

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

**Report of Corporate Director for People
to
Cabinet
on
15th March 2016**

Report prepared by: Chrissy Papas, Pupil Access Manager

**School Term Dates 2017/18
Executive Councillor: Councillor Anne Jones
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To propose the guideline school term and holiday dates for the academic year 2017/18.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the school term and holiday dates for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix 1 be approved as a guide to schools.**

3. Background

- 3.1 There is no national determination of school term dates. Historically the Council has set the term dates for community schools in Southend. In the main, academies, foundation and voluntary aided schools have chosen to adopt dates set by the Council.
- 3.2 Due to the Deregulation Act 2015, the Local Authority (LA) can no longer determine the term dates for maintained schools. All school governing bodies are now able to set their own term dates and therefore any proposed term dates by the LA would serve only as a recommendation to promote uniformity.
- 3.3 In view of the cross border movement with Essex County Council of both pupils and staff, the coordination with Essex has been an important principle. Unusually the term dates proposed by Essex have received objections and they have indicated that they will be reconsidering their dates but that they will not consult again.
- 3.4 It is recommended that we proceed with the dates as set out in Appendix 1 for Southend-on-Sea. Any date variations between Southend-on-Sea and schools in Essex will be minimal.
- 3.5 It is further recommended that any minor amendments are approved by the Director for People.

4. Proposed term dates

- 4.1 The proposed term dates for 2017/18 are set out in Appendix 1. Please note that these dates have been amended in response to the below comments from the consultation.
- 4.2 A representative for the Primary schools in the borough was consulted and it was recommend that the dates be adjusted to ensure that there are no two day weeks as this has an impact on non-attendance and that December leave is as close to two weeks as possible.
- 4.4 One objection was received from a representative of the ATL National Executive (UK School leadership). The objection reported that;
- 'The draft dates proposed for 2017/18 clearly meet the statutory requirements, but the model proposed feels – on this occasion – as a clumsy compromise. There are two teams that will end with partial (two day) weeks. These are not welcomed by staff and often trigger lower levels of pupil attendance.
I would advance the simple proposal that the Autumn Term ends on 21st December, creating almost a full week; and the Summer Term ends on Friday 20th July (which also generates a full six week Summer – popular with some).*
- I am aware that there will be competing views. I understand that co-ordination is more important than necessarily having the perfect solution.*
- As it stands, if these dates were issued: those schools (academies) that are free to set their own term dates will, I'm sure, move swiftly to adopt the revised model that I have proposed'. Robin M. Bevan Headteacher and ATL National Executive (UK School Leadership representative.*
- 4.5 In response to the comment from the ATL National Executive and the school representative the proposed dates have been slightly amended and are proposed as in Appendix 1. The end December term has been adjusted to accommodate for a three day week rather than a two day week and the summer term has been amended to end on a full week.
- 4.7 It is the view of officers that Southend-on-Sea should proceed with the approval of the term dates as set out in Appendix 1.

5. Reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 As set out in the report.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities
Improving public satisfaction is a critical priority for the Council. It is anticipated that as the proposed dates coincide with Essex they should be acceptable to the majority of parents and carers.
- 6.2 Financial Implications - None
- 6.3 Legal Implications - None
- 6.4 People Implications – Coordination with Essex is important for pupils and staff.
- 6.5 Property Implications - None

- 6.6 Consultation – as detailed in section 4.2 of the report.
- 6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications – None
- 6.8 Risk Assessment – None undertaken.
- 6.9 Value for Money implications – None
- 6.10 Community Safety Implications – None
- 6.11 Environmental Impact – The coordination of term and holiday dates will minimise the number of car journeys to school.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 There are no background papers.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Southend-on-Sea Proposed school term and holiday dates 2017/18**

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

School Term and Holiday Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools - Academic Year 2017-2018

September 2017							October 2017							November 2017							December 2017						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	25	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30	31																			
January 2018							February 2018							March 2018							April 2018						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4							1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
																					30						
May 2018							June 2018							July 2018							August 2018						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
														30	31												

= Schooldays / Weekends

= School holidays

= Bank holidays

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated,
or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Friday 1 September 2017 – Wednesday 20 December 2017 <i>Half Term 23 October – 27 October</i>	74 days
Spring Term:	Wednesday 3 January 2018 – Thursday 29 March 2018 <i>Half Term 12 February - 16 February</i>	57 days
Summer Term:	Monday 16 April 2018 – Friday 20 July 2018 <i>Half Term 28 May – 1 June, and May Bank Holiday, 7 May</i>	64 days
		<u>195 days</u>

Please note: Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies are able to set their own term dates therefore the calendar may vary slightly for individual school and academies. You are strongly advised to check with your child's school or academy before making any holiday or other commitments.