
Report to Education Sport and Leisure Committee

Date: 22 November 2012

Subject: Consultation on School Term Dates

Report by: Head of Education

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Education Sport and Leisure Committee with information on the process used by the Education Service for determining school term dates. The report seeks approval from the Committee for the Education Service to consult on the pattern of term dates and holidays with specific reference to the pattern for the holiday in October.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee:
- a) Approve the proposal to consult on the current pattern of school term dates and holidays.
 - b) Note that a report on the outcome of the consultation be brought to the Education, Sport and Leisure Committee meeting on 18 April 2013, with a view to either amending or affirming the present pattern of term dates.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 Following the disaggregation of Central Regional Council in 1996, a formula to determine school term dates was agreed between the three Councils to ensure dates were aligned. Autumn term starts on the Monday of the third full week in August. October holiday week starts on the Monday of the second full week in October. Christmas holiday for two full weeks to include two public holidays on 1st and 2nd January. Easter holiday starts on the first Monday in April, for two weeks, regardless of when Easter weekend falls (A full week is a week that commences on a Sunday).
- 3.2 The catchment area for St Modan's High School in Stirling covers the three Council areas. In the current session (2012/13) 158 young people from Clackmannanshire attend St Modan's High School.
- 3.3 Many members of school based staff live in one of the three Council areas and work in another.

- 3.4 Patterns of pupils' attendance would indicate that there is a lower level of unauthorised absenteeism when school terms start on Monday and end on Friday, rather than having broken weeks. This is one of the considerations in setting school term dates.
- 3.5 Some Authorities in Scotland have a pattern of term dates that allows for a two week closure in October.
- 3.6 Given the lapse of time since the pattern of term dates was set, it is recommended that Education Service carries out a consultation between the end of November 2012 and February 2013 on the present pattern of holidays. In particular views should be sought on whether there would be support for a longer October break.
- 3.7 Currently term dates are consulted on through the Council's formal staff consultation mechanisms of JCC (Joint Consultative Committee) and LNCT (Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers). Term dates are agreed for two years in advance, so the results of any changes following this consultation would impact on school session 2015-16.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. The report has no sustainability implications.

5.0 Resource Implications

- 5.1. The report has no financial implications.
- 5.2 The report has no implications for staffing.

6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No
N/A

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities 2008 - 2011** (Please tick)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are safer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vulnerable people and families are supported | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Substance misuse and its effects are reduced
- Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing
- The environment is protected and enhanced for all
- The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

(2) Council Policies

None.

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 In adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers.

Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 None

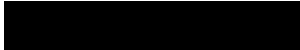
11.0 Background Papers

11.1 None.

Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Michael Boyle	Education Business Manager	01259 452520

Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Belinda Greer	Head of Education	
Elaine McPherson	Chief Executive	

