

**REPORT TO:** Education Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 19 June 2018

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

**SUBJECT:** School Session Dates (2019/2020)

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain the Committee's approval for School Session dates for 2019/2020.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- (i) Approve the school session dates for 2019/2020 as outlined in Appendix 1.
  - (ii) Authorise the Head of Education to notify Head Teachers, Teachers' Associations, Heads of Establishments and Parent Councils.
  - (iii) Authorise the Head of Education to notify the Scottish Government.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 This year, following early discussion with neighbouring Authorities (Midlothian Council and City of Edinburgh Council), East Lothian has prepared school session dates for only one academic year, 2019/20. This is primarily due to City of Edinburgh Council indicating that they were considering undertaking a consultation on the re-configuration of the academic session from 2019/2020 onwards and would therefore be setting dates for one year only. Midlothian Council also indicated that, at that point, they too were only setting dates for school session 2019/2020. Further engagement with neighbouring Authorities, which included Scottish Borders and Fife Councils proved difficult and by the time subsequent discussions took place, City of Edinburgh Council had already decided to set dates for the next three academic sessions; had not proceeded with any consultation on a reconfiguration of the academic session and had undertaken their consultation exercise on the proposed three year session

dates. Scottish Borders had already set dates for the three years to 2019/20 and Fife Council had set theirs for the three years to 2021/22. It was therefore decided that East Lothian would attempt to align our dates more with Midlothian Council who were only setting dates for 2019/20.

- 3.2 The dilemma we found ourselves in is historically the vast majority of respondents to our consultation favour an alignment with City of Edinburgh dates over Midlothian. A decision was taken to produce a proposal that incorporates both Midlothian and the City of Edinburgh dates but also considers the needs and preferences of our own schools, particularly around In-service dates. The draft dates produced for East Lothian align with both Midlothian Council and City of Edinburgh Council.
- 3.3 In preparing the draft school session dates for 2019/2020 the following points were taken into consideration:-
  - 190 pupil and 195 staff days which is in accordance with the Schools General (Scotland) Regulations 1975 (as amended);
  - A fixed one week break in the third week of October;
  - The school session ending before the first full week of July
  - 5 fixed in-service days; and
  - Flexibility with the Easter break to allow for a natural end to Term 2.
- 3.4 In preparing the draft school session dates for 2019/2020 the five points in 3.2 were taken into account as outlined in the attached draft proposed dates (Appendix 1). Cognisance of the City of Edinburgh Council's and Midlothian Council's session dates were taken into account in an attempt to align the dates, as far as possible, across the three Local Authority areas. This has been achieved in relation to the main holiday periods.
- 3.5 The Education Service consultation on the proposed East Lothian session dates for 2019/2020 took place with Head Teachers, Teachers' Professional Associations, UNISON, Educational Establishments, Parent Councils and the wider community through the Council's Consultation Hub. The period of the consultation ran from 27 March 2018 until 4 May 2018.
- 3.6 The Education Service consultation asked for comments only in relation to the proposed East Lothian dates. A total of 79 responses to the consultation were received, 77 of which were from individuals. Of the 79 responses received 24 commented they were supportive of the proposed dates; 18 related to requesting that the dates be aligned to neighbouring Authorities; 17 related to the timing and duration of the February break; Other comments related to the timing and duration of the Easter break; the early return in August viewed both positively and negatively; the timing and duration of the October break and the timing of In-Service days and Public Holidays. Overall from the responses received there was a majority who were supportive of the proposed dates and with them aligning with neighbouring Authorities.

3.7 The City of Edinburgh Council has decided to set their school session dates for the next 3 years (2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022) and Midlothian Council have decided to set their school session dates for only 2019/2020 at this present time. Discussion will take place with Midlothian Council and Scottish Borders Council when we look at the session dates for 2020/2021 and beyond. Cognisance will be taken of the dates already set by City of Edinburgh Council and Fife Council for these two school sessions.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None.

#### **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Financial - None

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other - None

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

Appendix 1 - draft school session dates 2019/2020 (Table and Calendar formats)

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<b>DATE</b>	14 May 2018



**EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL  
RESOURCES AND PEOPLE SERVICES  
SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2019/20- DRAFT**

<b>TERM 1</b>	Staff In-service Day 1	Monday	12	August	2019
	Staff In-service Day 2	Tuesday	13	August	2019
	Pupils Resume	Wednesday	14	August	2019
	Autumn Holiday (schools closed)	Friday	13	September	2019
	Autumn Holiday (schools closed)	Monday	16	September	2019
	All Return	Tuesday	17	September	2019
	All Break	Friday	11	October	2019
	Staff In-service Day 3	Monday	21	October	2019
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	22	October	2019
	Term Ends	Friday	20	December	2019
	<i>Term 1 = 85 pupil days Term 1 = 88 staff days</i>				
<b>TERM 2</b>	All Resume	Tuesday	7	January	2020
	All Break	Friday	7	February	2020
	Staff In-service Day 4	Monday	17	February	2020
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	18	February	2020
	All Break	Friday	3	April	2020
	Good Friday – 10 April 2020 Easter Monday – 13 April 2020  <i>Term 2 = 58 pupil days Term 2 = 59 staff days</i>				
<b>TERM 3</b>	All Resume (Staff and Pupils)	Tuesday	21	April	2020
	May Day (Schools closed)	Monday	4	May	2020
	All Resume	Tuesday	5	May	2020
	Staff In-service Day 5 (pupils off)	Monday	18	May	2020
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	19	May	2020
	Term Ends  <i>Terms 3 = 47 pupil days Terms 3 = 48 staff days</i>	Friday	26	June	2020



**Draft School Session Dates 2019/2020**

Teaching Day	Green
In Service Day	Yellow
School Holiday	Red

As at 21 March 2018

**Appendix 1**

August 2019						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
					1	2
3						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2019						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2019						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21*	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

\*holiday for pupils

November 2019						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2019						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2020						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2020						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

10th Good Friday/13th Easter Monday

May 2020						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18*	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

\*holiday for pupils

June 2020						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July/August 2020						
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21