

Meeting:	Education Consultative Forum
Date:	31 January 2006
Subject:	School Term Dates 2007/08
Responsible Officer:	Director of Strategy
Contact Officer:	Group Manager – Client and Management Support Services
Portfolio Holder:	Education and Lifelong Learning
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part 1

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

To recommend the 2007/08 terms dates for Harrow schools as set out in appendix 1.

Reason for report

The Forum, at its meeting on 22 September 2005, requested the working group consider and present options to EdCF to determine the term dates for Harrow schools for the academic year 2007/08.

Benefits

- To agree, and publish, the school term dates for 2007/08 as early as possible to aid future planning for schools, governors, parents and other partners.
- To ensure, as far as possible, that the school term dates for Harrow are in line with the dates proposed by the Local Government Association (LGA) and Association for London Government (ALG). The LGA proposed dates are shown at appendix 2.
- To comply, as far as possible, with the Harrow principles agreed following consultation with schools, governors, parents and other partners.

Cost of Proposals

No additional costs.

Risks

None

Implications if recommendations rejected

There will be a delay in determining and publicising the school term dates for 2007/08.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Background

The Education Consultative Forum (EdCF) annually agrees the term dates for each school year. The EdCF at its meeting on 22 September 2005 agreed to consider the 2006/07 take up of the ALG proposals and consider the proposals for the 2007/08 academic year. The working group set up by the Forum considered the options at their meeting on 9th January and agreed the recommendation set out in Appendix I.

- 2.2 The pattern of take-up of the 2006/07 ALG/LGA proposed school term dates showed the greatest variance around the February half term date - shown at appendix 3. This pattern is repeated when looking at the take up across Harrow's neighbouring authorities which shows a high degree of consistency, with the major variance around the February half-term dates, as shown at appendix 4.
- 2.3 The LGA in recommending the 2007/08 dates has recognised that this presents particular difficulties for local authorities owing to the timing of Easter. The LGA has stated that it is aware that in some areas, following consultation, there will be local authorities that wish to place a higher priority to the tradition of linking the Easter bank holidays to the two-week Spring break between terms. The LGA acknowledges that it is implicit in the statutory duty on local authorities to set term dates and that in doing so they should consult and do what they consider right for their communities in the light of their consultations.
- 2.4 Whilst acknowledging the points in 2.3 above, the LGA maintains its position, however, that in those occasional years like 2008 where there is an early Easter, that the Easter bank holidays should form a long weekend within the school term and not form part of the subsequent two-week holiday.
- 2.5 The Association will be tracking what authorities decide for 2007/08 and hope to use the experience of schools and local authorities when addressing similar future situations, the next of which arises in 2015/16.

2.6 Options considered

- i) to adopt the LGA proposed school term dates for Harrow for 2007/08 as set out in Appendix 2;
- ii) to apply the Harrow principles, agreed following consultation, to the LGA proposed school term dates as shown in appendix 1;
- iii) to consult widely with all partners on the LGA proposed dates for 2007/08;
- iv) to defer a decision until further information is available from neighbouring authorities on their proposals for 2007/08 school term dates.

2.7 Consultation

A full consultation was undertaken with schools, governors, parents and other partners on the school term dates for 2005/06 and also on a set of Harrow principles to inform the future setting of school term dates.

The ALG has consulted with London Boroughs on progressing the co-ordinated setting of school term dates across London.

Consultation with neighbouring authorities (see appendix 4) shows strong consistency, with minor variations around the start and finish dates for terms and some variance in the February half term dates for 2006/07.

Consultation on the 2007/08 dates with neighbouring authorities is shown at appendix 5.

2.8 Financial Implications

None.

2.9 Legal Implications

Section 32 of the Education Act 2002 obliges the LEA to determine the dates when school terms and holidays are to begin and end and the times of school sessions for all community schools. For voluntary aided schools the responsibility rests with the Governing Body.

2.10 Equalities Impact

Following consultation with schools, governors, parents and other partners the principles for setting school term dates were agreed for

Harrow. These Harrow agreed principles take account of the needs of Harrow's diverse community.

Harrow sets term dates of 195 schools days each year and schools/governing bodies have the flexibility to set the 190 pupil contact days within that framework to meet the needs of each school's community.

2.11 Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

None

Section 3 : Supporting Information/Background Documents

1. Appendix 1 - Proposed Harrow School term dates for 2007/08.
2. Appendix 2 - Proposed LGA school term dates for 2007/08.
3. Appendix 3 – Pattern of take up of ALG proposed school term date for 2006/07 across London authorities.
4. Appendix 4 - School term dates for neighbouring authorities for 2006/07.
5. Appendix 5 - Information gathered to date from neighbouring authorities regarding proposals for 2007/08 school term dates.
6. Appendix 6 – Calendar for 2007/08.
7. ECF minutes of 22 September 2005.

