

**13/19**



UPDATED PAPER  
Purpose: For Decision

# Delegated decision report

## DECISION UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

**DECISION CANNOT BE TAKEN BEFORE 4 SEPTEMBER  
2019**

Title **DETERMINE ACADEMIC YEAR/TERM DATES FOR  
2020/2021**

Report of **CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES,  
EDUCATION AND SKILLS**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this paper is for a delegated decision to be made by the relevant cabinet member on the determination of the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2020/2021, and to note the outcomes of the consultation process that has been followed. For 2019/2020 the Isle of Wight Council introduced a two week October half term, this will be the second year in which this pattern of term dates operates.
2. The recommendation is to agree the proposed school term dates for 2020/2021, to provide a consistent and appropriate term date calendar for schools across the Isle of Wight, taking into consideration the usual pattern of local authority calendars across the UK and the ongoing partnership arrangements with Hampshire County Council.

### REASONS FOR URGENCY/DISAPPLICATION OF CALL IN

3. Following consultation on the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2020/2021, an error was discovered. In order not to cause greater impact on schools, parents and any members of the public who are affected by the setting of the academic year, we need the decision to be made urgently.
4. The chairman of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee has been consulted in regard to the need for urgency and approved the paper going on the forward plan immediately. The chairman of the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for

Childrens Services, Education and Skills has agreed the Call in process can be disapplied for this decision in order to alleviate any problems that might arise from the delay.

## BACKGROUND

5. It is the responsibility of a local authority to schedule a school year which provides the statutory 190 pupil days and 195 teacher days in voluntary controlled and community schools.
6. The structure for delivering this entitlement has been the subject of national and local debate in recent years. The Local Government Association (LGA) National Standing Committee on the School Year has, in the past, been active in seeking to establish a national school year but this process has now ended.
7. Establishing more balanced term lengths with regular breaks supports an aim of the Corporate Strategy, to maximising wellbeing, by helping schools and families to plan learning more effectively.
8. Children benefit from good attendance in school; in particular it supports educational achievement and lays the foundation for a positive contribution to society and economic well-being. Properly structured periods of learning and rest help children to remain healthy, enjoy their school time and achieve more. The publication of dates well in advance enables families to plan holidays and arrange childcare so that school attendance need not be compromised.
9. The government proposed that all schools shall set their own school year. They progressed legislation that would require this but have since advised that they do not intend enacting the new legislation.
10. The proposed pattern for term and holiday dates takes account of the last day of term in July 2020 and then provides balanced half terms and holiday periods.

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

11. Raising educational achievement is a priority of the council as set out in the council's Corporate Plan. The standardisation of dates helps all schools to plan effectively.
12. Following a major consultation for the 2019/2020 School Year the council introduced a two week October half term break. A consequence of the additional week in the autumn is a shorter summer break. Two schools on the Island with responsibility for setting the school year chose not to adopt the council's pattern. The next consultation, for 2021/2022 term dates, will be carried out with schools having had experience of the new pattern.

## CONSULTATION

13. A consultation with all schools and professional associations began in December 2018. Comments were invited on their preferred pattern of dates, responses being required by January 2019.

14. The school year proposed in the consultation presented an eight week first half autumn term with a shorter second half term. Many comments were received, from both primary and secondary phase schools suggesting that the half term holiday is moved so that the teaching periods in the term are of equal length. This change is reflected in the recommended pattern and has been shared with schools for further comment.
15. One school commented that the autumn half term might finish on Friday 18 December to enable two full weeks and three weekends over the Christmas period. To achieve this the last day of the summer term would need to move from 23 July to 27 July. The same school also proposed that Easter holidays can be one week earlier.
16. The term dates were originally approved through a decision on 9 May 2019. That determined year included an error as Monday 31 August, a bank holiday, was included in the school year. The council consulted with schools again, with a proposal for an additional day, that meets the requirement for 195 days.
17. The pattern of dates now includes schools being open on Monday 21 December and Tuesday 22 December. Schools may wish to take these days as teacher days to allow for the school to be closed to children for two weeks.
18. Following consultation the proposed pattern of holiday and term dates is shown in Appendix 1. Key features of the proposed pattern are:
  - the two week October half term break,
  - equal lengths of half terms in the autumn term.
  - a longest possible time after Easter but before summer half term which will be helpful for schools supporting children taking KS2 SATs and KS4 examinations.

#### FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

19. There are no financial implications from this report. School dates are a statutory requirement.

#### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

20. Under section 32 of the Education Act 2002, the local authority shall determine the dates when the school terms and holidays are to begin and end for community, voluntary controlled or community special schools.

#### EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

21. The proposed calendar for 2020/21 term dates applies to all community, voluntary-controlled schools, community special schools, and maintained schools on the Island. This excludes academies and free schools who are free to set their own term dates. The proposed calendar is applied across all of our schools in the same way and therefore does not have any impact of any of the protected characteristics.

