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**SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM DATES 2007/2008**

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**Councillor Chris McEwan, Children's Services Portfolio  
Responsible Director – Margaret Asquith, Director of Children's Services**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider and set school holiday dates and associated professional development arrangements (inset days) for the academic year 2007/08, commencing in September 2007.

**Background**

2. The appropriate consultation process regarding holiday dates with schools, neighbouring authorities and staff representative organisations has been completed.

**Information and Analysis**

3. All North East authorities consulted on both **Proposal B** and **C (see Appendix B and C)**. Although the Darlington model - **Proposal A (see Appendix A)** - was distributed for consultation, not all authorities consulted on this model. The Local Government Association (LGA), **Proposal C**, was considered but discounted, as schools prefer to set their own Continued Professional Development (CPD) days.
4. All three options fulfil statutory requirements for 190 contact teaching days for pupils. **Proposal A** provides for 192 available days, where schools choose 2 of the allotted 5 CPD days from term time and will make up the additional 3 days through Planning Preparation and Assessment time, Continued Professional Development, non contact time for teachers, or days outside term time. **Proposal B** provides for 195 days teachers will be available for duty (which allows for all five Continued Professional Development (CPD) days to be agreed by schools).

**Outcome of Consultation**

5. Consultation has been undertaken with trade unions, schools and neighbouring authorities. Schools have expressed their support for facilitating the arrangements to coincide with our neighbours, and in particular Durham, who have confirmed a similar pattern of dates. Despite requests to North Yorkshire to remain consistent with our North East neighbours, they have adopted a different pattern, in line with their more southerly neighbours in the Yorkshire and Humberside region. This takes them out of alignment for both the February half term and the Easter break. This pattern is also out of alignment with the pattern suggested by the LGA.

## **Legal Implications**

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

## **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

7. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

## **Council Policy Framework**

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

## **Decision Deadline**

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

## **Recommendation**

10. It is recommended that Members agree to the proposed holiday and term dates and associated professional development arrangements as set out in **Proposal B** in order to make use of full week breaks in year, as well as adopting a pattern to coincide with our neighbouring authorities as suggested by Head Teachers.

## **Reason**

11. To agree the school holiday and term dates for 2007/08 to assist schools in planning processes.

**Margaret Asquith**  
**Director of Children's Services**

**Appendix A:** Proposals A

**Appendix B:** Proposal B

**Appendix C:** Proposal C

**Background Papers:** Consultation documents

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