



**Decision Record – Proposed Decision to be taken by the  
Portfolio Holder Education and Learning  
on or after 1 July 2014**

**Outcome of Consultation –  
School Term and Holiday Dates 2015/16**

<b>Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision</b>	Cllr Colin Hayfield Education and Learning
<b>Date of Decision</b>	03/07/2014

**Decision Taken**

That the Portfolio Holder approves school term and holiday dates for the 2015/16 academic year as set out in Option A.

**Reasons for Decisions**

The Local Authority is responsible for setting school term and holiday dates for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools.

**Background Information**

1. Between 16th April 2014 and 16th May 2014 a consultation exercise was carried out by Warwickshire County Council into possible calendars for the 2015/16 academic year.
2. Two possible calendars were put forward for consideration. Option A adheres to the principles traditionally used to devise calendars in Warwickshire. Option B is based around the calendar suggested by the Local Government Association (LGA).
3. Discussions with neighbouring authorities suggest that only a few are considering adopting a calendar similar to that put forward by the LGA.
4. The traditional Warwickshire calendar has an Easter Break where the Easter festival is held at the midpoint of the holiday, which is a week earlier than the one suggested by the LGA. It does, however, allow for an earlier end to the academic year, while the half-term and Christmas breaks align with those suggested by the LGA.
5. As a result of the consultation exercise, 39 comments were received in response. 14 of these were in favour of a calendar based around the LGA model, whilst 25 were in favour of a calendar which adhered to the principles traditionally used to devise calendars in Warwickshire.
6. Whilst a traditional Warwickshire calendar will lead to an Easter break which may differ to some of our neighbours, there are a number of other advantages

including:

- (a) Term dates are set for complete weeks – in the main no split start and end weeks.
- (b) Two Teacher Days set by the Local Authority (Friday 4th September 2015 and Monday 4th January 2016). Schools would be free to disaggregate the first of these dates.
- (c) Half-terms in line with those suggested by the LGA and which have been adopted by our neighbours.
- (d) A ten-day Easter Break, but one week earlier than that set by the LGA, and which may therefore be likely to differ from our neighbours.
- (e) The academic year ends on a Friday and allows for a six week summer break.

**Financial Implications**

None

<b>Report Author</b>	Steve Pendleton
<b>Head of Service</b>	Nigel Minns
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Monica Fogarty
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Colin Hayfield

**Checklist**

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	No.
<b>Confidential or Exempt?</b>	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

**List of Reports considered** - please include link to report

Link to published proposed decision report:

**List of Background Papers**

None

**Members and officers consulted or informed**

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Colin Hayfield  
All Strategic Directors  
Legal – Victoria Gould, Fay Ford, Barry Jukes, Peter Endall, Jane Pollard  
Finance – Simon Smith, Chris Norton  
Equality – Minakshee Patel  
Democratic Services – Georgina Atkinson  
Children & Young People OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Bob Hicks, Julie Jackson, Chris Williams and John Whitehouse.

Comment from Councillor Williams - It is my view that Option A which recommends the traditional Warwickshire calendar, as exhibited, be adopted for the 2015/16 Academic Year. I am sure that the majority of schools will agree with this decision.

