

ANGUS COUNCIL

FAMILY, EDUCATION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE – 30 MAY 2024

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025-28 – CONSULTATION OUTCOME

REPORT BY KELLY MCINTOSH - DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

1. ABSTRACT

This report details the outcome of a consultation exercise with parents and carers, school staff and trade unions and seeks full approval of the school holiday dates for 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the Angus Community Plan 2022-30:

- The best start in life for children.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Note the outcome of the consultation exercise regarding school terms and holiday dates, in which 61.3% of respondents agreed with the proposed dates; and
- Approve in full the school terms and holiday dates for 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28.

4. BACKGROUND

- Reference is made to [Item 6](#) of the minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 14 November 2023, which notes that the Committee agreed to a consultation being carried out on the proposed school terms and holiday dates for sessions 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28. The proposed dates are enclosed as Appendix 1 to this report.
- The consultation exercise took place in March and April 2024, running for 61 days. Head Teachers, staff consultative groups, trade unions, young people and Parent Council representatives were asked if they agreed with the proposed dates.

5. CURRENT POSITION

- A total of 837 responses were received to the consultation. The following groups were represented:
 - Head teachers (1.6%)
 - Staff consultative group (16.0%)
 - Trade Union (0.2%)
 - Parent Council (2.3%)
 - Parent/Carer (69.5%)
 - Child/Young Person (2.0%)
 - Other (8.4%)
- 61.3% of respondents agreed with the proposed dates and 38.7% did not agree with the dates.
- Where a respondent did not agree with the proposals, an opportunity was provided to give reasons for their response. The themes of the comments and the response of the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate are summarised below.

Theme 1 – October Holidays

82 comments were received about the timing of the October holidays and expressing a preference for these to begin earlier in the month than the proposed dates.

In response, the ELL Directorate notes that all the proposed October dates fall within the established policy of the first two weeks in October ([Report 433/15](#) refers). Alteration to the proposed dates would result in the end of term occurring in September and a shortening of the first term of the session. This feedback is noted but no further action is required.

Seven comments were received about the length of the October holidays and expressing a preference for them to be shorter.

In response, the ELL Directorate notes that a change in the length would require a full consultation. The number of comments made about this does not indicate sufficient demand for change and as such, no further action is proposed at this time.

Theme 2 – Christmas Holidays

119 comments were received about the timing of the Christmas holidays and expressing a preference for these to begin earlier.

In response, the ELL Directorate notes that dates as proposed allow three full weekends in each holiday period. In addition, an earlier finish would move Angus Council further out of alignment with Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Councils. As such, no further change is proposed at this time.

Theme 3 – Alignment to Neighbouring Local Authority School Holidays

19 comments were received regarding the alignment of Angus Council dates to neighbouring areas.

In response, the ELL Directorate notes that dates are aligned, where possible, against the published holidays for other local authorities. However, each area has its own established policies which means not all dates can be aligned. Examples in Angus include the agreement for the October holidays to fall in the first two weeks of the month, and the timing of the in-service break in November. Angus Council previously consulted stakeholders in 2015 on potential changes to the October holiday and these were not supported ([Report 433/15](#) refers). No further action is proposed in response to this.

Theme 4 – Timing of the St Andrew's Day Closure

15 comments were received regarding the timing of the St Andrew's Day public holiday and the proximity to the Christmas holidays.

In response, the ELL Directorate notes that this public holiday has been established on an authority-wide basis and occurs on the Friday following 30 November in each year. It is not possible to amend the timing. The winter in-service days are programmed to align with the St Andrew's Day holiday, to minimise disruption during the term. No further action is required in relation to this.

Theme 5 – In-service Days

Eight comments were received regarding the number of in-service days and mid-term breaks allocated. Comments indicated that the number was too high.

In response, the ELL Directorate notes that there are five in-service days programmed, in accordance with national expectations. In-service days provide an opportunity for all teaching and support staff to undertake training and development in relation to their role. Regarding the mid-term holidays, it is noted that holidays are set in accordance with the principle that children and young people are entitled to 190 of schooling each session. No further action is required in response to these comments.

6. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that the Family, Education and Justice Committee:

6.1 Notes the outcome of the consultation exercise regarding school terms and holiday dates, in which 61.3% of respondents agreed with the proposed dates.

6.2 Approves in full the school terms and holiday dates for 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 There are no risk management implications arising directly from this report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

11. CONSULTATION (IF APPLICABLE)

11.1 Director of Finance, Director of Legal, Governance and Change and the Director of HR, Digital Enablement and Business Support have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are: (list them below)

[Report 312/23](#)

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – School Terms and Holidays

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment