

**ANGUS COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****22 AUGUST 2000****SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2001/2002****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 2001/2002 term and holiday dates set out in the Appendix
- c) confirms the choice of either Thursday 29 November 2001 or Tuesday 4 December 2001 as one of the five contractual In-Service Closure days in session 2001/2002.

**2 BACKGROUND**

Reference is made to the meeting of the Education Committee on 7 March 2000 when a draft scheme of school terms and holidays for session 2001/2002 was approved as a basis for consultation (Agenda Item 6).

**3 CONSULTATION - RESPONSES**

3.1 Responses to requests for comments on the draft scheme were received from:

- the School Boards of 12 schools (10 primaries and two secondaries)
- the Angus Primary Head Teachers' Association
- PAT (Tayside Federation)
- EIS (Angus Local Association).

3.2 Eight of the School Board responses offered unqualified support for the draft scheme; three (primary) Boards raised issues relating solely to Easter (see para 5.2.2 below) and one (secondary) Board raised issues relating solely to St Andrew's Day (see para 5.3.4 below).

3.3 The primary head teachers offered unqualified support for the draft scheme.

3.4 PAT indicated strong support for the mid-term February holiday in its present form (as outlined in the draft schedule), but suggested that the celebration of St Andrew's Day "would be more profitably overtaken with a day of associated events in school than with a holiday which many simply use as an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping."

3.5 The EIS offered support for the general pattern contained within the scheme and were particularly supportive of minimising the number of "broken weeks;" specific proposals were offered relating to a re-configuration of in-service days/holidays around St Andrew's Day (see para 5.3.4 below); the desirability of identifying the date on which session 2002/2003 would start was also highlighted (see section 5.4 below).

**4 SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES (2001/2002) IN NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS**

4.1 The main term dates are precisely the same as those on which Dundee City Council is currently consulting (the only differences are that Dundee has a different pattern of In-Service days, and a Victoria Day holiday in late May whereas Angus has a St Andrew's Day holiday).

4.2 The main term dates are precisely the same as those on which Perth & Kinross Council is currently consulting (the only differences are that Perth & Kinross may also have a different pattern of In-Service days, has two occasional holidays to be fixed by School Boards, and is proposing the end of the Spring Term as Thursday 28 March 2002 instead of the Angus proposed end of term of Friday 29 March 2000 (Good Friday)).

4.3 The main term dates proposed are similar to those being adopted by Aberdeenshire Council except that:

- the October fortnight in Aberdeenshire is one week later than the Angus October fortnight
- the last day of the Spring term in Aberdeenshire is Thursday 28 March 2002 (like Perth & Kinross)
- the last day of the Summer term in Aberdeenshire is Friday 28 June 2002 (whereas the proposed Angus date is Thursday 27 June 2002).
- there are 3 occasional single day holidays and a set of in-service day closures which may well be different from those adopted by Angus.

## 5 ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

### 5.1 Harmonisation with Holiday Dates of Neighbouring Councils

5.1.1 This issue has been highlighted in previous reports on school holiday dates. Given the information contained in Section 4 above, it would appear as if there is a high degree of consistency between Angus school term dates and those of our three immediate neighbours. There are certainly a small number of single days when one council is on holiday and its neighbours are working (and vice versa) but such days were common within Tayside when local circumstances allowed different occasional single-day school holidays for different Tayside burghs. There are no obvious discrepancies between term dates which have come about in an unplanned way since 1996, and there are no obvious adjustments which the Council is likely to wish to make to the draft scheme which would reduce the small number of inconsistencies which do exist.

### 5.2 Easter

5.2.1 In 2000, Easter was particularly late in the year with Easter Monday falling on 24 April 2000. In accordance with the practice inherited from TRC, no additional occasional holiday was observed – neither on Good Friday, nor on Easter Monday. Had Easter Monday been taken as a holiday in 2000, schools would have had two consecutive Monday holidays (Monday 24 April and Monday 1 May), which would have been disruptive to the learning and teaching processes at a particularly important time of year for senior secondary pupils.

5.2.2 As indicated above, three (primary) School Boards raised issues relating to Easter. Two of these three Boards specifically mentioned Easter Monday as an appropriate day for a single day holiday.

5.2.3 In 2002, Easter Monday falls on 1 April and Good Friday falls on 29 March. The draft 2001/2002 scheme (supported by the overwhelming majority of representatives) has schools working on Good Friday as the last day of the Spring Term, and having Easter Monday as part of the subsequent holiday period.

5.2.4 On balance it would appear as if the draft scheme – which includes Easter Monday 2000 as a holiday – will be acceptable to the overwhelming majority of staff, parents and pupils and it is not proposed, therefore, that it be amended.

### 5.3 St Andrew's Day

5.3.1 St Andrew's Day falls on a Friday in 2001, and in accordance with the Council's decisions about previous St Andrew's Day holidays, the draft proposals envisaged Friday 30 November 2001 as an occasional holiday.

5.3.2 The arrangement linking the St Andrew's Day holiday with two In-Service Closure days has now become well established, and seems to be generally welcomed. However, there was some debate last year about how best to arrange the sequence of in-service days and school holiday. For 2000, the final decision was

that the St Andrew's Day holiday on Thursday should be followed by In-Service Closure days on Friday and Monday. The draft plan for 2001/2002 envisaged an In-Service Closure day on Thursday (29 November) followed by a holiday on Friday 30 November followed by an In-Service day on Monday 3 December.