## OPTIONS

22. Option 1 - To approve the proposed calendar for term dates 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1.
23. Option 2 – Not to approve the proposed calendar for term dates 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1. Failure to adopt Option 1 will result in schools having to attend on a Bank Holiday.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

24. There has been careful consideration to the proposed calendar 2020/21. The majority of neighbouring authorities will be consulting, or have consulted, on a very similar calendar. There is, of course, no guarantee that all local authorities will agree the same option, but we hope this will lead to more consistent holiday dates between local authorities.
25. It is a requirement for the local authority to set school term and holiday dates for all its maintained schools, other than voluntary aided and foundation schools, to whom the dates are recommended. If the council fails to agree term dates it is failing in its statutory duty to comply with section 32 of the Education Act 2002.

## EVALUATION

26. The proposed calendar has been carefully considered in light of the change that applied for 2019/2020, and it is felt that option 1 is the most appropriate.
27. Option 2 would result in the identified calendar error remaining, as explained in paragraph 16 of this report.

## RECOMMENDATION

28. To approve the proposed calendar for term dates 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1.

## APPENDICES BELOW

29. Appendix 1: Draft calendar of term dates for 2020/21

STEVE CROCKER  
*Director for Children's Services*

COUNCILLOR PAUL BRADING  
*Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education  
and Skills*

**Contact Point: Steve Crocker, Director of Children's Services, e-mail  
[steve.crocker@hants.gov.uk](mailto:steve.crocker@hants.gov.uk)**

# APPENDIX 1

SEPTEMBER 2020							OCTOBER 2020							NOVEMBER 2020						
M	31	7	14	21	28		M		5	12	19	26		M		2*	9	16	23	30
T	1*	8	15	22	29		T		6	13	20	27		T		3	10	17	24	
W	2	9	16	23	30		W		7	14	21	28		W		4	11	18	25	
T	3	10	17	24			T	1	8	15	22	29		T		5	12	19	26	
F	4	11	18	25			F	2	9	16#	23	30		F		6	13	20	27	
S	5	12	19	26			S	3	10	17	24	31		S		7	14	21	28	
S	6	13	20	27			S	4	11	18	25			S	1	8	15	22	29	
DECEMBER 2020							JANUARY 2021							FEBRUARY 2021						
M		7	14	21	28		M		4*	11	18	25		M		1	8	15	22*	
T	1	8	15	22#	29		T		5	12	19	26		T		2	9	16	23	
W	2	9	16	23	30		W		6	13	20	27		W		3	10	17	24	
T	3	10	17	24	31		T		7	14	21	28		T		4	11	18	25	
F	4	11	18	25			F	1	8	15	22	29		F		5	12#	19	26	
S	5	12	19	26			S	2	9	16	23	30		S		6	13	20	27	
S	6	13	20	27			S	3	10	17	24	31		S		7	14	21	28	
MARCH 2021							APRIL 2021							MAY 2021						
M	1	8	15	22	29		M		5	12*	19	26		M		3	10	17	24	31
T	2	9	16	23	30		T		6	13	20	27		T		4	11	18	25	
W	3	10	17	24	31		W		7	14	21	28		W		5	12	19	26	
T	4	11	18	25			T	1	8	15	22	29		T		6	13	20	27	
F	5	12	19	26#			F	2	9	16	23	30		F		7	14	21	28#	
S	6	13	20	27			S	3	10	17	24			S	1	8	15	22	29	
S	7	14	21	28			S	4	11	18	25			S	2	9	16	23	30	
JUNE 2021							JULY 2021							AUGUST 2021						
M		7	14	21	28		M		5	12	19	26		M		2	9	16	23	30
T	1	8	15	22	29		T		6	13	20	27		T		3	10	17	24	31
W	2	9	16	23	30		W		7	14	21	28		W		4	11	18	25	
T	3	10	17	24			T	1	8	15	22	29		T		5	12	19	26	
F	4	11	18	25			F	2	9	16	23#	30		F		6	13	20	27	
S	5	12	19	26			S	3	10	17	24	31		S		7	14	21	28	
S	6	13	20	27			S	4	11	18	25			S	1	8	15	22	29	

**Bank and Public Holidays 2020/2021**

Christmas Day	25 December 2020	Easter Monday	5 April 2021
Boxing Day	26 December 2020	May Day Holiday	3 May 2021
New Year's Day Holiday	1 January 2021	Spring Bank Holiday	31 May 2021
Good Friday	2 April 2021	Summer Bank Holiday	30 August 2021

\* First day after break



School Holidays



Bank Holidays and National Holidays

# Last day before break

**Autumn Term 2020** starts on Tuesday 1 September 2020 and ends on Tuesday 22 December 2020  
(Half term from Monday 19 October to Friday 30 October 2020)

**Spring Term 2021** starts on Monday 4 January 2021 and ends on Friday 26 March 2021  
(Half term from Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2021)

**Summer Term 2021** starts on Monday 12 April 2021 and ends on Friday 23 July 2021  
(Half term from Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2021)

Term	Start date	End Date
Autumn 2020	1 September 2020	22 December 2020
	Half term 19 October- 30 October 2020	
Spring 2021	4 January 2021	26 March 2021
	Half term 15 - 19 February 2021	
Summer 2021	12 April 2021	23 July 2021
	Half term 31 May – 4 June 2021	

**Please also note that the first day of the Autumn Term in September 2021 will not be determined until the 2021/22 timetable has been consulted upon and approved in January 2021.**