

Meeting:	Education Consultative Forum
Date:	27 January 2009
Subject:	School Term Dates 2010 - 2011
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Director of Schools & Child Development, Heather Clements
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Schools and Children's Development, Councillor Anjana Patel
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Annexe A – Harrow Options for Consideration

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report presents a Harrow proposal for school term dates for 2010 – 2011 following consultation with constituent groups.

Recommendations:

1. Consider the responses from the consultation
2. Consider the proposals for occasional days
3. Agree the model provided in Annexe A and recommend to the portfolio holder for the adoption of school term dates for 2010-2011.

Reason: (For recommendation)

To fulfil the council's requirement to determine the school term dates for 2010 – 2011.

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Background

The Education Consultative Forum annually agrees the term dates for each school year.

At their meeting in September models available were circulated to the Forum for consideration with their constituent groups. These were the Hampshire Model and two options prepared by Harrow.

The Local Government Association (LGA) issued a model for 2010-2011 and this was circulated to EdCF with a covering note dated 6 November 2008. The LGA's model generated responses from local authorities about the dates for the break over Christmas and the New Year as there were less than 10 days holiday. As a result, the LGA conducted a consultation to assess the extent of the concerns.

It is understood that the LGA are undertaking negotiations and considering whether to re-issue their model when negotiations are completed. The timescale is not known and it is proposed that EdCF are up-dated verbally at their meeting.

At their meeting in September 2008, EdCF also requested information on Occasional Days for schools to use holidays as holidays at times appropriate for their school communities. Information was circulated to EdCF on the Ealing model with a covering note dated 5 December 2008.

2.2 Main Option

Responses from Constituent Groups

Two responses to the consultation were received. The Primary Headteachers reported that their respondents indicated equal support for the two Harrow models. The Union response indicated a preference for the Summer Term to end on a Friday.

LGA Model

Both Harrow models differed from the original LGA model for 2010-2011 in relation to two aspects:

1. The Harrow models included two weeks break over Christmas and New Year, with the term ending on Friday 17 December 2010. This is in accordance with the Harrow principles.
2. The February Half Term in the Harrow models was the week beginning Monday 14 February 2011. The LGA model has the February Half Term a week later, beginning on Monday 21 February 2011. If the Harrow model were changed so the February half term holiday was a week later, then it would be in line with the LGA model. The impact of this proposed change is presented as Model 3, at Annexe A.

Occasional Days

Given the timescale for distributing information on the use of occasional days, there has been no formal feedback from the constituent groups. It would appear that there are two implications for those schools that adopt occasional days. The end of the summer term would be later and would potentially end on Wednesday 27 July 2011. The second implication is that governing bodies would need to identify the days that

were occasional days. Governing bodies may seek further guidance from the local authority on the identification of their occasional days.

It is proposed that EdCF confirm their preferred model and position in regard to occasional days. If there is no further information from the LGA available at their meeting, EdCF may consider that their decision is deferred until confirmation is received from the LGA.

2.3 Staffing/Workforce

Not applicable to this report

2.4 Equality Impact considerations

The Harrow agreed principles were developed following consultation with schools, governors, parents and other partners and takes account of the needs of Harrow's diverse community.

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

2.5 Resources, costs and risks

Not applicable to this report

2.6 Legal Implications

Under section 32 of the Education Act 2002, in respect of community schools, the Local Authority shall determine the dates when school terms and holidays are to begin and end, and the Governing Body shall determine the times of the school sessions.

For voluntary aided schools, foundation or foundation special schools the responsibility for determination of school dates and times of school sessions all rest with the Governing Body.

2.7 Financial Implications

None.

2.8 Performance Issues

Not applicable to this report

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: 12.1.08		
Name: Rosemarie Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date: 16.1.09		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Johanna Morgan, Head of School Organisation Strategy
Tel : 020 8736 6841 e-mail: johanna.morgan@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Paper 1: Note to EdCF dated 6 November 2008.

Paper 2: Note to EdCF dated 5 December 2008.

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	Yes
2.	Corporate Priorities	N/A

Annexe A

OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL TERM DATES 2010/11 PROPOSED BY HARROW COUNCIL

Terms	Model 1 Harrow Proposed Model 2010/11	Model 2 Harrow Option 1	Model 3 Alternative Harrow Option in line with LGA
1	Wed 1 Sep – Fri 22 Oct (38 days)	Wed 1 Sep – Fri 22 Oct (38 days)	Wed 1 Sep – Fri 22 Oct (38 days)
HT	Mon 25 – Fri 29 Oct	Mon 25 – Fri 29 Oct	Mon 25 – Fri 29 Oct
2	Mon 1 Nov – Fri 17 Dec (35 days)	Mon 1 Nov – Fri 17 Dec (35 days)	Mon 1 Nov – Fri 17 Dec (35 days)
3	Tue 4 Jan – Fri 11 Feb (29 days)	Tue 4 Jan – Fri 11 Feb (29 days)	Tue 4 Jan – Fri 18 Feb (34 days)
HT	Mon 14 Feb – Fri 18 Feb	Mon 14 Feb – Fri 18 Feb	<i>Mon 21 Feb – Fri 25 Feb</i>
4	Mon 21 Feb – Fri 1 April (30 days)	Mon 21 Feb – Fri 8 April (35 days)	Mon 28 Feb – Fri 8 April (30 days)
5	Mon 18 April – Fri 27 May (27 days)	Tue 26 April – Fri 27 May (23 days)	Tue 26 April – Fri 27 May (23 days)
HT	Mon 30 May – Fri 3 June	Mon 30 May – Fri 3 June	Mon 30 May – Fri 3 June
6	Mon 6 June – Mon 25 July (36 days)	Mon 6 June – Fri 22 July (35 days)	Mon 6 June – Fri 22 July (35 days)
TOTAL	195	195	195

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).