

Report of:	Executive Director, Children’s Services: Helen Watson Executive Member for Education and Skills: Cllr Jan Brunton Dobson
Submitted to:	Individual Executive Member Meeting – The Mayor – 25 March 2019
Subject:	School Term Dates for the 2020/2021

Summary

Proposed decision(s)			
That Executive Member approves the school term dates for the 2020/2021 academic years following the results of consultation.			
Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?¹
Decision	It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards	N/A	Yes - Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board has agreed to this urgent decision being made.
Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan			
Business Imperatives	Physical Regeneration	Social Regeneration	
		Working with our communities and other public service organisations to improve the lives of Middlesbrough’s residents	
Ward(s) affected			
The decision covers all wards.			

What is the purpose of this report?

1. The Local Authority has 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 Trust board have the responsibility for setting their own school term dates.
2. In establishing proposed term dates, consultation in Middlesbrough has taken place with all Chairs of Governors, Head Teachers and Academy Principals, of Secondary and Primary, neighbouring North Eastern Local Authorities, Trade Union representatives and the Diocese of Middlesbrough. The consultation was conducted through schools, meaning that elected members who are on school governing bodies will have had the opportunity to give a view.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

3. The Council is required to make a decision on term dates in order to comply with government legislation and to give a clear direction on term dates for community schools to follow. Academies and Foundation Schools set their own term dates but have regard to the term dates set by the LA when setting their own calendar.
4. Given that consultation has taken place, including with neighbouring authorities, a single Executive decision is appropriate.

Report Background

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

Option 1 2020/21: 195 days including five Professional Development Days: The five Professional Development days are set on an individual school basis.

- The academic year will commence:
Tuesday 1 September 2020.
Monday 26 October 2020 October half term will commence.
Friday 18 December 2020 Christmas Holidays will commence.
Monday 15 February 2021 February half term will commence.
Monday 29 March 2021 Easter break commences and finish Friday 9 April 2021 **(two week break)**.
Friday 28 May 2021 May half term commences finish Friday 4 June 2021 **(one week break)**.
Tuesday 20 July 2021 Academic year will finish.

Option 2 2020/21: 195 days including five Professional Development Days: The five Professional Development days are set on an individual school basis.

- The academic year will commence:
Tuesday 1 September 2020.
Monday 26 October 2020 October half term will commence
Friday 18 December 2020 Christmas Holidays will commence.
Monday 15 February 2021 February half term will commence
Thursday 1 April 2021 Easter break commences and finishes Friday 9 April 2021 **(one week break)**.
Friday 28 May 2021 May half term commences and finishes on Monday 14 June 2021 **(two week break)**.
Wednesday 21 July 2021 Academic year will finish.

6. Consultation closed on Monday 11 February 2019.

Responses were received from:

Community Schools:

Primary	1
Primary Foundation	1
Special	3

Academies:

Primary	3
Secondary	2
Special	1
TOTAL	11

Neighbouring authorities, Stockton, Redcar & Cleveland, Darlington and Hartlepool and North Yorkshire were also part of the consultation.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

7. That Executive Member approves Option 1 in setting term dates for the 2020/2021 academic years.

8. Option 1 fits with the Secondary School examinations timetable, it matches the decisions by the other four LAs in the Tees Valley area and will be easier for parents and staff who have children attending schools in neighbouring authorities.

Why is this being recommended?

9. Outcome of the Consultation

- **Preferred Option One** – Nine Schools (Two Secondary Academies, Four Special School, Two Primary Academies and One Maintained Primary)
- **Preferred Option Two** – Two Schools (One Academy Primary and One Co-operative Foundation School)

10. Issues to consider when making a decision on the two options are:

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

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

11. The only legal implication would be if a decision were not taken to set the term dates, which would contravene legislative requirements.

Financial

12. There are no financial implications in selecting one option over another.

Equality and Diversity

13. An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as it is an annual statutory requirement to set and publish term dates for each academic year and this function is covered by existing Council policies.

Risk

14. The Council is required to make a decision on term dates in order to comply with government legislation and to give a clear direction on term dates for community schools to follow. Academies and Foundation Schools set their own term dates but have regard to the term dates set by the LA when setting their own calendar. Failure to set the dates would be a breach of the council's duty and would lead to further confusion for schools in their decision making.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

15. Approved term dates published on LA website and information circulated to schools.

Appendices

16. Option 1 and 2 Term Dates 2020/2021

Background papers

17. No background papers were used in the preparation of this report'.

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