

TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING
24 June 2014

TERM DATES FOR 2015/16
Director Children, Young People & Learning

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 To set term dates for Bracknell Forest community and voluntary controlled schools and for possible adoption by the voluntary aided or academy schools. These dates are not set nationally.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Executive Member approves the attached term dates shown in Annex 1 (in 2 formats) for the academic year 2015/16
- 2.2 That Tuesday 2 September 2015 is set as an inset day for all schools.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the pattern suggested is similar to that set by all of our neighbouring boroughs. The LGA no longer recommends term dates.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 After discussions with neighbouring authorities these were the only option considered.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Term dates to be set are at Annex 1 in 2 formats.
- 5.2 The Deregulation Bill completed its Committee stage on 25 March 2014. This bill will allow the deregulation of term dates allowing all schools to set their own dates. Currently academies and aided schools are entitled to set their own term dates but they all continue to use the borough dates. If schools set their own dates then dates could be mis-aligned and this could cause a number of issues for siblings. This would relate to the 2016/17 term dates.
- 5.3 PHAB have requested Borough wide dates to be set for 2015 and requested a group be formed to look at future dates within the LA.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 All Headteachers and Chairs of Governors within Bracknell Forest as well as all neighbouring Local Authorities were consulted on the proposed term dates. Trade Unions were also consulted. Comments were requested.
- 6.2 The consultation took place between the 22 April 2014 and 15 May 2014.

- 6.3 Two responses were received. One was happy with the dates; one asked for a more balanced number of days in the terms, which will be addressed by the working party for the 2016/17 term dates.

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 The relevant legal requirements relating to the setting of school term dates have been complied with.

Borough Finance Officer

- 7.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.3 Initial screening has taken place and it was decided that a full EIA was not required.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 7.4 Significant risks include:

ISSUE	RISK	COMMENT
Term Dates must be set across the borough to ensure all schools follow the same schooling dates	LOW	Schools may not comply with the compulsory schooling days per year.

Background Papers

School Term Dates for the Academic Year 2015/16

8 CONTACTS

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