

SUBJECT: School Term Dates Academic Year
2011/2012

Responsible Officer:	Heather Clements, Director of Schools, Quality Assurance and Commissioning
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader of the Council
Key Decision:	Yes
Urgent/Non Urgent:	Non Urgent
Power to be exercised:	Portfolio Holder Responsibilities (Allocation of Responsibilities) – Paragraph 3 of Delegated Powers of Portfolio Holders, Appendix to the Executive Procedure Rules, Part 4D of the Constitution
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Yes
Enclosures:	Annexe A – Recommended School Term Dates 2011/12 Annexe B – Alternative models considered Annexe C – Extract from minutes of the Education Consultative Forum 28 June 2010

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report presents the proposal for the School Term dates for the Academic Year 2011/2012 as recommended for approval by the Education Consultative Forum.

Recommendations:

The Portfolio Holder is requested to determine the School Term Dates for 2011/12 as recommended by the Education Consultative Forum.

Autumn Term 2011	Thursday 1 Sept 2011 to Friday 21 October 2011 (37 days)
	<i>Half Term Monday 24 October 2011 to Friday 28 October 2011</i>
	Monday 31 October 2011 to Friday 16 December 2011 (35 days)
Spring Term 2012	Wednesday 4 January 2012 to Friday 10 February 2012 (28 days)
	<i>Half Term Holiday Monday 13 February 2012 to Friday 17 February 2012</i>
	Monday 20 February 2012 to Friday 30 March 2012 (30 days)
Summer Term 2012	Monday 16 April 2012 to Friday 1 June 2012 (34 days)
	<i>Half Term Holiday Monday 4 June 2012 to Friday 8 June 2012</i>
	Monday 11 June 2012 to Friday 20 July 2012 (30 days)
Total	194 School Days including INSET days

Reason: (For recommendation)

In accordance with the Education Act 2002, Local Authorities have the responsibility to agree dates of school terms and holidays.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

1. In Harrow the Education Consultative Forum (EdCF) considers proposals and recommends the term dates for each school year.
2. Schools are required by statute to provide schooling for 190 days. Teaching staff are required by their terms and conditions to complete 195 days including 5 development days. For the Academic Year 2011/12, schools will be required to complete 194 days. This is to accommodate the additional bank holiday for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Background

3. A model for Harrow is developed based on three elements:
 - Harrow's Agreed Principles,
 - The LGA's Standard School Year and,
 - Other local authority models available.

Harrow Agreed Principles:

4. EdCF agreed a set of principles to apply to School Term Dates for Harrow. These are as follows:
- The school year to be set with 195 days, incorporating 5 development days. (NB: 194 days for 2011/12)
 - Schools to determine the 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 Easter/Spring
 - A one week break in February and May/June
 - A summer break of 5-6 weeks (not more than 6 weeks)

LGA Standard School Year

5. The LGA produces the Standard School Year model following consultation with their members. LGA have agreed to continue to circulate a Standard School Year model, and to work to a cycle that is complementary to the local authority decision making process.

Other local authority models available

6. The majority of neighbouring local authorities are aligning their school term dates 2011/12 with the LGA's Standard School Year.

Additional Bank Holiday in June 2012

7. On 5 January 2010, the Government announced an additional bank holiday in June 2012. The Diamond Jubilee Bank holiday is on Tuesday 5 June 2012. The Spring Bank holiday has been moved to Monday 4 June 2012 to form a long weekend. Legislation is being progressed to change the school year to 194 days for 2011/2012 only to accommodate this additional Bank Holiday.

Occasional Days

8. At their meeting in June 2009, EdCF agreed to introduce Occasional Days. These allow governing bodies to agree to up to 3 additional closure days to take account of the need to observe Non-Christian religious festivals. If 3 occasional days are adopted then the school year will be 198 days and the additional days must be added to the end of the summer term (NB: 197 days for 2011/12). (see Annexe C).

Options considered

9. At their meeting in January 2010, EdCF agreed to consider School Term Dates for 2011/12 when the Local Government Association (LGA) published the Standard School Year 2011/12.
10. A letter dated 25 March 2010 was sent to EdCF members with three proposed models. These were the LGA Standard School Year, Harrow Model A and Harrow Model B.
11. The table below presents the three models considered by the Education Consultative Forum. These are provided in more detail at:
- Annexe A –School Term Dates 2011/2012 (Harrow Model B). This is the model recommended for adoption by the Education Consultative Forum.
 - Annexe B – Alternative models considered (LGA and Harrow Model A)

Term	LGA	Harrow Model A	Harrow Model B
Autumn Term Start	Monday 5 Sept 2011	Thursday 1 Sept 2011	Thursday 1 Sept 2011
Autumn Term Ends	Friday 16 Dec 2011	Friday 16 Dec 2011	Friday 16 Dec 2011
Spring Term Starts	Tuesday 3 Jan 2012	Tuesday 3 Jan 2012	Wednesday 4 Jan 2012
Spring Term Ends	Friday 30 March 2012	Friday 30 March 2012	Friday 30 March 2012
Summer Term Starts	Monday 16 April 2012	Monday 16 April 2012	Monday 16 April 2012
Summer Term Ends	Monday 23 July 2012	Thursday 19 July 2012	Friday 20 July 2012

12. At their meeting on 28 June 2010, EdCF agreed to recommend to the Leader of the Council that Harrow Model B is determined to be the Harrow School Term Dates for 2011/12. Comment was made at the EdCF meeting that it was important to avoid extending the summer term 2012 for a further day to Monday 23 July 2012 because this may have a negative impact on attendance figures as families may start their summer holidays before the end of the term.

Recommendation

13. The Director of Schools, Quality Assurance and Commissioning recommends that the model recommended by the Education Consultative Forum is approved. It is aligned with the LGA model and provides an additional day during the Christmas Holiday period, which follows the longest term.

Financial Implications

14. None

Performance Issues

15. None

Environmental Impact

16. None

Risk Implications

17. Risk included on Directorate risk register? No
Separate risk register in place? No

Equalities Implications

18. An Equalities Impact Assessment was not completed. The Standard School Year is prepared and agreed by the Local Government Association and meets statutory requirements. The Harrow model is based partly on this and applies the Harrow Principles agreed by EdCF. EdCF has also agreed that Governing Bodies are able to adopt up to 3 occasional days to reflect community and faith needs. If these days are adopted then the school year 2011/12 will be 197 days.

Corporate Priorities

19. Not applicable because it is a statutory duty for the local authority to agree the dates of terms and holidays.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name:	Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date:	30 June 2010		
Name:	George Curran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date:	29 June 2010		

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name:	David Harrington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director Partnership, Development and Performance
Date:	29 June 2010		

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name:	Andrew Baker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director (Environmental Services)
Date:	30 June 2010		

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Johanna Morgan, Head of School Organisation Strategy, 020 8736 6841.

Background Papers:

Letter to the Education Consultative Forum dated 25 March 2010.

Position Director of Schools, Quality Assurance sand Commissioning

Name (print) Heather Clements

Date: 30 June 2010

For Portfolio Holder/Leader

* I do agree to the decision proposed

* I do not agree to the decision proposed

* Please delete as appropriate

Notification of personal interests (if any):

(Note: if you have a prejudicial interest you should not take this decision)

Additional comments made by and/or options considered by the Portfolio Holder

Signature:

Portfolio Holder

Date:

**Call-In Waived by the
Chairman of Overview
and Scrutiny
Committee**

NOT APPLICABLE*