) and a four week summer term (1) (Appendix C).
4. Fifteen of the twenty three headteachers that replied favoured option 2, eight favoured option 3, option 1 did not receive any support.
5. Officers from local authorities in the Eastern Region met on 3 October to discuss the LGA's proposed term dates for 2010/11. Representatives from both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Council's were present at the meeting. The Group agreed that option 2 (Appendix B) was the preferred option for the region. Officers agreed to consult all stakeholders in their area on adopting this model.

Term Dates Working Party Recommendation

6. The Term Dates Working Party met again on 19 November 2008 to discuss the outcome of the consultation and consider feedback from the regional officers meeting in October. The Working Party approved the recommendations set out in this report.

Training Days

7. It is proposed that two training days (first day of the Autumn Term and the first day of the Spring Term) are set within the 2010/11 calendar for the following reasons:
 - ❖ The vast majority of schools set their training days on these dates.
 - ❖ Standardising these training days will reduce transport costs.
 - ❖ Ensures consistency across Luton.
 - ❖ This approach was agreed for academic years 2008/9 and 2009/10. Governing Bodies would be free to set the dates of the remaining three training days.

CSJNCC Recommendation

8. The CSJNCC endorsed the recommendations set out in this report on 4 February 2009.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

9. The Executive is recommended to approve:
 - a. adopting the Eastern Region Term Dates Model (Appendix B).
 - b. setting two of the five training days on 1 September 2010 and 4 January 2011.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The academic calendar must ensure that children receive their entitlement of 190 days of education per academic year. The legal implications were agreed with J. Newman in Legal Services on 1 April 2009.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11. The proposed academic calendar will ensure that children receive their entitlement of 190 days of education per academic year. The equalities implications were agreed with Equalities Co-ordinator (Children & Learning) on 30 March 2009.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. Standardising two of the five training days may reduce transport costs, particularly where there are combined school runs. It also allows the transport fleet to be deployed in other areas. The Children and Learning Finance Manager approved this report on 30 March 2009.

APPENDICES

13. The following appendices are attached to this report:
 - ❖ Appendix A – Option 1 - LGA model calendar
 - ❖ Appendix B – Option 2 - Eastern region model
 - ❖ Appendix C – Option 3 – Variation of option 2

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

14. None.