

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	Education Consultative Forum
Date:	26 June 2003
Subject:	School Term Dates for 2004-05
Key Decision:	Not applicable
Responsible Chief Officer:	Joint Interim Director of Education
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Education and Lifelong Learning
Status:	Part 1
Ward:	N/A
Enclosures:	None

1. Summary

The Education Consultative Forum on 19 March endorsed the Harrow Teachers' Consultative Committee's (HTCCs) recommended school term dates for 2004-05. However, following liaison with neighbouring boroughs it is proposed to vary the previously agreed dates by one day at the start and end of the school year.

2. Recommendation

2.1 To agree the minor amendment to term dates for the school year 2004-05 which would now start on 1 September 2004 and finish on 22 July 2005. It was previously proposed to start the school year on 31 August 2004 and finish on 21 July 2005.

3. Consultation with Ward Councillors

Not applicable

4. Policy Context (Including Relevant Previous Decisions)

4.1 The Education Consultative Forum on 19 March discussed this matter and endorsed the favoured model proposed by the HTCC regarding school term dates for 2004-05. The favoured model is shown below:

31 st August	- 22 nd October	inclusive	T1	39 days	74 days
1 st November	- 17 th December	inclusive	T2	35 days	
4 th January	- 11 th February	inclusive	T3	29 days	53 days
21 st February	- 24 th March	inclusive	T4	24 days	
11 th April	- 27 th May	inclusive	T5	34 days	68 days
6 th June	- 21 st July	inclusive	T6	34 days	
					195 days

4.2 The Forum requested that neighbouring boroughs be informed of the agreed school term dates for Harrow.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

5.1 We will promote Harrow as a centre of lifelong learning by offering the highest quality education service, by raising aspirations and outcomes of achievement, and by providing activities for cultural, artistic and leisure pursuits which reflect the profile and the interests of all local communities.

6. **Background Information and options considered**

6.1 Each year HTCC undertake a full consultation with partners on school term dates for the following school year. This was duly undertaken and the outcome was reported to the Education Consultative Forum on 19 March and endorsed by the Forum.

6.2 In the Autumn Term 2002 the Local Government Association (LGA) put forward a proposal relating to the possible introduction of a 6 term year across the country. The Association of London Government (ALG) is, in principle, supporting the proposal and is continuing to gather information on a termly basis across the London Authorities. To date no clear picture is emerging although there is some evidence to show that no authority is willing to move to the new term format without neighbouring authorities doing likewise.

7. **Consultation**

7.1 The HTCC undertook its annual consultation with schools, Teachers' Professional Associations and the Association of Harrow Governing Bodies on 5 suggested models of school term dates for 2004-05. Although it was a low response rate, one model was favoured and this was proposed to the Education Consultative Forum for endorsement.

7.2 This issue was also discussed at the Departmental Joint Committee (DJC) prior to presentation at the Education Consultative Forum on 19 March.

7.3 The LEA has informed its 5 neighbouring boroughs of its intended school term dates for 2004-05. 3 of the 5 neighbouring authorities have shared their provisional dates with Harrow. The remaining 2 authorities are still formulating their proposals. Largely there is consistency with Harrow's dates and those proposed by its neighbours. There is, however, greater variance in the dates for the end of the Spring Term and the start of the Summer Term in 2005.

8. **Finance Observations**

8.1 None.

9. **Legal Observations**

9.1 Section 41 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 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.

10. **Conclusion**

10.1 Following consultation and in order to ensure as much consistency as possible with neighbouring authorities, it is proposed to vary the start and finish dates for the school year 2004-05 by one day.

10.2 The **new** proposed dates are as follows:

1 st September	- 22 nd October	inclusive	T1	38 days	73 days
1 st November	- 17 th December	inclusive	T2	35 days	
4 th January	- 11 th February	inclusive	T3	29 days	53 days
21 st February	- 24 th March	inclusive	T4	24 days	
11 th April	- 27 th May	inclusive	T5	34 days	69 days
6 th June	- 22 nd July	inclusive	T6	35 days	
					195 days

11. **Background Papers**

11.1 Letter from Allan Jones, Headteacher of Hatch End High School, on behalf of HTCC to the Education Consultative Forum dated 13 March 2003.

11.2 Minutes of the 19 March 2003 Education Consultative Forum.

12. **Author**

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