

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education

To: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

Subject: Revision to School Term Dates for the Years 2018-19 & 2019-20

Classification: Unrestricted

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: All

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Member is asked to:

- i. Consider and make recommendations on the decision to revise the school term dates for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20. (As set out in sections 2.4 and 2.5 of this report.)

1. Background

- 1.1 KCC is responsible for setting term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools, while governing bodies of foundation and voluntary aided schools are responsible for setting their own term dates. Academies and free schools also have the freedom to decide their dates and length of terms.
- 1.2 In previous years, the Local Government Association (LGA) has coordinated the preparation of a draft Standard School Year. However, the LGA has decided to stop coordinating the development of draft models for standard school years. This is because only around 40% of areas are now following the Standard School Year, as more academies and free schools determine the term dates for their schools.
- 1.3 Over a school year, pupils are required to attend for 190 days/380 sessions. In total, teachers may be required to be available for work on up to 195 days, with the additional days specified by individual schools as non-contact days. Schools may also require teachers to work additional hours before or after school sessions, as an alternative to full non-contact days, provided that any teacher is not required to work in aggregate more than 1,265 hours during a school year. Schools may therefore choose to require teachers to make up the full equivalent of the 5 non-contact days wholly through additional hours, or use a mixture of additional hours and non-contact days.
- 1.4 The Department for Education (DfE) announced last year that the proposed Deregulation Bill will not allow maintained schools the power to set their own term dates, as there has been no real clamour from schools that do not have

this power to have this freedom. The Government decided that due to the lack of interest, and the concerns raised by the National Union of Teachers (NUT) regarding parental confusion and lack of cohesion between schools, it would not be appropriate to allow all maintained schools to set their own dates.

- 1.5 In determining the proposed future school term dates, KCC is required to consult on the proposed dates.

2. Proposed Dates

- 2.1 In March 2016, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agreed to determine the school year term dates for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20. This followed a consultation with all schools and other key stakeholders such as governors (including parent groups), the Diocesan bodies, trade unions and other neighbouring authorities. The general public was also encouraged to participate.
- 2.2 Feedback from this consultation included a request from teachers that Term 5 should end later in both 2018-19 and 2019-20 to help regulate the length of each term. Subsequently, the decision was taken to extend Term 5 in 2019 from 23 to 27 days with term ending on 31st May 2019 and Term 6 beginning on 10th June 2019. In 2020, Term 5 was extended from 25 to 28 days with term ending on 29th May 2020 and Term 6 beginning on 8th June 2020.
- 2.3 Since this decision, proposed examination dates for Secondary school pupils have been released by Examination Boards and Awarding Bodies. In 2019 and 2020, Secondary education level exams have been scheduled to take place during the first week of June. Therefore, it has been necessary to hold a consultation on the proposal to alter the date on which Term 5 ends in both 2019 and 2020.
- 2.4 Instead of Term 5 ending on Friday 31st May 2019 it is proposed that the last day of term will be Friday 24th May 2019. Pupils will then return to school on Monday 3rd June 2019 instead of Monday 10th June 2019. In the following year, instead of Term 5 ending on Friday 29th May 2020, it is proposed that the last day of term will be Friday 22nd May 2020. Pupils will then return to school on Monday 1st June 2020 instead of Monday 8th June 2020.
- 2.5 The late May Bank Holiday would fall during the half term holiday so for both 2019 and 2020, it is proposed Term 6 would end a day earlier than currently determined.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct cost implications arising from the decision on the school calendar. However, if individual foundation, voluntary aided schools, academies or free schools determine a different pattern of term dates, they may incur additional costs in relation to home to school transport, as the authority passes any additional costs on to the schools concerned.

4. Policy Framework

- 4.1 Legislation requires KCC to consult on, and set school term dates for maintained schools. It is important that these dates support, rather than conflict with, public examinations.

5. Consultation and Statutory Public Notice

- 5.1 KCC consulted on the proposed revision to term dates for the academic years 2018-19 and 2019-20 from 17th May to 14th June 2017. The consultation was circulated to all schools via the e-bulletin and with other key stakeholders such as governors, parents, the Diocesan bodies and trade unions.
- 5.2 The consultation received 29 responses, as follows: 14 Headteachers, 5 teachers, 1 school governor, 5 parents, 2 union representatives and 2 school administrators.
- 5.3 Eighteen responses agreed with the proposal to move the holiday at the end of Term 5 to the last week of May in both 2019 and 2020.
- 5.4 Eleven respondents, all of whom are associated with Primary schools, would prefer the holiday at the end of Term 5 to remain the first week of June as this helps to regulate the length of Terms 5 and 6. One commented, *“For Primary schools, the long term 6 is a real struggle as pupils become very tired. A longer term 5 would, in my opinion, have a positive impact on schools and this decision should not be altered”*.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An equality impact assessment has been completed and is available at the following link:
<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/SchoolTermDatesReview>

The conclusion following the public consultation is that the presumptions made in the initial assessment still remain and that it is not necessary to initiate a further Equality Impact Assessment.

7. Legal Implications

None

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 Following the feedback from the consultation Members are asked to comment on and endorse the proposed revised school term dates calendar for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Member is asked to:

- i. Consider and make recommendations on the decision to revise the school term dates for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20. (As set out in sections 2.4 and 2.5 of this report.)

10. Background Documents

10.1 The public consultation document is available via the following link:

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/SchoolTermDatesReview>

11. Contact details

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