Appendix 1

PROPOSED HARROW SCHOOL TERM DATES 2007/08

Terms	Harrow School Term Dates 2007/08
Autumn 2007	Monday 3 September – Friday 19 October (35 days) H/T 22 – 26 October (5 days) Monday 29 October – Wednesday 19 December (38 days)
Spring 2008	Monday 7 January – Friday 8 February (25 days) H/T 11 – 15 February (5 days) Monday 18 February – Wednesday 19 March (23 days)
Summer 2008	Monday 31 March – Friday 23 May (39 days) H/T 26 – 30 May (BH + 4 days) Monday 2 June – Friday 18 July (35 days)
Total	195 days

Bank Holidays 2007/08:

Monday 27 August 2007
 Tuesday 25 December 2007
 Wednesday 26 December 2007
 Tuesday 1 January 2008
 Friday 21 March 2008
 Monday 24 March 2008
 Monday 5 May 2008
 Monday 26 May 2008

Harrow Agreed Principles:

- The school year to be set with 195 days, incorporating 5 development days
 - Schools to determine the 5 development days
 - The school year to start on the first useful day in September
 - The October break to be one full week, the last full week in October
 - A 10 school day break at Christmas
 - A 10 school day break at spring/Easter
 - A one week break in February and May/June
- A summer break of 5-6 weeks (not more than 6 weeks)

Appendix 2

Local Government Association (LGA) proposed school term dates for 2007/08 (190 days)

Terms	Dates	Days
Autumn 2007	Monday 3 Sept – Friday 19 Oct	35
	HT – 22 – 30 Oct	
	Wednesday 31 Oct – Wednesday 19 Dec	36
Spring 2008	Thursday 3 Jan – Friday 15 Feb	32
	HT – 18 – 22 Feb	
	Monday 25 Feb – Friday 4 April (NOTE: * 2 bank holidays contained within term time)	28
Summer 2008	Monday 21 April – Friday 23 May	24
	HT – 26 – 30 May	
	Monday 2 June – Friday 18 July	35
Total		190

Bank Holidays:

Monday 27 August 2007
 Tuesday 25 December 2007
 Wednesday 26 December 2007
 Tuesday 1 January 2008
 * Friday 21 March 2008
 * Monday 24 March 2008
 Monday 5 May 2008
 Monday 26 May 2008

