

## REPORT TO EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 21 MARCH 2019

### CONSULTATION ON THE PATTERN OF SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, TERM DATES AND IN-SERVICE CLOSURE DATES FROM SESSION 2020/2021 – 2024/2025

#### 1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Approve a consultation with relevant stakeholders on a pattern of school holidays, term dates and in-service closures for the five sessions from 2020-2025.

#### 2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 The current pattern of school holidays and term dates was approved by the Education, Learning and Leisure Committee on 29 May, 2014. This covered the sessions from 2014/15 to 2019/20 and followed an earlier report initiating a consultation on holidays and term dates.
- 2.2 The pattern of school holiday and term dates currently takes into account the following factors:
  - The national requirement that the school year for teaching staff consists of 195 days, which includes 5 In-Service closures and results in a school year of 190 for pupils.
  - There are four sets of school holiday periods: a summer break of 6 weeks, and three further breaks of two weeks during October, at Christmas and at Easter.
  - The aim to avoid part weeks as far as possible where the week begins on a day other than Monday, ends on a day other than Friday, or where there is a closure on a day mid-week.
  - Alignment, where possible, of holiday and term dates with neighbouring local authorities. It should be noted that Aberdeen City Council is currently consulting on its school holiday pattern, which includes options referring to changes to the mid-term break and October holiday.
- 2.3 The draft schedule of holidays and term dates is attached as Appendix 1. This set of dates will be consulted upon before a final calendar of term dates is approved. The consultation will be issued by email as a survey link, with paper copies also being made available.
- 2.4 The proposed consultation will run from Monday, 25 March – 6 May, 2019. It is intended that consultation will be with parents, pupils, staff, a wide range of stakeholders and colleagues in neighbouring authorities.

- 2.5 A further report on the results of the consultation will be brought before the Education & Children's Services Committee on 30 May, 2019, to seek approval on a final set of school holidays and term dates from August, 2020, to July, 2025, inclusive.
- 2.6 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted on the contents of this report, their comments have been incorporated and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

### **3 Scheme of Governance**

- 3.1 The Committee is able to take a decision on this item in terms of Section E.3.3 and E.3.4 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance, as it relates to the statutory functions of the Council under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, including those relating to approval of proposals and review of proposals following consultation and the functions of the Council under the Education (Scotland) Acts, the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, and all other relevant legislation and regulations.

### **4 Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment will be carried out once the consultation has been completed and all responses collated.
- 4.2 There are no staffing and financial implications associated with this report.
- 4.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: ACOPR005 – Working with other organisations - [Corporate Risk Register](#)

**Laurence Findlay**  
**Director of Education & Children's Services**

Report prepared by Anne Henderson, ICRM Officer  
Date 7 January, 2019

**Proposed schedules of school holiday/term time patterns**

*Please note that schedules have been prepared to provide additional context to the proposals set out in the consultation document. They should not be considered as a final series of dates*

<b>Session 2020-2021</b>						
	From	To	Days	Including INSET Days	Excluding Public Holidays	Holidays (duration excludes weekends)
Term 1	17/08/20	09/10/20	40	1	17/08/20	
Term 2	26/10/20	22/12/20	42	2	19/11/20 20/11/20	
Term 3	05/01/21	01/04/21	64	2	15/02/21 16/02/21	Oct 12/10/20 – 23/10/20 10 days Christmas 21/12/20 – 04/01/21 11 days Easter/Spring 05/04/21 – 16/04/21 10 days
Term 4	19/04/21	02/07/21	55		03/05/21	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	
	<b>Occasional days</b> (To be determined locally)		<b>1</b>			

- Notes:
1. The Christmas holiday will begin on 18/12/20 and an extra day added to avoid a mid-week split in December.
  2. Good Friday Public Holiday (02/04/21) is separate to the 'Easter' holiday fortnight.
  3. Due to the additional day added to the Christmas break there will be only one occasional day this session
  4. Six week summer break before session 2021-22 beginning 16/08/21

**Proposed schedules of school holiday/term time patterns**

*Please note that schedules have been prepared to provide additional context to the proposals set out in the consultation document. They should not be considered as a final series of dates*

