

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	23 January 2013
<b>Title:</b>	School term and holiday dates for 2014/2015
<b>Reference:</b>	4532
<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 Member on the need to decide the pattern of school term and holiday dates for school year 2014/15 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 schools. 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, in the past, been active in seeking to establish a National School Year.

2.3. 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.

2.4. 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.

2.5. Children benefit from good attendance in school; in particular it supports educational achievement and lays 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 2014/2015. This model closely copies the one that has been recommended by the LGA.

### **4. Current Position**

- 4.1. For the school year 2014/15 the LGA shared a proposed pattern of dates that was noted by HCC and representatives from CoSWoP as providing a 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 proposed pattern of holiday and term dates is shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.3. The pattern in Appendix 1 was recommended to schools and they were invited to comment using a Schools Communication dated 1 October 2012, comments being required by 16 November 2012. In total, 1 school provided comments together with a written comment from 1 grandparent and these are given in Appendix 2.
- 4.4. Key features of the proposed pattern are;
- Half term lengths that are consistent with the usual school year pattern taking account of Christmas, Easter and summer GCSE and A Level examinations timetable.
  - 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 2014/15.

**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.

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

2.1.

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

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
  
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?