- 5.3.3 PAT simply criticised the St Andrew's Day holiday – as described above. The EIS suggested that Monday 3 December should be designated as the St Andrew's Day holiday, with Thursday 29 November and Friday 30 November as In-Service Closure days. One secondary School Board suggested that either the same proposal as mooted by the EIS should be adopted, or that the In-Service Closure days should be set as Monday 3 December and Tuesday 4 December.
- 5.3.4 In previous years, the Council has been very firm in its view that St Andrew's Day itself should, if possible, be a holiday for all staff. If this continues to be the Council's view, then it will not be possible to simply switch between In-Service days and holidays, and Friday 30 November 2001 should therefore be adopted as a holiday (in accordance with the draft proposals).
- 5.3.5 The EIS submission argues for In-Service Closure days to fall on consecutive days (rather than have them split by a St Andrew's Day holiday and a weekend as proposed). This could be accomplished if one of the proposals put forward by the School Board – detailed above – were to be adopted. The options to be considered, therefore are:

Thursday 29 November 2001 (INSET)	or	Friday 30 November 2001 (HOLIDAY)
Friday 30 November 2001 (HOLIDAY)		Monday 3 December 2001 (INSET)
Monday 3 December 2001 (INSET)		Tuesday 4 December 2001 (INSET)
(original proposal for consultation)		

- 5.3.6 It is recommended that the Education Committee should take account of the views of the Council's Central Consultative Committee before deciding on which of these options to adopt.

#### 5.4 Start of School Session 2002/2003

- 5.4.1 Members of the Education Committee will be aware that the principal determinant of school term dates is a legal/contractual one: education authorities are obliged to open schools for 190 days per annum, and to provide teaching staff with 5 in-service days per annum over and above their contractual 190 pupil days.
- 5.4.2 By adopting a similar holiday pattern year on year, "calendar slippage" means that some adjustment needs to be made every 5 or 6 years to avoid the next school session starting ever earlier in the month of August.
- 5.4.3 The school holiday pattern adopted by Angus followed very much that established by Tayside – in particular with a 2 week October holiday starting each year on the first Monday in October. This in turn means that the Autumn term is a particularly short one, and care is therefore required in setting the first day of the new session in August to ensure that the Autumn term is not allowed to become even shorter; for some years now it has been a 7 week term.
- 5.4.4 In 2002, if the start of the school session were to be on Tuesday 13 August 2002, the Autumn term would last for 8 weeks (with the Autumn holiday commencing on Monday 7 October 2002). The earlier in August the new session starts the more likely it is that family holidays may not fall at the same time as school holidays.
- 5.4.5 It is proposed, therefore, that the start of session 2002/2003 should be Monday 19 August for staff and Tuesday 20 August for pupils. It is also proposed that the Autumn holiday in 2002 should commence on Monday 7 October 2002. As usual a consultation exercise will be undertaken (in Summer 2001) about term and holiday dates for the rest of session 2002/2003.

## 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 Director of Personnel has also been consulted.

JIM ANDERSON  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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/RB

## ANGUS COUNCIL - EDUCATION COMMITTEE (22 August 2000)

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2001/2002				Pupil School Days
AUTUMN TERM	START END	Monday Tuesday Friday	<u>13 August 2001</u> 14 August 2001 28 September 2001	STAFF ONLY (In-Service Closure Day 1 for all schools) 34
AUTUMN HOLIDAY	START END	Monday Friday	1 October 2001 12 October 2001	
WINTER TERM	START    END	Monday  Friday Monday  either or  Friday	15 October 2001  <u>30 November 2001</u> <u>3 December 2001</u>  <u>Thursday 29 November 2001</u> <u>Tuesday 4 December 2001</u>  21 December 2001	(St Andrews Day Holiday) (In-Service Closure Day for all schools)  (In-Service Closure Day for all Schools) 47
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	START END	Monday Friday	24 December 2001 4 January 2002	
SPRING TERM	START    END	Monday  Thursday  Friday Monday  Tuesday  Friday	7 January 2002  <u>14 February 2002</u>  <u>15 February 2002</u> <u>18 February 2002</u>  <u>19 February 2002</u>  29 March 2002	LANDWARD SCHOOLS ONLY (In-Service Closure Day 4)  ALL SCHOOLS (Mid-Term Holidays)  COASTAL SCHOOLS ONLY (In-Service Closure Day 4) 57
SPRING HOLIDAY	START END	Monday Friday	1 April 2002 12 April 2002	
SUMMER TERM	START   END	Monday  Monday  Friday  Thursday	15 April 2002  <u>6 May 2002</u>  <u>24 May 2002</u>  27 June 2002	ALL SCHOOLS (May Holiday)  (In-Service Closure Day 5 for all schools) 52
<b>57</b>				<b>TOTAL</b>
				<b>190</b>

NB: Start of Term 2002/2003 (provisional) Monday 19 August 2002 (staff) Tuesday 20 August 2002 (pupils)  
Autumn holiday 2002 starts (provisionally) Monday 7 October 2002.

