

**REPORT FOR: EDUCATION  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	6 April 2011
<b>Subject:</b>	School Term Dates 2012/2013
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Adrian Parker, Head of Achievement & Inclusion Service
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Brian Gate, Portfolio Holder Schools and Colleges
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Decision subject to Call-in:</b>	No
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Annexe A - LGA Draft School Term Dates: 2012/2013

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

This report presents Members with a proposal for the school term dates for the academic year 2012/2013.

**Recommendations:**

The Education Consultative Forum is asked to:

1. Consider the proposal at Annexe A;
2. Make a recommendation to the Portfolio Holder to determine the School Term Dates for 2012/2013.

**Reason: (For recommendation)**

In order 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 Local Government Association's (LGA) 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. At the meeting on 10 November 2010, the Education Consultative Forum received a report setting out the proposed school term dates for the academic year 2012/2013. An officer reported that neighbouring authorities would be consulted about their planned school term dates.
10. Members of the Forum undertook to consult their constituent groups about the proposed school term dates and provide feedback at the next meeting of the Forum.
11. The draft LGA model is provided for consideration in Annexe A. The draft LGA model conforms to the Harrow Agreed Principles with the exception of the October break being one full week, the last full week in October. In the draft LGA model the October break spans the last three days of October and the first two days of November.
12. Neighbouring local authorities have been contacted about their planned school term dates for 2012/2013. None of the authorities that responded have agreed their dates yet, though three authorities indicated that they are likely to adopt the draft LGA model.

## **Financial Implications**

None.

## **Risk Management Implications**

13. The consultation process through the Education Consultative Forum ensures 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.

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

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:	23 March 2011		
Name:	Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date:	23 March 2011		

### Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

**Contact:** Chris Melly, Senior Professional, Children's Services,  
020 8420 9270 [chris.melly@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:chris.melly@harrow.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:** 'School Term Dates 2012/2013' report to the  
Education Consultative Forum dated 10 November 2010.