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**Report to People Committee**

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**Date of Meeting: 21 November 2019**

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**Subject: Consultation on School Term Dates**

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**Report by: Chief Education Officer**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Education Service to consult on proposed changes to the pattern of holiday dates in relation to summer and October holidays.

**2.0 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

2.1 Approve the proposal to consult on changes to the pattern of term dates

2.2 Note that a report on the outcome of the consultation will be presented to the People Committee at its meeting on 30 January 2020

**3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1 The three Forth Valley local authorities (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling) operate the same pattern of school term dates which includes 7 weeks holidays in the summer, 1 week at October and 2 weeks each at Christmas and Easter – 12 weeks in total
- 3.2 St Modan's Roman Catholic High school is unique in Scotland in that it has a catchment area that covers all 3 local authority areas. As a result, it is very important for parents who have children attending St Modan's and a primary school in one of the 3 local authority areas that the Forth Valley local authorities continue to have the same pattern of school term dates.
- 3.3 In 2012, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils consulted on changing the pattern of holidays to reduce the summer holidays by one week and increase the October holiday by one week. This was overwhelmingly supported by parents and staff. As agreement could not be reached with Falkirk Council, to change the holiday pattern it was not implemented. The revised holiday pattern is common in many authorities in Scotland including in Fife and Perth

and Kinross who share a boundary with Clackmannanshire. Since 2012, officers in Clackmannanshire have had a number of enquiries from parents and staff expressing a desire to move towards this model. No action has been taken on these requests as there is a need to ensure that any changes should be made in consultation with Stirling and Falkirk Councils.

- 3.4 Officers across the Forth Valley authorities have now agreed to seek approval from their own authorities to consult on changing the term dates to a pattern that would align the summer and October holiday dates with Perth and Kinross and Fife. This change, if agreed, will be advantageous to those parents and staff who may work in one of the five authorities and live in another
- 3.5 Clackmannanshire currently publishes holiday dates that are up to and including August 2021, so any changes would not commence until August 2022 which would be the first summer to have a reduced holiday period.
- 3.6 Any consultation would take place between November 2019 and January 2020, with a view to publishing the new term dates prior to the beginning of April 2020. The survey will be undertaken using Citizen Space, Clackmannanshire Council's consultation database and paper copies of the consultation will also be available. Each parent council will also be asked to engage with their parents. Clackmannanshire Youth Council will also be consulted
- 3.7 The outcome of the consultation will be reported back to the People Committee on 30 January 2020

#### **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 4.1. The report has no sustainability implications

#### **5.0 Resource Implications**

##### *5.1. Financial Details*

- 5.2. The report has no financial implications.

##### 5.3. Staffing

The report has no staffing implications but single status and teaching trade unions will be consulted on the proposals

#### **6.0 Exempt Reports**

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No **X**

## 7.0 Declarations

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

### (1) Our Priorities (Please double click on the check box )

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life                | X                        |
| Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish             | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### (2) Council Policies (Please detail)

## 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 X No

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes X

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

## 11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes  (please list the documents below) No X

**Author(s)**

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**Approved by**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
Anne M Pearson	Chief Education Officer	