

Decision Record – Outcome of Consultation on School Term and Holiday Dates 2013/14

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools

Councillor Heather Timms

Date of Decision: (NOT BEFORE 25 May 2012)

25 May 2012

Decision taken

I, as Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools, approves the School Term and Holiday dates for 2013/14 academic year (for community and voluntary controlled schools) as appended.

Reasons for Decisions

The approved dates follows consultation into possible calendars (one suggested by the Local Government Association and one that adheres to the principles traditionally used in Warwickshire).

I agree to the traditionally based option, as supported by the 34 of the 42 comments received in response to the consultation. Although the Easter break will differ from our neighbouring authorities, the year will end earlier and the half-term and Christmas breaks will align.

Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions -

Background

See officer report and following extract that sets out the features of the two options that were subject to consultation:

LGA Calendar:

- A late start to the academic year with no teacher training day during August Bank Holiday week.
- Half-term breaks have been accepted in principle by our neighbouring Local Authorities.
- An eight day break at Christmas.
- An eleven day Easter Break with a return the day after Easter Monday.
- An academic year which finishes late in July and mid-week.

The preferred option which takes in the traditional principles used in Warwickshire:

- Term dates are set for complete weeks – in the main no split start and end weeks.
- No teaching during August Bank Holiday week.
- Two Teacher Days set by the Local Authority (Friday 30 August 2013 and Monday 06 January 2014). Schools would be free to disaggregate the first of these days.
- Half-terms in line with those suggested by the LGA, and which have been adopted by our neighbours.
- A ten-day Easter Break, but one week later 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.

Financial and Legal Implications

There are none

Report Author:	Timothy Howram
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Strategic Director:	Wendy Fabbro
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Heather Timms

Checklist

Urgent matter: yes/no*

No

Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)

No

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework

No

List of Reports considered [please attach or forward a copy]

Report as published

List of Background Papers *[please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]*

Published document - LGA suggested calendar

Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.

Consulted:

Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Cllr Heather Timms

Legal: David Carter

Finance: Simon Smith, Chris Norton

Equalities & Diversity Manager: Tejay De Krester

For information:

Cllr Robbins (Cabinet support)

Children & Young People O&S Spokespersons: Cllrs Tandy, Balaam, Foster, Rickhards and Ross