Appendix 3 – authorities' position regarding February 2007 half term holiday

Herts

Essex

Bucks

Thurrock

Kent

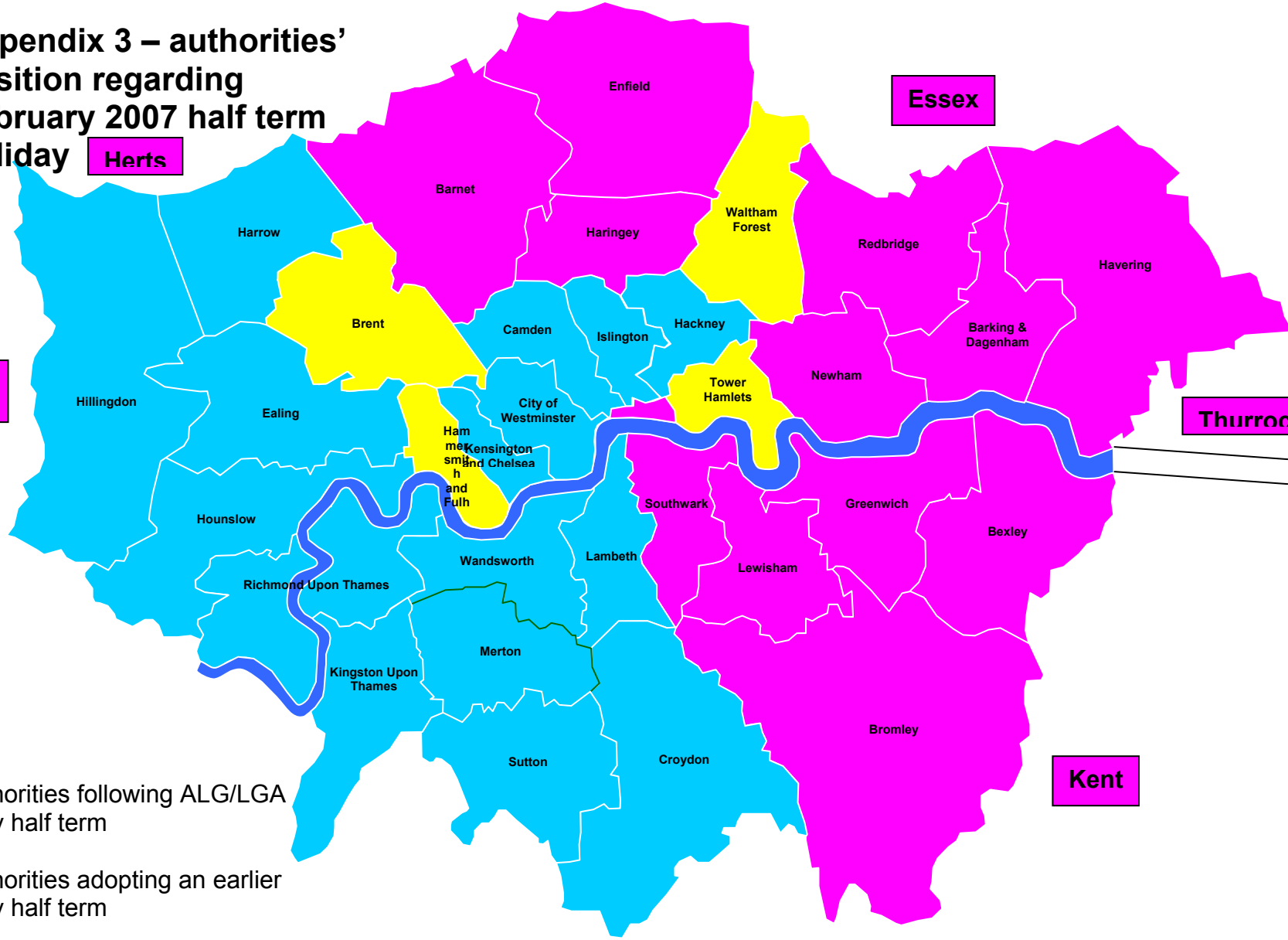
Surrey

KEY

Authorities following ALG/LGA February half term

Authorities adopting an earlier February half term

Term dates not yet received by the ALG



Appendix 4

SCHOOL TERM DATES – 2006/07

Terms	Harrow	Barnet	Brent	Ealing	Hertfordshire	Hillingdon
Autumn 2006	4 Sept – 20 Oct (35 days) H/T 23 - 27 Oct 30 Oct – 20 Dec (38 days)	4 Sept – 20 Oct (35 days) H/T 23-27 Oct 30 Oct – 20 Dec (38 days)	4 Sept – 20 Oct (35 days) H/T 23 - 27 Oct 30 Oct – 19 Dec (37 days)	4 Sept – 20 Oct (35 days) H/T 23-27 Oct 30 Oct – 20 Dec (38 days)	1 Sept – 20 Oct (36 days) H/T 23-27 Oct 30 Oct – 20 Dec (38 days)	4 Sep – 20 Oct (35 days) H/T 23-27 Oct 30 Oct – 20 Dec (38 days)
Spring 2007	3 Jan – 16 Feb (33 days) H/T 19 -23 Feb 26 Feb – 30 March (25 days)	3 Jan – 9 Feb (28 days) H/T 12 -16 Feb 19 Feb – 30 March (30 days)	3 Jan – 16 Feb (33 days) H/T 19 -23 Feb 26 Feb – 30 March (25 days)	3 Jan – 16 Feb (33 days) H/T 19 – 23 Feb 26 Feb – 30 March (25 days)	3 Jan – 9 Feb (28 days) H/T 12 -16 Feb 19 Feb – 30 March (30 days)	4 Jan – 16 Feb (32 days) H/T 19 -23 Feb 26 Feb – 4 April (28 days)
Summer 2007	16 April -25 May (29 days) H/T 28 May – 1 June 4 June – 20 July (35 days)	16 April – 25 May (29 days) H/T 28 May – 1 June 4 June – 20 July (35days)	16 April -25 May (29 days) H/T 28 May – 1 June 4 June – 23 July (36 days)	16 April - 25 May (29 days) H/T 28 May – 1 June 4 June – 25 July (38days)	16 April – 25 May (29 days) H/T 28 May – 1 June 4 June – 20 July (35 days)	18 April – 25 May (27 days) H/T 28 May – 1 June 4 June – 20 July (35 days)
Total days	195	195	195	198	196	195

SCHOOL TERM DATES – 2007/08

Terms	LGA Proposed	Harrow Proposed	Barnet	Brent	Ealing	Hertfordshire Proposed	Hillingdon
1	Mon 3 Sept – Fri 19 Oct (35 days)	Mon 3 Sept – Friday 19 Oct (35 days)	Will consider in April/May 2006.	Have only just confirmed 206/07 dates.	Starting to consider now – no firm proposals.	Mon 3 Sept – Fri 19 Oct (35 days)	Starting to consider now – no firm proposals.
HT	22 – 30 Oct	22 – 26 Oct				22 –26 Oct	
2	Wed 31 Oct – Wed 19 Dec (36 days)	Mon 29 Oct – Wed 19 Dec (38 days)		Not considering 2007/08 yet.		Mon 29 Oct - Fri 21 Dec (40 Days)	
3	Thurs 3 Jan – Friday 15 Feb (32 days)	Mon 7 Jan – Friday 8 Feb (25 days)				Mon 7 Jan – Fri 8 Feb (25 days)	
HT	18 – 22 Feb	11 – 15 Feb				11 – 15 Feb	
4	Mon 25 Feb – Fri 4 April (28 days)	Mon 18 Feb – Wed 19 March (23 days)				Mon 18 Feb – Fri 28 March (28 days)	
5	Mon 21 April – Fri 23 May (24 days)	Mon 31 March – Fri 23 May (39 days)				Mon 14 April – Fri 23 May (29 days)	
HT	26 – 30 May	26 – 30 May				26 – 30 May	
6	Mon 2 June – Fri 18 July (35 days)	Mon 2 June – Fri 18 July (35 days)				Mon 2 June – Thurs 24 July (39 days)	
TOTAL	190	195				196	