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**SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM DATES 2005/2006**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor S Harker – Education Portfolio  
Responsible Director – Geoffrey Pennington, Director of Education**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider and set school holiday dates and associated professional development arrangements for the academic year 2005/2006, commencing in September 2005.

**Background**

2. The appropriate consultation process regarding holiday dates with Teaching Associations, neighbouring authorities and schools, has been completed. A previous decision was made at NCEA Chief Officers' meeting that it would not be feasible to introduce regionally agreed proposals for a six-term year in 2005/06 and authorities therefore consulted on a traditional basis for 2005/06 with an agreement to standardise as far as possible, term and holiday dates, but to consider the introduction of a 'fixed' Easter break.

**Information and Analysis**

3. As a result of consultation there were very few comments on the draft school dates which included a fixed Easter, being the first two weeks in April. Darlington's school Staff Associations were in agreement with this proposal. However subsequent to this consultation, NASUWT concluded that it would not support this at a national level, and would consider industrial action. It was therefore agreed by NCEA Chief Officers, that for 2005/06 the Easter break would be the second and third weeks of April. It is expected that all North East authorities will use the same holiday pattern, although this has not as yet been confirmed. The proposed dates are attached in Appendix 1.
4. The dates fulfil statutory requirements both for the number of teaching days schools will be open for pupils (190) and the number of days (195) teachers will be available for duty.

**Outcome of Consultation**

5. Consultation has been undertaken with trade unions and schools.

**Legal Implications**

6. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers needs to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than

those highlighted in the report.

### **Council Policy Framework**

7. The issues contained within this report do not represent significant change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

### **Decision Deadline**

8. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

### **Recommendation**

9. It is recommended that the proposed holiday and term dates and associated professional development arrangements as set out in **Appendix 1** be agreed.

### **Reasons**

10. To agree the school holiday and term dates for 2005/06 to assist schools in planning processes.

**Geoffrey Pennington**  
**Director of Education**

### **Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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