

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	10th April 2013	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2518
TITLE:	School Term and Holiday Dates 2014-15 Academic Year.	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix A – Consultation Dates 2014-15 Academic Year Appendix B - Proposed School Term and Holiday Dates 2014-15 Academic Year		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This report asks the Cabinet to agree the School Term and Holiday dates for the academic year 2014-15.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that:

2.1 The School Term and Holiday dates as shown in Appendix B are adopted for the 2014-15 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 The standard academic year has in the past been based on 195 school days. The Home to School Transport budget is based on the number of days in the financial year. In the 2013-14 financial year there were 201 school days and the budget was increased by £239,000. The budget for the 2014-15 financial year is based on 190 school days plus 5 in service training days and the budget will therefore reduce by £129,000.
- 3.2 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 As in previous years dates were agreed with neighbouring authorities and the dates attached in Appendix A were used for consultation. Consultation took place on a 195 day calendar with schools choosing 5 days for in service training.
- 5.3 It is now proposed to base the dates on a 190 day calendar [Appendix B]. Schools will need to have 5 in service training days outside of these dates
- 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 EqlA has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.

8 RATIONALE

- 8.1 The dates as set out in Appendix B are recommended for approval to try and ensure where possible terms are of equal length which improves learning opportunities for children and young people

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 To set dates as shown in Appendix A which are being set by our neighbouring authorities.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Trades Unions; Staff; Service Users; Local Residents; Youth Democracy Group; Stakeholders/Partners; B-Active youth Zone, Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer.

10.2 Consultation took place with all schools during Term 2 of the 2012-13 Academic Year. Consultation has also taken place with the Trade Unions and the proposals were outlined on the Bath and North East Somerset and B-Active Web Sites.

10.3 One comment was received suggesting a 2 week break at the end of term 1 and a slightly longer break at the end of term 2. If this was granted the only way schools could still be open for the required number of sessions is to extend term 6. This will mean a shorter summer break which is unpopular with Trade Unions and schools.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; 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	
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