

## INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING MEETING

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER - THE MAYOR**

## RECORD OF DECISION

An Individual Executive Decision Making meeting was held on 25 March 2019.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mayor D Budd

**PRESENT AS OBSERVERS:** A Hoy

**OFFICIALS:** G Maddison, G Moore and J White

**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no Declarations of Interest made by Members at this point in the meeting.

**18/1 MIDDLESBROUGH LOCAL AUTHORITY DRAFT SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2020/21**

The Executive Member for Education and Skills and the Head of Access to Education submitted a report that sought approval for the admissions arrangements that proposed to govern the way in which the Local Authority administered school admissions during the period 2020/21.

All local authorities in England were required to have in place clear arrangements for the management of school admissions. Those arrangements had to be reviewed annually.

Attached at appendices 1 to 4, of the submitted report, were draft documents collectively known as 'School Admission Arrangements': Middlesbrough's co-ordinated in-year admissions scheme, admission numbers, co-ordinated admission scheme and school admission arrangements.

**OPTIONS****Other potential decisions and why those had not been recommended**

**As the Local Authority was legally obliged to review and update its School Admissions Arrangements annually, there was no alternative approach that could have been taken.**

**ORDERED**

**That the draft School Admissions Arrangements for 2020/21 be approved.**

**REASONS**

**The Local Authority had a statutory obligation to review its published process for administering school admissions annually. That was to allow for amendments or changes to be made to the process to reflect changing priorities or to update the arrangements where necessary. The published School Admissions Arrangements were legally binding and had to be adhered to by the Local Authority and its officers. The arrangements had been fully consulted upon on, as required by the Department for Education. The consultation period lasted six weeks and concluded on 31.1.19. The following groups were consulted:**

- **Neighbouring local authorities**
- **All Middlesbrough schools**
- **The public**

**No comments or feedback had been received as a result of the consultation. Arrangements had not been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.**

18/2

## **SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE 2020/2021**

The Executive Member for Education and Skills and the Executive Director for Children's Services submitted a report that sought approval for the school term dates for the 2020/2021 academic years.

The Local Authority had a statutory responsibility for setting school term dates for its community, voluntary controlled and community special schools. For academy, foundation, voluntary aided or foundation special schools the school governing bodies had the responsibility for setting their own school term dates.

In establishing proposed term dates, consultation in Middlesbrough had taken place with all chairs of governors, head teachers and academy principals of primary and secondary schools, neighbouring north eastern local authorities, trade union representatives and Middlesbrough Diocese. The consultation was conducted through schools, meaning that elected members who were on school governing bodies would have had the opportunity to give a view.

### **OPTIONS**

**Two options were consulted on for the 2020/2021 academic years.**

#### **Option 1**

**195 days including five Professional Development days: The five Professional Development days were set on an individual school basis.**

- The academic year would have commenced on Tuesday 1 September 2020.
- On Monday 26 October 2020 the October half term would have commenced.
- On Friday 18 December 2020 the Christmas holidays would have commenced.
- On Monday 15 February 2021 the February half term would have commenced.
- On Monday 29 March 2021 the Easter break would have commenced and would have finished on Friday 9 April 2021 (two week break).
- On Friday 28 May 2021 the May half term would have commenced and would have finished on Friday 4 June 2021 (one week break).
- On Tuesday 20 July 2021 the academic year would have finished.

#### **Option 2**

**195 days including five Professional Development days: The five Professional Development days were set on an individual school basis.**

- The academic year would have commenced on Tuesday 1 September 2020.
- On Monday 26 October 2020 the October half term would have commenced.
- On Friday 18 December 2020 the Christmas holidays would have commenced.
- On Monday 15 February 2021 the February half term would have commenced.
- On Thursday 1 April 2021 the Easter break would have commenced and would have finished on Friday 9 April 2021 (one week break).
- On Friday 28 May 2021 the May half term would have commenced and would have finished on Monday 14 June 2021 (two week break).
- On Wednesday 21 July 2021 the academic year would have finished.

### **ORDERED**

**That Option 1 be approved, in setting term dates for the 2020/2021 academic years.**

**Option 1 matched the secondary school examinations timetable and the decisions by**

the other four local authorities in the Tees Valley area. Furthermore, it would have been easier for parents and staff who had children attending schools in neighbouring authorities.

## **REASONS**

### **Outcome of the Consultation**

- Preferred Option 1 - Nine schools (two secondary academies, four special schools, two primary academies and one maintained primary school)
- Preferred Option 2 - Two schools (one academy primary and one co-operative foundation school)

Issues that had been considered when making a decision on the two options were:

- Secondary schools had no alternative but to be in school during June, as pupils were sitting national examinations.
- Other local authorities (Stockton, Redcar and Cleveland, Hartlepool and North Yorkshire) had only consulted on one option, which was Option 1.
- Option 2 may have caused issues for parents if they had children in both primary and secondary schools and for staff working in Middlesbrough schools with children in adjoining local authorities, who were proposing Option 1 (two weeks holiday at Easter).

The decisions will come into force with immediate effect and are not subject to scrutiny call-in procedures.