<b>Session 2021-2022</b>						
	From	To	Days	Including INSET Days	Excluding Public Holidays	Holidays (duration excludes weekends)
Term 1	16/08/21	15/10/21	45	1 16/08/21		
Term 2	01/11/21	21/12/21	37	2 18/11/21 19/11/21		Oct 18/10/21 – 29/10/21 10 days
Term 3	05/01/22	01/04/22	63	2 15/02/22 16/02/22	1 14/02/22	Christmas 22/12/21 – 04/01/22 10 days
Term 4	18/04/22	01/07/22	55		1 02/05/22	Easter/Spring 04/04/22 – 15/04/22 10 days
		<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	
	<b>Occasional days</b> (To be determined locally)		<b>3</b>			

- Notes:
1. Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays being at the weekend, there is a mid-week finish in December.
  2. Good Friday is included in the 'Easter' holidays. There will be 3 occasional days instead of 2 this session.
  3. Six week summer break before session 2022-23 beginning 15/08/22.

**Proposed schedules of school holiday/term time patterns**

*Please note that schedules have been prepared to provide additional context to the proposals set out in the consultation document. They should not be considered as a final series of dates*

<b>Session 2022 - 2023</b>						
	From	To	Days	Including INSET Days	Excluding Public Holidays	Holidays (duration excludes weekends)
Term 1	15/08/22	14/10/22	45	1 15/08/22		
Term 2	31/10/22	20/12/22	37	2 17/11/22 18/11/22		Oct 17/10/22 – 28/10/22 10 days
Term 3	04/01/23	31/03/23	63	2 14/02/23 15/02/23	1 13/02/23	Christmas 21/12/22 – 03/01/23 10 days
Term 4	17/04/23	30/06/23	55		1 01/05/23	Easter/Spring 03/04/23 – 14/04/23 10 days
		<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	
	<b>Occasional days</b> (To be determined locally)		<b>3</b>			

- Notes:
1. Due to where the Christmas and New Year public holidays fall there is a mid-week finish in December.
  2. Good Friday is included in the 'Easter' holidays. There will be 3 occasional days instead of 2 this session.
  3. Six week summer break before session 2023-24 beginning 14/08/23

**Proposed schedules of school holiday/term time patterns**

*Please note that schedules have been prepared to provide additional context to the proposals set out in the consultation document. They should not be considered as a final series of dates*

<b>Session 2023 - 2024</b>						
	From	To	Days	Including INSET Days	Excluding Public Holidays	Holidays (duration excludes weekends)
Term 1	14/08/23	6/10/23	40	1 14/08/23		
Term 2	23/10/23	20/12/23	43	2 16/11/23 17/11/23		Oct 09/10/23 – 20/10/23 10 days
Term 3	04/01/24	29/03/24	62	2 13/02/24 14/02/24	2 12/02/24 29/03/24	Christmas 21/12/23 – 03/01/24 10 days
Term 4	15/04/24	28/06/24	55		1 06/05/24	Easter/Spring 01/04/24 – 12/04/24 10 days
		<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	
	<b>Occasional days</b> (To be determined locally)		<b>2</b>			

- Notes:
1. Due to when the Christmas and New Year public holidays fall there is a mid-week finish in December.
  2. Good Friday Public Holiday (20/03/24) is separate to the 'Easter' holiday fortnight.
  3. Six week summer break before session 2024-25 beginning 12/08/24

**Proposed schedules of school holiday/term time patterns**

*Please note that schedules have been prepared to provide additional context to the proposals set out in the consultation document. They should not be considered as a final series of dates*

<b>Session 2024 - 2025</b>						
	From	To	Days	Including INSET Days	Excluding Public Holidays	Holidays (duration excludes weekends)
Term 1	12/08/24	04/10/24	40	1 12/08/24		
Term 2	21/10/24	20/12/24	45	2 14/11/24 15/11/24		Oct 07/10/24 – 18/10/24 10 days
Term 3	06/01/25	04/04/25	65	2 11/02/25 12/02/25	1 10/02/25	Christmas 23/12/24 – 03/01/25 10 days
Term 4	21/04/25	27/06/25	50		1 05/05/25	Easter/Spring 07/04/25 – 18/04/25 10 days
		<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	
	<b>Occasional days</b> (To be determined locally)		<b>3</b>			

- Notes:
1. Good Friday is included in the 'Easter' holidays. There will be 3 occasional days instead of 2 this session.
  2. There is a 7 week summer break before session 2025 begins on 18 August 2025.

