

**REPORT FOR: EDUCATION  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 November 2010
<b>Subject:</b>	School Term Dates 2012/2013
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Heather Clements Director Schools, Quality Assurance and Commissioning
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Brian Gate Portfolio Holder Schools and Colleges
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Decision subject to Call-in:</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Annexe A – LGA Draft School Term Dates: 2012/2013 Academic Year - Option 2

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report presents a Harrow proposal for school term dates for 2012/2013 in line with the model provided by the Local Government Association (LGA).

**Recommendations:**

The Education Consultative Forum is asked to consider this report and to:

1. consider the models provided and consult with their constituent groups;
2. provide feedback to the Director of Schools, Quality Assurance and Commissioning by the end of December 2010;
3. receive a report at their meeting in Spring 2011 to make a recommendation of school term dates for 2012/2013 to Cabinet.

**Reason: (For recommendation)**

To fulfil the council's requirement to determine the school term dates for 2012/2013.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introduction**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The Education Consultative Forum annually recommends the term dates for each school year. At their meeting in the Autumn Term models available are circulated to the Forum for consideration with their constituent groups. Following consultation about proposals for term dates, the recommendations of the Education Consultative Forum are reported to the responsible Portfolio Holder for decision.

### **Background**

5. A model for term dates in 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:**

6. The Education Consultative Forum 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
  - 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**

7. 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.

### **Occasional Days**

8. At their meeting in June 2009, the Education Consultative Forum 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.

### **Options considered**

9. The draft LGA model is provided for consideration in Annexe A.
10. The draft LGA model conforms with the Harrow Agreed Principles with the exception of the October break being one full week, the last full week in October.
11. If neighbouring local authorities dates are made available during the period for consultation these will be circulated to members of the Education Consultative Forum.

### **Financial Implications**

12. None.

### **Risk Management Implications**

13. The proposed consultation would ensure that stakeholder views are taken into account to minimise risk management issues.

### **Equalities Implications**

14. 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. Schools are able to adopt up to three occasional closure days to meet specific community needs.
15. 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.

### **Corporate Priorities**

16. 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:	20 October 2010		
Name:	Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date:	20 October 2010		

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Johanna Morgan, Head of School Organisation Strategy,  
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**Background Papers:** None