Portfolio Holder Decisions/Leader Decisions

Date: Friday 15 January 2021 Time: 12.00 pm

Membership

Councillor Izzi Seccombe Councillor Colin Hayfield

Items on the agenda: -

1.	Getting Building Fund: Cycling Network Expansion and	3 - 6
	Art Challenge projects	

2. School Term Dates 2022/23

7 - 14

Monica Fogarty Chief Executive Warwickshire County Council Shire Hall, Warwick

Disclaimers

Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election of appointment to the Council. A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which s/he has a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless s/he has a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if s/he has not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Must leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with

• Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

Non-pecuniary interests must still be declared in accordance with the Code of Conduct. These should be declared at the commencement of the meeting The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web <u>https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1</u>

Public Speaking

Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire, or who is in receipt of services from the Council, may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter within the remit of the Committee. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak please notify Democratic Services in writing at least two working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Council's Standing Orders.



Leader Decision – Getting Building Fund: Cycling Network Expansion and Art Challenge projects

Portfolio Holder	Leader		
Date of decision	15 January 2021		
	Signed		

Decision taken

That the Leader of the Council:

- Approves acceptance of the Getting Building Fund grants for the Warwickshire Cycling Network Expansion project (£1.9 million) and Arts Challenge Fund project (£0.194 million), and
- Delegates authority to the Strategic Director for Communities to enter into the grant agreement with Coventry and Warwickshire LEP for the Cycle Links and Art Challenge Projects and to enter any other necessary legal agreements to give effect to the projects on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources.
- Approves, the addition of the A452 Kenilworth Road to Learnington Spa town centre cycle route to the capital programme at a cost of £0.56 million funded by the GBF, the allocation of £0.482 million from the GBF to the existing A422 Stratford Gyratory capital scheme to deliver improved cycle infrastructure on the A422 Alcester Road Stratford-upon-Avon and the allocation of £0.858 million from the GBF to the existing A429 M40 J15 to A46/B4115 capital scheme to deliver a series of cycle infrastructure improvements within and connecting to this transport corridor.
- Approves the addition of the Arts Challenge Fund project to the capital programme at a maximum value of £0.279 million funded by the £0.194 million Getting Building Fund grant and £0.085 million allocation from the County Council's Place Shaping and Capital Feasibility Fund.

Reasons for decisions

In August 2020 the County Council secured funding, subject to agreeing grant conditions, from the Government's Getting Building Fund through Coventry and Warwickshire LEP for the Warwickshire Cycling Network Expansion and Arts Challenge Fund projects. Approval is now required from the Leader of the Council to enter into a Grant Agreement with Coventry and Warwickshire LEP in order to begin drawing down grant funding and progressing the projects. It is also requested that authority is delegated to the Strategic Director of Communities to enter into any necessary legal agreements on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director of Resources.

Background information

In August 2020 the Government confirmed the list of over 300 successful projects which will receive a share of £900 million from the Getting Building Fund (GBF). The GBF is investing in shovel-ready infrastructure projects to create jobs and support economic recovery across the country. The projects were selected by Local Enterprise Partnerships and Mayoral Combined Authorities in each area and endorsed by the Housing Secretary.

The Coventry and Warwickshire LEP was allocated £8.1m from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects covering transport, skills, town centre regeneration, enterprise support and housing. These projects support green growth by delivering new and improved cycleways, retrofitting, and improving green spaces and public realm.

This report relates to the following two projects being led by Warwickshire County Council:

1 - The Warwickshire Cycling Network Expansion Project

Funding of £1.9 million from the GBF supported with an additional £0.3 million from the County Council's Casualty Reduction capital fund will bring forward a total of 7km of new or enhanced priority cycle routes in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick and Learnington Spa. This funding will build on existing investment in cycling infrastructure to advance cycling connectivity and help establish cycling as a viable and attractive choice of travel, particularly for short urban journeys.

