

18 September 2017**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS****SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM TIME DATES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY
MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2019/2020, 2020/2021,
2021/2022, 2022/2023****Purpose of the Report**

1. Nottinghamshire County Council is statutorily required to undertake consultation with key stakeholders, in order to set school holiday and term time dates. The purpose of this report is to inform Members that the statutory consultation is running from 29 August 2017 until 8 October 2017. In addition, the report seeks the approval of Members to specifically consult with non-maintained schools, particularly multi-academy chains who are responsible for setting their own holiday patterns. This is to ensure that Members are able to have clarity about the views of these key partners when setting the school holiday and term dates from 2019/20 until 2022/2023.

2. This consultation outlines two proposals on which the Council is seeking the views of key stakeholders, particularly parents, as well as teachers, governors and others. The two proposed options which will be considered by Committee are:

Proposal 1: This proposal follows the current model, which includes 6 weeks for the summer holiday and a fixed spring break (generally the first two weeks in April) (**Appendix A**)

Proposal 2: This proposes a slightly shorter 5 week summer holiday and a 2 week October half term break, with a fixed spring break (generally the first two weeks in April) (**Appendix B**)

3. In addition the consultation offers the opportunity for respondents to submit free text comments and alternative suggestions which Members will consider when reviewing the consultation feedback.
4. It should be noted that the Council is seeking the views of parents, teachers, governors and others to inform a decision to be taken by the Children and Young People's Committee on 18 December 2017, following a consultation period, which will run from 29 August 2017 to 8 October 2017.

Information and Advice

5. The 1996 Education Act gives local authorities a statutory duty to determine school term dates. The responsibility for setting school holiday and term time dates for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools within Nottinghamshire lies with the Local Authority (LA).
6. It should be noted however, that Foundation, Trust, Voluntary Aided schools and academies are responsible for setting their own holiday patterns. Almost all secondary schools have now academised and so Members should be aware that these publicly funded schools are able to consult and set their own term dates, which could and at times do differ to the dates set by Members for Nottinghamshire's maintained schools.
7. Based on school census data (May 2017), approximately **69,177** pupils attend Foundation, Trust, Voluntary Aided schools and academies with **51,505** pupils attending maintained and Voluntary Controlled schools. In seeking the views of key stakeholders, Members will be increasingly aware that parents and carers with children attending schools with different governance arrangements are increasingly likely to have to manage different holiday patterns for their children.
8. Holiday dates for LA maintained schools in Nottinghamshire are already set up to 2018/2019 from the previous consultation that took place in 2015. Since 2015, academies have been able to set their own holiday pattern. Over the recent past, most academies have generally followed the pattern agreed by the Children and Young People's Committee. However, it should be noted that academies which are closer to neighbouring authorities are increasingly setting different holiday patterns to those confirmed by the Council.
9. When setting dates for future years, the following principles have been considered:
 - The pattern must comprise 190 pupil days and 195 teacher days.
 - Ensuring that teaching and learning blocks are as equal in length as possible.
 - Split weeks are avoided where possible.
 - Broadly confirm a fixed spring break as close as possible to Easter. This was agreed as part of the Consultation in 2012
 - Accepts that individual schools are responsible for setting their own teacher training days (The Council suggests one of these days be taken the first day back in September).

Other Local Authorities

10. In setting school dates, local authorities are required to consider the patterns already set by neighbouring authorities. It should be noted that Nottinghamshire borders five other authorities: Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Nottingham City. For consultation purposes, Derby City and Leicester City are also considered as relevant neighbouring authorities. Therefore, in formulating the two suggestions, officers have reviewed the patterns set by seven authorities (**Appendix C**).
11. A period of consultation between 29 August 2017 and 8 October 2017 will allow parents, governors, teachers and other organisations the opportunity to comment on the

proposals and suggest any changes to specific days, within the Council's preferred model of three terms, with a spring break in the first two weeks of April.

12. Following this period of consultation, a further report will be taken to Committee on 18 December 2017 whereby the holiday patterns for 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 will be set.

Other Options Considered

13. The Committee could consider consulting on a wider range of options. However, given the comprehensive consultation that took place in 2012 regarding the impact of the school holiday break on learning and the relatively narrow options available for any given model, the current proposals set out to enable Committee to seek the views of parents around a slightly shorter summer break which would allow a 2 week autumn break.

Reasons for Recommendation

14. The two proposals will ensure that the Member decision is informed by feedback from parents and other stakeholders.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

16. Due consideration has been given to crime and disorder issues. The Police services and other voluntary bodies who provide out of holiday care and educational opportunity have key roles to play in reducing crime and increasing self-confidence, and emotional resilience for any child or young person engaging with holiday provision.

Finance Implications

17. The Council intend to keep the cost of consulting and setting school holiday and term dates to a minimum by utilising online technology and the Council's consulting arrangements via the public website.

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee agrees:

- 1) to endorse the statutory consultation on school holiday dates and patterns for 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 as set out in the report.

- 2) to consider all consultation feedback, including any additional comments and suggestions and decide the holiday pattern for 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 at the Children and Young People's Committee meeting on 18 December 2017.
- 3) that consultation feedback be sought specifically from academies and Multi-Academy Trusts, Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools, given the number of Nottinghamshire pupils now attending non-maintained schools.
- 4) that a communication strategy be developed to ensure that all stakeholders, particularly parents and non-maintained schools, are aware of the statutory consultation and encouraged to participate.

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Linda Foster
Acting Group Manager, Support to Schools Service
T: 0115 9772032
E: linda.foster@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SLB 05/09/17)

18. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SAS 05/09/17)

19. The financial implications of this report are contained within paragraph 17 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

School Term and Holiday Patterns 2013-2016: report to Children and Young People's Committee, June 2012.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1020