

ANGUS COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
27 AUGUST 2002
SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2003/2004
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee

- a notes the contents of this report
- b approves the 2003/2004 term and holiday dates set out in the Appendix

2 BACKGROUND

Reference is made to the meeting of the Education Committee on 5 March 2002 when a draft scheme of school terms and holidays for session 2003/2004 was approved as a basis for consultation (Agenda Item 3).

3 CONSULTATION – RESPONSES

3.1 Very few responses were received this year – which could reasonably be interpreted as meaning that most consultees are supportive of the draft timetable which was circulated for comment.

3.2 Only five responses were received:

- The local branch of the EIS responded, approving the proposed dates unconditionally.
- One (secondary) School Board responded proposing a change to one of the Autumn In-Service Closure days to enable staff to attend the annual Scottish Teaching with Technology Show in Glasgow.
- One (primary) School Board responded suggesting that the two Autumn In-Service Closure days should be moved so that they are tagged on to the Autumn holiday.
- Two Primary Head Teachers responded on behalf of their respective staffs – one to support the proposals entirely and one to suggest that the Christmas holiday should not start until 23 December 2003.

3.3 No other responses were received.

4 SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES (2003/2004) IN NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS

4.1 There are some differences in the term and holiday dates proposed by Dundee City Council – principally the start and finish dates of the Christmas holiday (each falling three working days later than the proposed Angus dates) and the last day of the session (one day later than Angus).

- 4.2 Aberdeenshire Council has indicated that its October fortnight will be, as usual, one week later than Angus, but otherwise it is anticipated that the term and holiday dates will be well-nigh identical.
- 4.3 Perth & Kinross Council is currently consulting on 2 possible patterns – one of which is virtually identical to that on which the Angus consultation took place and one of which has slightly later dates for the Christmas holiday period.

5 ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- 5.1 Given the unusually low lack of response and the generally supportive nature of those responses which have been received, it may be wise to adopt precisely the dates on which consultation took place (on the assumption that a lack of response indicates approval).
- 5.2 The various specific amendments put forward would represent significant departures from previous practice, without any evidence of general support for any one of the proposed changes. In these circumstances it is recommended that no amendment is made to the draft scheme.
- 5.3 St Andrew's Day falls on a Sunday in November 2003. As flagged up in the report considered by Committee in March, no school holiday for St Andrew's Day is therefore being proposed in 2003/2004.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This report is being considered by the Council's Central Consultative Committee, and an account of the deliberations of that group will be provided for the Education Committee prior to its consideration of this report.
- 6.2 In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council, this report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and the Director of Law & Administration. The Personnel Services Manager has also been consulted.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

Jim Anderson
Director of Education

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

APPENDIX

JAA/CJ

SPRING TERM	STAR T	Monday 5 January 2004		
		<u>Thursday</u> <u>12 February 2004</u>	LANDWARD SCHOOLS ONLY (In-Service Closure Day 4)	
		<u>Friday</u> <u>Monday</u>	<u>13 February 2004</u> <u>16 February 2004</u>	
		<u>Tuesday</u> <u>17 February 2004</u>	COASTAL SCHOOLS ONLY (In-Service Closure Day 4)	
	END	Friday 2 April 2004		62
SPRING HOLIDAY	STAR T END	Monday 5 April 2004 <i>(includes Good Friday – 9 April 2004)</i> Friday 16 April 2004 <i>(and Easter Monday – 12 April 2004)</i>		
SUMMER TERM	STAR T	Monday 19 April 2004		
		<u>Monday</u> <u>3 May 2004</u>	ALL SCHOOLS (May Holiday)	
		<u>Friday</u> <u>28 May 2004</u>	(In-Service Closure Day 5 for all schools)	
	END	Wednesday 30 June 2004		51
			TOTAL	190