

Meeting:	Education Consultative Forum
Date:	23 March 2005
Subject:	School Term Dates 2006/07
Responsible Officer:	Director of Strategy, People First
Contact Officer:	Group Manager – Client and Management Support Services
Portfolio Holder:	Education and Lifelong Learning
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part 1

## **Section 1: Summary**

### **Decision Required**

To recommend to the Portfolio Holder for Education and Lifelong Learning that the proposed dates for Harrow schools be agreed and publicised as provided at Appendix 1.

### **Reason for report**

To agree the term dates for Harrow schools for the academic year 2006/07.

### **Benefits**

- To agree, and publish, the school term dates for 2006/07 as early as possible to aid future planning for schools, governors, parents and other partners.
- To ensure, as far as possible, that the school term dates for Harrow are in line with the dates proposed by the Association of London Government (ALG). The ALG proposed dates are shown at Appendix 2.
- To comply, as far as possible, with the Harrow principles agreed following consultation with schools, governors, parents and other partners.

## Cost of Proposals

No additional costs.

## Risks

- In order to adhere to the Harrow agreed principles it is necessary to vary slightly the dates proposed by the ALG. This may result in Harrow not being consistent with its neighbouring boroughs.
- As the Harrow principles are being applied to agree the school term dates for 2006/07 it is not necessary to conduct a wide-ranging consultation. However, it may be necessary to undertake a wide-ranging consultation for future years when it may not be possible to apply the Harrow agreed principles.

## Implications if recommendations rejected

It will be necessary to undertake a wide-ranging consultation to agree the school term dates for 2006/07 and beyond which would delay the setting of the school term dates.

## **Section 2: Report**

### 2.1 Brief History

The Education Consultative Forum (ECF) annually agrees the term dates for each school year. The ECF at its meeting on 1 February 2005 resolved that the working group set up by ECF consider the options available with a view to making recommendations on term dates, including the need for consultation, and report to the next meeting of the ECF.

### 2.2 Options considered

- i) to adopt the school term dates proposed by the ALG without any amendment. The working group felt that the dates proposed did not reflect the Harrow agreed principles and to adopt the ALG dates would require a full consultation.
- ii) to vary the ALG proposal of school term dates to comply with the Harrow agreed principles and consult widely. The working group felt that as the Harrow agreed principles had been determined following consultation it was not necessary to consult again as the Harrow proposed dates reflect these principles.

### 2.3 Consultation

A full consultation was undertaken with schools, governors, parents and other partners on the school term dates for 2005/06 and also on a set of Harrow principles to inform the future setting of school term dates.

The ALG has consulted with London Boroughs on progressing the co-ordinated setting of school term dates across London.

### 2.4 Financial Implications

None.

### 2.5 Legal Implications

Section 32 of the Education Act 2002 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.

### 2.6 Equalities Impact

Following consultation with schools, governors, parents and other partners the principles for setting school term dates were agreed for Harrow. These Harrow agreed principles take account of the needs of Harrow's diverse community.

## **Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents**

### **Appendices**

1. Appendix 1 – Proposed Harrow schools term dates for 2006/07.
2. Appendix 2 – Proposed ALG school term dates for 2006/07.

### **Background information**

1. Position Statement to ECF on 1 February 2005.
2. Letter from the ALG on 9 December 2004 outlining the proposed school term dates for 2006/07.
3. Report to ECF on 23 September 2004.

## APPENDIX 1

Terms	Proposed Harrow School Term Dates 2006/07
Autumn 2006	Monday 4 September – Friday 20 October (35 days)
	H/T 23 – 27 October (5 days)
	Monday 30 October – <b>Wednesday 20 December</b> (38 days)
Spring 2007	Wednesday 3 January – Friday 16 February (33 days)
	H/T 19 – 23 February (5 days)
	Monday 26 February – <b>Friday 30 March</b> (25 days)
Summer 2007	<b>Monday 16 April</b> – Friday 25 May (29 days)
	H/T 28 May – 1 June (4 days +BH)
	Monday 4 June – Friday 20 July (35 days)
<b>Total</b>	<b>195 days</b>

**Bank Holidays 2006/07:**

Monday 28 August 2006  
 Monday 25 December 2006  
 Tuesday 26 December 2006  
 Monday 1 January 2007  
 Friday 6 April 2007  
 Monday 9 April 2007  
 Monday 7 May 2007  
 Monday 28 May 2007

**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)

## APPENDIX 2

Terms	Proposed ALG School Term Dates 2006/07
Autumn 2006	Monday 4 September – Friday 20 October (35 days)
	H/T 23 – 27 October (5 days)
	Monday 30 October – Tuesday 19 December (37 days)
Spring 2007	Wednesday 3 January – Friday 16 February (33 days)
	H/T 19 – 23 February (5 days)
	Monday 26 February – Wednesday 4 April (28 days)
Summer 2007	Thursday 19 April – Friday 25 May (26 days)
	H/T 28 May – 1 June (4 days +BH)
	Monday 4 June – Friday 20 July (35 days)
<b>Total</b>	<b>194 days</b>

**Bank Holidays 2006/07:**

Monday 28 August 2006  
Monday 25 December 2006  
Tuesday 26 December 2006  
Monday 1 January 2007  
Friday 6 April 2007  
Monday 9 April 2007  
Monday 7 May 2007  
Monday 28 May 2007

**Key notes:**

- The ALG model is based on 194 days to allow greater flexibility for boroughs to allocate occasional and INSET days
- The ALG model uses 188 of the Local Government Association's (LGA) 190 days model but proposes that the 30 and 31 October be reinstated as pupil days.
- The ALG model allows for boroughs to use the 4 and 5 September 2006 and/or the 19 and 20 July 2007 as optional days to be used as INSET days or to make up for occasional days taken elsewhere in the year.
- The LGA has said that 'reasonable standardisation' implies a variation of no more than two days from the recommended days in any of the 6 terms. The ALG recommendation is within these terms of reference.
- The ALG accepts that many LEAs still prefer to set their term dates on the basis of 195 days or more but also recognises the move towards a more flexible approach to INSET days including the use of twilight sessions.
- The ALG is not providing any suggestions for the timing of INSET days.