

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

24 APRIL 2001

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2002/2003 - PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this report is to consider the basis of a consultation exercise on school term and holiday dates in session 2002/2003.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- a) approves the enclosed draft scheme of school terms and holidays for 2002/2003 (Appendix) as a basis for consultation;
- b) instructs me to seek the views of staff, trade unions, teachers' associations, head teachers and School Boards on the draft scheme;
- c) instructs me to bring the draft scheme to the attention of Directors of Education in neighbouring Councils (Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Aberdeenshire), and to invite comments from them;
- d) formally seeks the views of the Central Consultative Committee on the draft scheme;
- e) instructs me to report back to the Education Committee on the outcome of the above consultation later this year.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The education authority has a duty each year to fix the term and holiday dates for the subsequent school year. School Boards have a statutory power - after consulting with their education authority - to fix occasional holidays during school terms.
- 2.2 In discharging its duty, the education authority must ensure that the working year consists of 190 working days for pupils.

**3 CURRENT HOLIDAY PATTERN IN NEIGHBOURING EDUCATION AUTHORITIES**

- 3.1 Last year the Scottish Executive wrote to Directors of Education highlighting ministers' concerns regarding continuing representations about variations in school holiday arrangements between neighbouring Councils.
- 3.2 The holiday pattern in Angus schools is that established for many years. Since 1996, all three neighbouring Councils have been consulted about the proposed Angus school holiday arrangements. At present it is understood that the other two successor Councils to Tayside Regional Council (Dundee City Council and Perth & Kinross Council) have also maintained the general holiday pattern established by Tayside Regional Council. Since 1998/99 schools

in Aberdeenshire have had a 2 week break in October, albeit normally one week later than the Angus October holiday, but otherwise resulting in a closer harmonisation of holiday dates that had hitherto applied.

- 3.3 Prior to the re-organisation of local government in 1996, Tayside Regional Council approved occasional single day holidays on different dates in different parts of the Region in accordance with the legislative powers available to School Boards. Thus the existing pattern of different single day holidays in different parts of the country (and different parts of Tayside) will almost certainly continue to exist.
- 3.4 It is difficult to see how much more can be done to harmonise school term and holiday dates without some form of central direction from the Scottish Executive.

#### **4 ST ANDREW'S DAY**

- 4.1 St Andrew's Day falls on a Saturday in 2002.
- 4.2 The established holiday pattern has seen schools closed for a one-day holiday on St Andrew's Day itself; since that day is a Saturday in 2002 no school holiday is being proposed for St Andrew's Day in 2002.

#### **5 PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 The proposals for 2002/2003 (Appendix) represent a pattern almost identical to that adopted (after extensive consultation) for 2000/2001 and 2001/2002. It is proposed that these dates should now form the basis of consultation, including specifically consultation with staff, trade unions, teachers' associations, head teachers and School Boards.
- 5.2 The proposed dates should be shared with neighbouring Councils with a request for comments and for information on their proposed term and holiday dates (2002/2003).
- 5.3 The Council's Central Consultative Committee should be formally consulted about the proposed dates.

#### **6 HUMAN RIGHTS**

There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

#### **7 CONSULTATION**

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.