



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

17th November 2008

School Term and Holiday Dates 2009/10 to 2011/12: Outcome of consultation exercise and decision process

Report of the Interim Corporate Director Children and Young People's Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report details consultation responses including views expressed at CYPS Joint Consultative Committee and makes recommendations with respect to term dates for the next three years.
- 1.2 Agreement is sought to move this report forward to OSMB for Scrutiny and to Cabinet for approval and implementation.

2. Summary

- 2.1 A City Term Date Working Party recommended that a City-wide consultation be carried out to determine term date settings for 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12. The Working Party membership comprised representatives from:
 - 2.1.1 Primary Headteachers
 - 2.1.2 Education Improvement Partnership (Bill Morris/Simon Catchpole)
 - 2.1.3 Teaching and non-teaching unions (NUT, UNISON, GMB, NASUWT, Voice, ATL)
- 2.2 Although regularly invited to attend the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce did not participate.
- 2.3 In determining possible date patterns the Working Party had regard to a number of core principles (**Appendix A**).
- 2.4 Respective consultation options were discussed and agreed at CYPS DMT and Lead Member Briefing.
- 2.5 Advance notice of consultation was provided over the summer months via Leicester Link, FACE and targeted mail shots to all school, CYPS service setting and City libraries.

Consultation took place between 1st – 26th September 2008. During this period the Council invited preferences upon one of two date patterns for each year in question. Views were invited via a widely distributed printed preference slip and the City Council's web site. Consultation options are detailed at **Appendix B**.

2.6 In total 2585 preferences were registered and the results of this consultation are summarised at **Appendix C**. Relatively few headteachers, teachers and members of staff elected to respond to this consultation with the majority of respondents comprising parents/ carers.

2.7 This consultation attracted significant public comment and press interest due to the possibility of the City Council setting dates that were different from the neighbouring Leicestershire County Council in one or all of the three years.

3. **Recommendations (or OPTIONS)**

The Corporate Directors' Board, OSMB and Cabinet are asked to:

3.1 Note that the County Council date patterns for 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 as detailed in Appendix D be adopted in response to preferences expressed and to harmonise dates and facilitate 14 – 19 curriculum planning. That these be agreed subject to further discussion and resolution of INSET days.

3.2 Agree that future term date patterns be determined following exploration via Joint City/ County Working Party in accordance with prevailing local, national and regional priorities.

4. **REPORT**

4.1 **Principles and options consulted upon**

4.1.1 Working Party Term date principles are detailed at **Appendix A**.

4.1.2 Consultation options are detailed at **Appendix B**.

4.1.3 Consultation outcomes are detailed at **Appendix C**.

4.1.4 County Council agreed dates patterns for the years in question are detailed at **Appendix D**.

4.2 **Consultation outcomes**

4.2.1 **Preferred outcomes for 2009/10:**

Views were sought on:

4.2.1.1 Option A – Working Party proposed dates (736 preferences expressed)

4.2.1.2 Option B – County agreed dates (1673 preferences expressed)

4.2.2 The only difference here was the timing of the October (autumn) half term break. The City Working Party's proposed October (autumn) half term break is one week later than the date agreed by County. The proposed date pattern for the City however allows for terms of more equal lengths. County's 2nd half of the autumn term equates to 40 school days and it was reported that this was far too long, not only for children and young people, but for all school based staff and teachers.

4.2.3 Recommendation for 2009/10:

Adopt Option B (agreed County Council dates for 2009/10) subject to further discussion and resolution of INSET days.

4.2.4 Preferred outcomes for 2010/11:

Both Options were proposed by the Working Party. There were two main reasons for this:

4.2.4.1 Unequal half term lengths within the County pattern e.g. the County autumn term 2nd half is 42 days long and the summer term 1st half is only 19 days long.

4.2.4.2 The principle of having 'whole week' holiday patterns giving full weekend breaks either side.

4.2.4.3 Option A (1163 preferences expressed)

4.2.4.4 Option B (619 preferences expressed)

4.2.4.5 No preferences expressed 307

Preferences registered for County date pattern 486 *

*This figure was captured as a result of emails received and hand written notes on preference cards

4.2.5 The above results have been the subject of discussion at CYPS Joint Consultative Committee where strong representations have been made by the teaching unions that the County pattern in this year will adversely impact upon Key Stage assessment preparation, delivery and test outcomes. This matter has been considered by the Interim Service Director, Learning Services who advises that the period of advance notice will ensure that staff and pupils can plan and prepare accordingly.

4.2.6 In view of the preferences expressed however with respect to other years and representations received from the County Council it is considered that there are strong reasons to seek alignment with the date pattern already agreed with the County.

4.2.7 Recommendation for 2010/11:

Adopt agreed County Council dates for 2010/11 to harmonise dates in accordance with preferences expressed for other years and facilitate 14 – 19 curriculum planning subject to further discussion and resolution of INSET days.

It should be noted that implementing the above will run contrary to Core Principle 3 and established custom and practice and that representation to this effect have been received.

4.2.8 Preferred outcomes for 2011/12:

Views were sought on:

4.2.8.1 Option A – Working Party proposed dates (715 preferences registered)

4.2.8.2 Option B – County agreed dates (1643 preferences registered)

4.2.8.3 The differences between City and County dates for this academic year are the timing of:

- i) The October (autumn) half term break, and
- ii) The Spring half term break

4.2.8.4 The options for City schools proposed by the Working Party promoted half term lengths of more equal duration which is in keeping with the agreed core principles for City term date setting.

4.2.8.5 The County's 2nd half autumn term is 44 days long.

4.2.9 Recommendation for 20011/12:

Adopt Option B (agreed County Council dates for 20011/12) subject to further discussion and resolution of INSET days.

4.2.10 Decision timelines

4.2.10.1 Decisions on future date patterns must be made during the course of this autumn term to facilitate long term planning.

5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial Implications

This report is concerned solely with the determination of school term and holiday dates patterns

- Colin Sharpe – Head of Finance, CYPS, extn: 29-7750

5.2 Legal Implications

Awaited.

6. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities	Y	The attached appendixes provide for the use of disaggregated training days to allow some flexibility at a local level to accommodate local faith festivals.
Policy	N	
Sustainable and Environmental	N	
Crime and Disorder	N	
Human Rights Act	N	
Elderly/People on Low Income	N	

7. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

None that require citation.

8. Consultations

This report details the outcome of an extensive consultation undertaken over the period 1 – 26 September 2008.

9. Report Authors

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Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	N/A
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)