

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	11 April 2012	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2372
TITLE:	School Term and Holiday Dates 2013-14 Academic Year.	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix A – Proposed School Term and Holiday Dates 2013-14 Academic Year		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This report asks the Cabinet to agree the School Term and Holiday dates for the academic year 2013-14.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that:

2.1 The School Term and Holiday dates as shown in Appendix A are adopted for the 2013-14 academic year.

2.2 The importance of good school attendance and the link with good outcomes for children and young people is recognised and supports schools in encouraging parents to take holidays out of term time.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 If the dates shown in Appendix A are agreed there will be 201 school days in the 2013-14 financial year. The standard academic year is based on 195 school days. The Home to School Transport budget is flexed each year depending on the number of school days and there will be 6 more days in 2013-14 when school transport will be provided. This will lead to an increase in the transport budget of approx £140,000 in the 2013-14 year.
- 3.2 The increase in days in 2013-14 is mainly due to the fact that the Easter holiday in 2014 falls completely in the 2014-15 financial year. Therefore when dates are set for 2014-15 it is likely there will be a similar size saving in the transport budget for this year.
- 3.3 If as a result of an Academy, VA or Foundation school adopting their own dates there is an increase in Home to School Transport costs the Council will aim to recover the cost of the additional transport from the school.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
- Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live
- Building a stronger economy

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Education [Schools and Further Education] Regulations indicate that in each academic year a school shall be open to receive pupils for not less than 380 sessions or 190 days. These proposed dates satisfy those requirements.
- 5.2 Officers from our neighbouring authorities have agreed on the same dates for consultation.
- 5.3 The proposed term dates contain as many complete weeks as possible. When a holiday occurs for part of the week only, pupil absence is higher for the remainder of that week.
- 5.4 Academies are outside of Local Authority control and are therefore free to adopt their own dates. Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools also have the power to vary their dates.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 An EqIA has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.

8 RATIONALE

- 8.1 The dates as set out in Appendix A are recommended for approval so common dates with neighbouring authorities are maintained.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Trades Unions;; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Youth Democracy Group; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer

10.2 Consultation took place with all schools during Term 3 of the 2011-12 Academic Year. Consultation has also taken place with the Trade Unions and the proposals were outlined on the Bath and North East Somerset Web Site.

10.3 No adverse comments on the proposed dates have been received.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People;; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	