

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	1 February 2012
<b>Title:</b>	School term and holiday dates for 2013/2014
<b>Reference:</b>	3443
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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#### 1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to inform the Executive Lead Member on the need to decide the pattern of school term and holiday dates for school year 2013/14 and to note the outcomes of the consultation process that has been followed.

#### 2. Contextual information

2.1. It is the responsibility of a local authority to schedule a school year which provides the statutory 190 pupil days and 195 teacher days in voluntary controlled and community school. The structure for delivering this entitlement has been the subject of national and local debate in recent years.

2.2. The Local Government Association (LGA) National Standing Committee on the School Year has been active in seeking to establish a National School Year.

2.3. Local authorities have always determined the dates of school terms and holidays independently and, despite attempts to secure national agreement, not all authorities have agreed to abide by the recommendations of the LGA. Liaison with neighbouring authorities is on-going and regular communication takes place on the setting of dates.

2.4. Hampshire teachers' professional associations, represented by the Conditions of Service Working Party (CoSWoP), have worked closely with officers of the local authority over several years in order to secure an agreed approach to setting dates for the county's schools.

2.5. Establishing more balanced term lengths with regular breaks supports an aim of the corporate strategy, to maximising wellbeing, by helping schools and families to plan learning more effectively. Another aim, Hampshire, safer and

more secure for all, is supported by achieving agreement on dates across the county so that schools and their communities can work effectively together in school and out of school hours.

- 2.6. Children are safer in school and good attendance supports educational achievement laying the foundation for a positive contribution to society and economic well-being. Properly structured periods of learning and rest help children to remain healthy, enjoy their school time and achieve more. The publication of dates well in advance enables families to plan holidays and arrange childcare so that school attendance need not be compromised.

### **3. Outline of Proposal**

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Executive Member for Children's Services approves the school term and holiday dates that are supported by CoSWoP and are set out in Appendix 1 of the report, for the school year 2013/2104. This model closely copies the one that has been recommended by the LGA.

### **4. Current Position**

- 4.1. For the school year 2013/2014 the pattern recommended by the LGA was noted by HCC and representatives from CoSWoP as providing a very good basis for the pattern of school term and holiday dates. It included all the features that are an aim of the consultation in Hampshire.
- 4.2. The LGA model proposed Thursday 2nd January 2014 (in the LGA model) as the first day of the spring term which, if adopted, restricts the Christmas holiday period to much less than the preferred model of two whole weeks including three weekends. Therefore HCC and CoSWoP proposed Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January as its first day of the spring term. To achieve the extra two days holiday at Christmas the Hampshire proposal starts the Autumn term on Tuesday 3rd September (as opposed to Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September).
- 4.3. The proposed pattern of holiday and term dates is shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.4. The slightly modified pattern of the LGA dates was recommended to schools and they were invited to comment using a Schools Communication dated 14 November, comments being required by 16 December. In total, 7 schools provided comments given in Appendix 2.
- 4.5. Key features of the proposed pattern are;
  - Typical half term lengths other than the 5 week first summer half term.
  - A four day first week of the Autumn Term and a three day final week in the summer term. Where part weeks are necessary it is preferred that they have at least three days.
  - HCC's preferred two week, three weekend Christmas holiday pattern.

**5. Recommendation(s)**

- 5.1. It is recommended that the Executive Member for Children's Services approves the school term and holiday dates that are supported by representative members of Hampshire County Council's (HCC) Conditions of Service Working Party (CoSWoP) and are set out in Appendix 1 of the report, for the school year 2013/2104.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>OR</b>	
<b>This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</b>	
<i>NB: Only complete this section if you have not completed any of the Corporate Strategy tick boxes above. If it is not applicable, please delete.</i>	

*NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.*

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 – background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1. No adverse impact in regard to race, culture, gender or disability arising from this report has been identified. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from school in order to observe religious holidays. Christmas and Easter are statutory public holidays in Britain.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

- 2.1. N/A

### **3. Climate Change:**

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

N/A

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

N/A