

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2971

Author:

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Department:

Children and Adults

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Subject:

Setting School Terms & Holiday dates for 2019/20 to 2021/22

Total Value:

Nil (Type: Nil)

Decision Being Taken:

To agree the proposed calendars for the 3 year period 2019/20 to 2021/22 - see attached.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The implementation of The Nottingham Model of school calendars, was reviewed back in May-July 2015, which involved consulting with a Working Group of Head Teachers and Trade Unions. All 96 schools and academies were also emailed for their views on 2 variations of The Nottingham Model. Academies can already set their own term dates. In 2015, a Deregulation Bill was proposed allowing all schools to set their own dates, regardless of their status. However, this Bill was never implemented. Therefore, Local Authorities continue to have a duty to determine school term dates for local authority maintained schools. Schools must be open to pupils for 190 days in an academic year, and 195 days for teachers. The Council will continue to set term dates for all maintained schools, based on the following key principles which were first implemented in 2012:

- 2 week October half term
- Slightly shorter summer break of approximately 5 weeks.
- Fixed Spring break regardless of where Easter falls.
- More consistent term lengths where possible and practical, to aid curriculum planning.
- Complete school weeks where possible, to maximise attendance.

Once these core principles are applied, we have, where possible, tried to achieve consistent dates with those set by the County Council, as our neighbouring authority. However, there is no formal mechanism for the national or regional setting of term and holiday dates. The County Council are currently undertaking a consultation exercise on their School Calendar patterns, which commenced on 28th August and ends on 8th October 2017. They are proposing 2 options: Option 1 follows their current model, (which includes a 6 weeks summer break and a fixed Spring break). Option 2 mirrors our model: a slightly shorter 5 week summer holiday and a 2 week October half term break, with a fixed spring break (generally the first two weeks in April with Easter at the beginning, middle or end of the two week block).

Foundation, Trust, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies are responsible for setting their own holiday dates and so individual schools, which are not maintained by the Local Authority, may choose to follow a pattern and/or specific dates that do not match those set by Nottingham City Council. However, the earlier we confirm the City Council dates, the more likely it is that some academies will operate a similar model, as consistent city-wide dates are generally deemed favourable. Just over half of Nottingham City academies currently operate the City Council model.

Briefing notes documents:

2019_20 final.doc, 2020-21 final.doc, 2021-22 final.doc

Other Options Considered:

The option of whether to re-review the existing model and principles was considered. This is not recommended, as a review and consultation exercise was undertaken in 2015, and there is currently no rationale to re-review this.

Background Papers:**Published Works:**

Previous Executive Board report (November 2012).

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| Affected Wards: | Citywide |
| Colleague / Councillor Interests: | None |
| Any Information Exempt from publication: | Yes |
| Exempt Information: | |
| Description of what is exempt: | Legal Advice |
| | An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 |
| 5 - Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. | The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because in all the circumstances, the information sets out the legal risks inherent in the course of action proposed here, which the Portfolio Holder is arguably entitled to consider without Nottingham City Council's position being affected simply by the consideration of those risks. |
| Documents exempt from publication: | 2017-09-15 exempt legal obs.pdf |
| Consultations: | Prior to implementation of the Nottingham Model in 2012, an extensive consultation process with all affected stakeholders was undertaken. The continued implementation of The Nottingham Model of school calendars, was then reviewed in May-July 2015, which involved consulting with a Working Group of Head Teachers and Trade Unions on all options. All 96 schools and academies were also contacted for their views on 2 variations of model. This decision continues to follow the existing model, therefore there is currently no rationale to re-review this. |
| Crime and Disorder Implications: | N/A |
| Equality: | EIA not required. Reasons: This proposal does not require a change to existing practice and a full EIA was undertake when the proposal was originally implemented. |

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| Decision Type: | Portfolio Holder |
| Subject to Call In: | Yes |
| Call In Expiry date: | 24/10/2017 |
| Advice Sought: | Legal, Finance |
| Legal Advice: | This advice is exempt from publication and is contained within an exempt appendix Advice provided by Jonathan Ludford-Thomas (Senior Solicitor) on 15/09/2017. |
| Finance Advice: | There are no cost implications as a result of this proposal to set the school terms and holidays for Nottingham City Council maintained schools for 2019/20 to 2021/22. Advice provided by Julia Elizabeth Holmes (Finance Analyst) on 15/09/2017. |
| Signatures | Sam Webster (PH for Business, Education and Skills) |
| | SIGNED and Dated: 16/10/2017 |
| | Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults) |
| | SIGNED and Dated: 03/10/2017 |