

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 10 July 2017

ITEM 6(d)

Title: School Term and
Holiday dates 2018/19

Portfolio(s): Children Young People &
Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Ian
Grayson

Report from Service Area: Commissioning and Investment

Responsible Officer: Mark Longstaff, Head of Commissioning and Investment (Tel: (0191) 643 8089)

Wards affected: All Wards

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval for the proposed school term and holiday dates for 2018/19.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet approve the school term and holiday dates for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 12th June 2017.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priority in the 2014/18 Our North Tyneside Plan: Our People will be supported to achieve their full potential, especially our children and young people.

1.5 Information:

Background

1.5.1 Regulations require that 380 sessions, being 190 school term days be provided for pupils in each school year (see 2.2 below). In addition, 5 teacher training days must be identified in the school year; the dates are set at the discretion of the school.

1.5.2 The Deregulation Act 2015 provides for maintained schools to set term dates independently of the local authority; however the relevant provisions of this Act have not

as yet come into force. The DfE advised in September 2015 that this provision would not come into force, and the duty would be retained by Local Authorities. Many schools in North Tyneside are already able to set term dates independently, e.g. due to Trust or Voluntary Aided status, but most schools have indicated that their preference is for a consistent calendar, co-ordinated by the Local Authority.

1.5.3 The proposal takes consideration of regional principles and the views of Head teachers and neighbouring authorities.

1.5.4 The proposed School Term and Holiday dates for North Tyneside schools 2018/19 are as set out at Appendix 1.

1.6 Decision options:

Option 1

Cabinet can approve the calendar at Appendix 1 (recommended). This meets statutory requirements and takes account of national exams and assessments, whilst meeting a number of key regional principles. This is in line with proposals in other local authorities, principally Newcastle and Northumberland.

The proposed calendar gives 193 term days, of which 3 would be taken as teacher training days to be set at the discretion of the school. (Two further training days would be taken from holidays or as twilight sessions, to fulfil the requirement for 190 pupil days and 5 training days.)

Option 2

Cabinet can choose not to agree the recommended option and request Officers to look at alternative arrangements.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The calendar at Appendix 1 meets statutory requirements and takes account of national exams and assessments, whilst meeting a number of key consultation preferences. It is in line with proposals in neighbouring authorities.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Proposed school term and holiday dates for North Tyneside schools in 2018/19.

1.9 Contact officers:

Mark Longstaff, Head of Service, Commissioning and Investment
0191 643 8089

Rachael Coyne, School Organisation and Investment Manager, Commissioning and Investment 0191 643 8074

Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information has been used in the compilation of this report and is available at the office of the author:

- Cabinet Report – [School Term and Holiday Dates 2017/18, August 2016.](#)
- Proposed school term and holiday dates 2017/18 for [Newcastle City Council](#) . Northumberland County Council's proposals were not available for publication timely to the publication of this report.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

2.2 Legal

The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999 require that 380 sessions, equivalent to 190 school term days be provided for pupils in each school year. In addition the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) requires 5 training days to be identified. The dates of the training days are organised at the discretion of the school.

The Education Act 2002 that requires that the dates of the terms should be set by the local authority for maintained schools remains in force until full implementation of the Deregulation Act 2015, which will enable each school to set its own term dates.

The decision on the dates of the terms is a Cabinet decision in accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000

The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 (no 3304) Schedule 2 provides for the use of schools and facilities in schools, free of charge, for the purpose of taking the poll or counting of votes.

There are currently thirty schools used as polling stations across the borough. Many of the schools allocate one of the required 5 training days to polling day(s). However, schools may explore the option to remain open on the day of poll, by the identification of an area within the school site, which can be used for the purposes of polling (being compliant with the regulations above), with the agreement of Electoral Services. For safeguarding reasons, such an area must be isolated from any pupil accessible areas of the site.

2.3 Consultation / community engagement

Schools were consulted by E-mail on 27th April 2017 and proposals were contained within the Head teacher Briefing pack on Friday 12th May 2017. Professional Association secretaries were presented with a Briefing pack and Option 1 at their meeting on 24th

May Head teachers, and Governing bodies were consulted both in writing and at Head teacher's Briefing Session on 24th May 2017. The proposals have been reviewed at a meeting of professional associations. The proposed dates have been forwarded to all the authority's schools for comment. There was an overwhelming response in favour of the proposed option.

2.4 Human rights

This report is relevant to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 28: access to education.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive
- Head of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy