

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People & Families Decision Making Session

Date of Committee 20 May 2011

Report Title Outcome of Consultation – School Term and Holiday Dates – 2012/13

Summary This document contains details of the recent consultation exercise carried out regarding school term and holiday dates for the 2012/13 academic year

For further information please contact: Craig Pratt – Principal Administrative Officer – Pupil and Student Services
Tel: 01926 742070
email: craigpratt@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No

Background papers Consultation Document

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

Other Committees

Local Member(s) Not applicable

Other Elected Members Cllr June Tandy
Cllr John Ross

Cllr Peter Balaam
Cllr Carolyn Robbins

Cabinet Member Cllr Heather Timms, Portfolio Holder

Chief Executive

Legal Fay Ford “comments incorporated into the report”

Finance

Other Chief Officers

District Councils

Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals All Warwickshire Schools
All County Councillors
All Warwickshire MPs
Neighbouring Authorities
Church Authorities
Comments were invited from any interested party
via the Warwickshire County Council website

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

**Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Families
Decision Making Session - 20 May 2011
School Term and Holiday Dates – 2012/13**

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder approves School Term and Holiday Dates for the 2012/13 academic year as set out in the Appendix B of the consultation document.

1. The Local Authority is responsible for setting school term and holiday dates for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. Academies, Foundation and Aided Schools are responsible for setting their own term dates. No information has yet been received from such schools regarding likely calendars for the 2012/13 academic year.
2. Between 7 March 2011 and 15 April 2011 a consultation exercise was carried out by Warwickshire County Council into possible calendars for the 2012/13 academic year. A copy of the consultation document is attached as **Appendix 1**.
3. Two possible calendars were put forward for consideration. The first of these is based around the calendar suggested by the Local Government Association (LGA). The other adheres to the principles traditionally used to devise calendars in Warwickshire.
4. Discussions with neighbouring authorities suggest that they are likely to adopt a calendar very similar to that put forward by the LGA.
5. The traditional Warwickshire calendar has an Easter Break 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.
6. As a result of the consultation exercise, fifty six comments were received in response. Eighteen of these were in favour of a calendar based around the LGA model, while thirty eight were in favour of a calendar which adhered to the principles traditionally used to devise calendars in Warwickshire.
7. While a traditional Warwickshire calendar will lead to an Easter break which would differ to our neighbours, there are a number of other advantages (see above).
8. It is therefore recommended that the traditional Warwickshire calendar shown at Appendix B of the attached document be adopted for the 2012/13 academic year.

Report Author: Craig Pratt
Head of Service: Mark Gore
Strategic Director: Marion Davis - Children, Young People & Families
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Heather Timms
6 May 2011

Children, Young People and Families

Headteachers of all Warwickshire Schools

All other parties with an interest in School Term and Holiday Dates.

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07 March 2011

Dear Colleague,

Re: School Term and Holiday Dates

Action Summary:

Title: School Term and Holiday Dates – 2012/13 Academic Year.

For the attention of: All Headteachers and other interested parties.

Action required: Comments are invited on the proposed calendars for the 2012/13 academic year and should be submitted by Friday 15 April 2011.

Introduction

The Local Authority is responsible for setting school term and holiday dates for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. This paper contains details of suggested school term and holiday dates for the 2012/13 academic year. Included are two suggested calendars and we would like to hear your views. After consideration of the comments received, a recommendation will be made to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Families.

A copy of this paper will be available to the public via the Warwickshire County Council website, and schools are encouraged to share the proposals with students and their parents. Comments are also invited from professional associations and Warwickshire's Augmented Teachers' Panel (ATP).

Traditional principles used in Warwickshire

When setting school term and holiday dates for Warwickshire schools, a number of 'guiding principles' are used. Every effort is always made to adhere to as many of the following as possible:

- A calendar of 195 days from which the five Teacher Days are taken.

