

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Michael Evans, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 29th June 2015	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENE
		E 2760
TITLE:	School Term and Holiday Dates 2016-17 Academic Year	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 195 day model Appendix 2 190 day model		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To consider the school term and holiday dates for the 2016-17 Academic Year.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note that schools can now set their own term and holiday dates, by virtue of the recent government Deregulation Bill.
- 2.2 In order to maximise consistency of dates for the benefit of children and their parents, to recommend to all schools and academies the Council's preferred calendar of School Term and Holiday dates for the academic year 2016-17 based on a 195 day calendar, as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 To recommend to all school and academy governing bodies that good practice would be to consult parents and take account of their views in the event that they propose any variation from the recommended calendar.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The standard academic year is based on 195 school days. Schools are open for 190 days and 5 days are used for in-service training. The Home to School transport budget is based on the financial year and is adjusted annually depending on the number of days which schools are open in the financial year. There will normally be 190 school days when we provide transport. However depending on when the Easter Holiday falls this can vary slightly from year to year. If the Easter holiday means the number of days increase in one year this is usually compensated by a fall in the following year and vice versa.

- 3.2 If as a result of a school adopting their own dates there is an increase in Home to School Transport costs the Council will recover the additional cost from the school.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 To try and achieve consistency in dates across all schools the Local Authority will recommend a set of dates for approval by individual Governing Bodies.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Before the 2014-15 Academic year the calendar was based on a 195 day model with 5 in-service days being taken within these dates.
- 5.2 For the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Academic Year the Cabinet agreed to set a calendar based on a 190 day model with 5 in-service days being taken outside of these dates.
- 5.3 This decision has not been universally popular with schools and as a result for 2016-17 the Local authority consulted on a 190 and 195 day model. These are attached as Appendices 1 & 2.
- 5.4 The 190 day model allows parents to know exactly which days their children will be in school. However it gives schools less flexibility in determining in-service days particularly if schools wish to send staff to other schools while they are operational and restricts schools to setting days at the beginning and end of terms. Training suppliers and visiting speakers will be restricted to those dates making it harder to book the best ones. School like the flexibility to plan days in the school year which they find most useful.
- 5.5 The 195 day model means parents will not always know the exact days their children will be in school. This can prove difficult for working parents or parents who have children in different schools. It does give schools greater flexibility over selecting in-service days.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The dates recommended in this report will be popular with schools and similar to those adopted by neighbouring authorities.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 To recommend a set of dates based on a 190 day model. However this will not be popular with schools and will not achieve consistency with neighbouring authorities.
- 7.2 If the dates recommended are unpopular the likelihood is schools will determine their own dates. The 190 day model has been unpopular with a majority of schools and schools will probably determine a 195 day model. If Secondary Schools adopt a 195 day model primary schools in the same cluster will probably follow suit.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation took place with BASCL at their meeting on the 13th March 2015. They unanimously supported a 195 day model with dates also being as close to neighbouring authorities as possible.
- 8.2 Consultation took place with all schools during January and February 2015. A total of 24 schools responded to the consultation. All were in favour of a 195 day model. Three schools and a response from an individual parent also favoured setting the same dates as our neighbouring authorities. One parent responded in favour of the 190 day model.
- 8.3 Consultation took place with the Trade Unions, including the Recognised Teacher Professional Associations, via the Joint Consultative Forum.
- 8.4 Consultation has taken place with neighbouring authorities who are consulting on similar dates to those shown in the 195 day model.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<i>Kevin Amos</i> <i>Tel</i> <i>01225395202</i> <i>Email</i> Kevin_Amos@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	
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