

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**  
**LEARNING & FAMILIES COMMITTEE**

**24 AUGUST 2022**

**SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES**  
**2023/2024 AND 2024/2025**

**Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)**  
(Report No 22/190)

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This is a bi-annual report which sets out the future school terms and holiday dates for all school in Perth and Kinross. This report sets out the considerations in determining these dates and the consultation which has been undertaken prior to consideration by Committee.

<b>2. RECOMMENDATION</b>	
2.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approves the proposed schemes, as attached, as the dates for school terms and holidays for sessions 2023/2024 and 2024/2025;</li><li>• Approves the proposals for school closure days for In-Service and Occasional Holidays; and</li><li>• Notes the proposals for additional closure days for schools, where necessary.</li></ul>

**3. STRUCTURE OF REPORT**

- 3.1 This report is structured over the following sections:

- Section 4: Background
- Section 5: Proposals
- Section 6: Conclusion
- Appendices

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The scheme of dates for School Terms and Holidays must comply with the statutory requirement of 190 school days for pupils and 195 school days for teaching staff.

4.2 In line with guidance from the Scottish Government, consultation previously took place with other local authorities with the intention of trying to bring the holiday patterns of neighbouring councils closer together. However, preferred local patterns and local decision-making means that complete uniformity has rarely been achieved.

4.3 Prior to 2007, Perth and Kinross Council Lifelong Learning Committee had determined the scheme of holiday dates to ensure that both Good Friday and Easter Monday fell within the spring break. As Easter dates vary, this resulted in the spring break being taken at differing dates between mid-March and mid-April.

4.4 In a bid to standardise this break, decisions had been taken by other local authorities to ensure the spring break commences on the first Monday in April in each school session. Perth and Kinross Council Lifelong Learning Committee agreed in 2007 ([Report No. 07/530 refers](#)) that the same approach was to be adopted in Perth and Kinross from 2007 onwards.

However, as both Good Friday and Easter Monday are recognised public holidays for many parents and Perth and Kinross Council staff, it was agreed that all future proposed draft schemes should continue to allow both Good Friday and Easter Monday to be school holiday dates wherever they do not fall into the standard spring break. This is not the case in all other local authority areas.

4.5 The Committee will wish to note that both Good Friday and Easter Monday in 2024 and 2025 fall within the proposed spring breaks.

4.6 Perth and Kinross Council Lifelong Learning Committee determined at its meeting of 22 January 2020 the scheme of dates for sessions 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 ([Report No. 20/20 refers](#)).

4.7 It is recognised that it is for each Education Authority to determine the pattern of school holiday dates for their local authority area. However, the introduction of the Regional Improvement Collaboratives, where Perth and Kinross Council is part of the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative with Dundee City Council and Angus Council, provides an opportunity to better align the school terms and holiday dates across all three Council areas. The benefit of this allows for the undertaking of shared continuous professional development activities and In-Service training days with colleagues across Tayside, so that teachers from across the area can work together on joint areas for development. Approaches have been made to review and better align the school terms and holiday dates, where possible, to support this.

4.8 The pattern of dates provides operational and logistical benefits. Previously, significant issues had arisen for parents and staff where there was no commonality or overlap between local authorities in setting the holiday dates. This had resulted in teaching staff living and working in different authority areas having different holidays to their own children and the same for parents who live and work in different authorities.

In addition, a number of children attend schools in neighbouring authorities, particularly at secondary school, which left parents having primary and secondary children with different holiday dates depending on where they attended school. This presented both parents and staff with significant childcare issues in addition to the difficulties of organising family holidays.

Operationally, shared school transport and school day only service buses are also affected by different local authority holiday dates.

- 4.9 The proposed scheme of dates for sessions 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 continues to reflect and address these issues as best they can and are shown as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. Attached at Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 is the comparison of holiday dates for all neighbouring local authorities.

## **5. PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 It is proposed to agree the school terms and holidays for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. This allows notification of school terms and holidays to assist in forward planning of family holidays for parents and staff. This proposal also assists in the forward planning and notification of In-Service training days to staff and parents.
- 5.2 Education Services will provide schools with guidance and clarity regarding the purpose and content of the five In-Service days, ensuring that schools are aware of the expectations of how these days are to be planned and will be used.
- 5.3 The Committee should note that it may be necessary to include additional closure days for any additional In-Service days and/or Public Holidays notified by the Scottish Government.

It may also be necessary to include additional closure days for particular schools to facilitate school moves and decant arrangements. These are organised on an individual basis dependant on the needs of the school(s) involved.

- 5.4 Additional closure days may be organised in accordance with the terms of the powers available under Section 133 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, where Scottish Ministers are content to allow exceptional school closures.

The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) will seek approval from the Scottish Government on an individual school basis, as required, and notify parents etc as appropriate. All other appropriate management arrangements will be considered prior to seeking Scottish Government approval for additional closure days.

## 6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Perth and Kinross Council pattern of holiday dates provides better commonality with our neighbouring Councils, in particular Dundee, Angus and Fife, and certainty for parents and staff regarding the timing of the Easter and October breaks which provides operational and logistical benefits.

### Author

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### Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Sheena Devlin	Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)	25 July 2022

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes/None</b>
Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	No
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	No
Strategic Environmental Assessment	No
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	No
Legal and Governance	No
Risk	No
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	Yes
External	No
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	Yes

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective No. (ii).

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective No. (ii).

- 1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Vision, Values and Priorities in respect of the following key Priority area:

- Learning and Achievement

## **2. Resource Implications**

### Financial

- 2.1 Not applicable.

### Workforce

- 2.2 Not applicable.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 Not applicable.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

### Sustainability

- 3.3 Not applicable.

### Legal and Governance

- 3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 3.5 Not applicable.

### Risk

- 3.6 Not applicable.

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

- 4.1 Headteachers, Business Managers and Trade Unions have been consulted in the preparation of this report. The draft proposals have been considered and agreed by the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff (JNCT).

### External

- 4.2 Not applicable.

## **5. Communication**

- 5.1 If Committee approves the draft scheme of dates, these will be issued to all schools for communicating in their newsletters to parents and staff, and for publication on school websites and school handbooks, as well as publication on the Council website.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 2.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

## **3. APPENDICES**

- 3.1 Appendix 1 - School Terms and Holidays 2023/2024  
Appendix 2 - School Terms and Holidays 2024/2025  
Appendix 3 - Holiday Dates Across Local Authorities 2023/2024  
Appendix 4 - Holiday Dates Across Local Authorities 2024/2025
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