2 - The Arts Challenge Fund Project

Investment of £0.194 million from the GBF supported by a further £0.15 million from the County Council's Place Shaping and Capital Feasibility Fund will be used to engage local artists alongside experienced place curators to create innovative experiences and installations. This will stimulate the economic and social wellbeing of the towns and wider rural hinterland which depend upon them. The GBF grant will be used to support projects in North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth. The overarching objective is to enhance Warwickshire's cultural and artistic appeal in the run up to, during, and beyond Coventry 2021, whilst supporting places to be safe and vibrant in the wake of the impact that the Covid 19 pandemic has had on local economies and communities.

Contractually, the Council will enter into individual contracts with each successful artist, which will include design, build, maintenance and (eventual) decommissioning. We will also be contracting with an expert Place Curator agency to run the competitive bidding process and support the bidding artists to develop their ideas through to a full proposal and design. The total funding available will therefore be used to pay both the Place Curators and the artists as well as other associated project costs.

The County Council has also secured the following GBF grants for which grant agreements have been finalised:

- 1. £0.5 million towards project costs of £1.012 million to create new office space at Holly Walk, Learnington Spa for the growing gaming and digital creative sector.
- £0.35 million to fund delivery of electric vehicle charging points. This will build on the £0.412 million already secured from the Government's Office for Low Emission Vehicles with the combined funding helping to deliver approximately 200 Electric Vehicle charging points across Warwickshire.

Financial implications

Entering into grant agreements with Coventry and Warwickshire LEP will enable the County Council to utilise GBF grant funding of £1.9 million for the Warwickshire Cycle Links project and £0.194 million for the Arts Challenge Fund project. This funding would not otherwise be available.

The project funding must be spent and defrayed by 31 March 2022. Any delay to project delivery beyond this time presents a risk that grant funding cannot be drawn down and projects not completed. Project delay could also result in additional funding being required to complete projects. Robust project management and governance arrangements have been put in place to mitigate against this risk and ensure the projects are delivered to programme and within budget.

The grant agreements contain contracted project outputs which in relation to the cycle links project is 7km of new or improved cycle routes. The Arts Challenge Fund project is contracted to deliver five installations. Any variation to the contracted outputs would require the approval Coventry and Warwickshire LEP. Were projects to experience cost overruns and be unable to gain approval to vary the contracted outputs, any funding gap would need to be met. This is considered a low risk. The project costs for the Arts Challenge Fund have been developed with the input of an expert Place Curator agency and the design of installations can be adjusted to ensure costs remain within the available budget. The costs of the cycle links schemes have been established with the input of Design Services based on either applying standard rates from the Highways Maintenance Contract (Balfour Beatty Living Places) with 20% contingency included to concept designs or by using a cost per metre rate based on recent experience of cycle scheme delivery. There will also be an opportunity to descope schemes should this be necessary to ensure costs remain within the available budget.

Environmental implications

Transport is the single largest cause of carbon emissions in the UK. The cycle links project will provide cycling infrastructure which will enable more journeys to be made by cycling, thereby contributing to reduced carbon emissions as well as lower levels of congestion and improved air quality.

Report Author	Stephen Rumble				
	stephenrumble@warwickshire.gov.uk,				
Assistant Director	Assistant Director for Communities				
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities				
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage &				
	Culture, Portfolio Holder for Transport and				
	Planning				

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the	No
budget and policy	
framework?	

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jeff Clarke and Councillor Heather Timms

Corporate Board – Mark Ryder

Legal – Jane Pollard

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality –

Democratic Services – Helen Barnsley

Councillors -

Local Member(s): n/a

Portfolio Holder Decision – School Term Dates 2022/23

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning
Date of decision	15 January 2021
	Signed

Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning approves the school term and holiday dates for the 2022/23 academic year as set out in the published report.

Reasons for decisions

The Local Authority (LA) is currently 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. There is collaboration between the LA and Academies, Foundation and Aided schools which have been invited to consult on the term dates and have generally followed the Local Authority's pattern of terms and holiday dates.