- Two of the five Teacher Days defined by the Local Authority – one at the start of the autumn and spring terms. The other three are set by schools.
- Friday of August Bank Holiday week is a Teacher Day but, by agreement at school level, staff do not have to attend if they commit to activity at other times. Most schools are therefore closed during this week.
- A three-weekend break at Christmas and at Easter.
- Summer holiday as near to six weeks minimum.

In attempting to adhere to the above principles, Warwickshire's calendars have in recent years differed to those set by neighbouring authorities. This has led to criticism from schools as well as parents.

In setting a calendar for the 2012/13 academic year, our aim is to consult as widely as possible. It should be noted though that a calendar which matches our neighbours does require a compromise in the form of a late end to the academic year. A calendar which adheres to the above principles is possible, but will lead to an Easter Break which is earlier than in neighbouring authorities.

Options for 2012/13

The Local Government Association has now published a suggested calendar for the 2012/13 academic year. The calendar shown at **Appendix A** is based around the one suggested by the LGA and has the following features:

- A late start to the academic year with no teaching during August Bank Holiday week.
- The Teacher Day normally set on Friday of August Bank Holiday week is moved to Tuesday 04 September 2012. Schools would be free to disaggregate this day.
- The half-term breaks have been accepted in principle by most of our neighbours, although Birmingham is now considering an earlier break in October to coincide with Eid.
- A ten day break at Christmas plus a Local Authority Teacher Day.
- An eleven day Easter Break.
- An academic year which finishes late in July and mid-week, leading to a shorter summer break.
- Appears very popular with neighbouring authorities.

An alternative to the above calendar is shown at **Appendix B**. This adheres to all of the key principles we traditionally try to accommodate, but requires an earlier, and shorter break at Easter. The key features are as follows:

- No teaching during August Bank Holiday week.
- Two Teacher Days set by the Local Authority (Friday 31 August 2012 and Monday 07 January 2013). Schools would be free to disaggregate the first of these days.

- Half-terms in line with those suggested by the LGA, and likely to be adopted by our neighbours.
- A ten day Easter Break, but one week earlier than that set by the LGA, and therefore likely to differ from our neighbours.
- The academic year ends on a Friday and allows for a six week summer break.

Next steps

Comments on the two suggested calendars are invited. These should be sent to Craig Pratt, Principal Administrative Officer, Pupil and Student Services, Ansell Way, Warwick, CV34 4UL or craigpratt@warwickshire.gov.uk

Comments should be submitted by Friday 15 April 2011.

All comments received will be considered before a recommendation is put forward to the relevant Portfolio Holder. The calendar for the 2012/13 academic year will then be published in late May.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Pratt
Principal Administrative Officer
Pupil & Student Services

Appendix A - Suggested Calendar - 2012/13 Academic Year - LGA Model

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
August 2012						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
September 2012						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
October 2012						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
November 2012						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
December 2012						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
January 2013						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
February 2013						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
March 2013						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
April 2013						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
May 2013						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		




M	T	W	T	F	S	S
June 2013						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
July 2013						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
August 2013						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30*	31	

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
September 2013						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Term	Days
1	39
2	35
3	30
4	24
5	29
6	38
Total	195

-  School Holiday
-  Public Holiday
-  Teacher Day

*Please note that the Teacher Day shown on Friday 30 August 2013 is provisional as dates for the 2013/14 academic year have not yet been set.

Appendix B - Suggested Calendar - 2012/13 Academic Year - Traditional Warwickshire Model

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
August 2012						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
September 2012						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
October 2012						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
November 2012						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
December 2012						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
January 2013						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
February 2013						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
March 2013						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
April 2013						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
May 2013						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		




M	T	W	T	F	S	S
June 2013						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
July 2013						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
August 2013						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30*	31	

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
September 2013						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Term	Days
1	41
2	35
3	30
4	20
5	34
6	35
Total	195

-  School Holiday
-  Public Holiday
-  Teacher Day

*Please note that the Teacher Day shown on Friday 30 August 2013 is provisional as dates for the 2013/14 academic year have not yet been set.