Background information

A number of guiding principles have traditionally been used to set the pattern of terms and holidays and effort is made to adhere to as many of the following as possible:

- 1. 195 days from which five teacher training days are taken
- 2. Two of the five teacher training days are defined by the local authority, one of these days is at the start of the autumn and spring terms, the other three to be set by schools
- 3. Complete weeks when setting holiday dates wherever possible
- 4. A three-weekend break at Christmas and Easter
- 5. A summer break as close to six weeks as possible

6. A pattern which is as consistent as possible with neighbouring authorities.

On occasion, feedback is received relating to concerns regarding the length of the Autumn term. This model is agreed with the majority of our Regional and neighbouring authorities. Warwickshire County Council will continue to explore alternative options and raise the matter at the next regional meeting.

A consultation exercise ran between the 19th October and 27th November 2020; this consultation was carried out with all state-funded schools and academies, governing bodies and union representatives.

The term dates of neighbouring authorities affect the preferences of some schools, mainly those close to authority borders. Where neighbouring authorities had published their term dates for 2022/23, these were included in the consultation information. Coventry City Council is a significant neighbour for many Warwickshire schools and is currently consulting on the same term dates as WCC.

Proposal

Two options for the 2022/23 academic year were put forward for consideration. Option 1 comprised the calendar as previously proposed by the West Midlands Regional School Term Date Group as an option for all regional local authorities. Option 2 differed by having the Spring half-term holiday a week earlier and the Summer half-term holiday a week later. This results in more even term lengths, but the Summer half-term holiday being later is problematic for Secondary schools in timing exams and results in a preceding four-day week due to a bank holiday.

Option 1:

- Term 1 5th September to 16th December 2022
- Half term holiday 1 24th October to 28th October 2022
- Term 2 3rd January to 31st March 2023
- Half term holiday 2 20th February to 24th February 2023
- Term 3 17th April to 25th July 2023
- Half term holiday 3 29th May to 2nd June 2023

Consultees were made aware that Option 1 dates have been adopted by Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham authorities.

Option 2:

As above, except:

- Half term holiday 2 13th February to 17th February 2023
- Term 3 17th April to 26th July 2023
- Half term holiday 3 5th June to 9th June 2023

In both options, the two Teacher Training days set by the LA were proposed as the first days of each of the first two terms, 5th September 2022 and 3rd January 2023. A universal Secondary School Induction Day was also proposed for 5th July 2023.

Calendars of both options are provided in the Background papers.

In total, 55 responses were received to this consultation.

In summary:

- Option 1, 27 (49%)
- Option 2, 18 (33%)
- No preference, 10 (18%)

All respondents who expressed a preference, except one, agreed with the proposed Secondary School Induction Day Date.

Specific comments received can be summarised as:

Option 1	Option 2
Aligns with Neighbouring Authorities.	Provides more even term dates.
	Moving date of May half term into June could be problematic with national exams

It is recommended to adopt Option 1 as it received more positive support in the consultation. The Secondary Induction Day will be set as Wednesday 5th July 2023.

Financial implications

None

Environmental implications

None

Report Author	Emma Basden-Smith, Rosalind Currie, Bern Timings emmabasdensmith@warwickshire.gov.uk, rosalindcurrie@warwickshire.gov.uk, berntimings@warwickshire.gov.uk				
Assistant Director	lan Budd				
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities				
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning				

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the	No
budget and policy	
framework?	

Lis	List of background papers				
1	Options 1 & 2 for 2022/23 term dates – as consultation				
2	Final Calendar recommended for approval.				

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Colin Hayfield

Corporate Board – Mark Ryder

Legal – Ian Marriott

Finance – Virginia Rennie

Equality –

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors –

Local Member(s): Cllr Colin Hayfield Cllr Jeff Morgan Cllr Yousef Dahmash Cllr Chris Williams Cllr Corinne Davies Cllr Jerry Roodhouse

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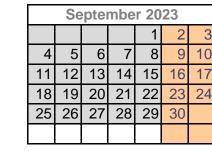
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	Total days
Autumn Term	70
Spring Term	59
Summer Term	66



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Half Term	Days
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Total	195

School Holiday

Public Holiday

Teacher Training Day (+3 to be set by school)

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	Total days
Autumn Term	70
Spring Term	59
Summer Term	66



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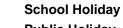
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Public Holiday

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Public Holiday

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Induction Day

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