

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Board

17 February, 2022

Report of the Director of Education – Andrew Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: VARIATION OF THE 2021/22 SCHOOL TERM DATES TO ACCOMMODATE A DAY IN LIEU IN RECOGNITION OF THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Purpose of the Report:

To seek Members permission to provide delegated authority to the Director of Education to authorise a variation in the 2021/22 term dates to allow for each school to close for one day in lieu of the bank holiday taking place during the Whitsun half-term in recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Background:

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the UK Government has announced an additional national bank holiday will take place on Thursday, 2nd June, 2022. The traditional May Day bank holiday will move to Friday, 3rd June, 2022 allowing for a four day long weekend of national celebration.

As the additional bank holiday will fall during the Whitsun half-term Welsh Government have made provision for the 2021/22 term dates to be reduced by one school day in lieu of the additional bank holiday which schools can take on another day during the current school year.

Regulations require individual governing bodies, local authorities and the Welsh Minister to agree the setting and variation of term dates on an annual basis. Ordinarily Members are asked to approve the setting of term dates two years in advance of the academic year in which they relate. The current academic year term dates were agreed by Cabinet in June, 2019.

In order to fully comply with the Regulations, local authorities are required to provide the chosen date in lieu of the additional bank holiday for each school to Welsh Government by no later than 4th March, 2022 to enable the Minister to agree the variation of the term dates. Governing Bodies are currently formally considering their individual choice of day in lieu prior to notifying the local authority for consideration.

As this is the last Education, Skills and Cabinet meeting prior to the return date of 4th March, 2022, Members are asked for delegated authority to be given to the Director of Education to approve the dates provided by individual governing bodies of their chosen day in lieu. Governing Bodies are currently meeting to consider this. When all governing bodies have submitted their chosen date the local authority will then authorise these and notify the Minister for his final determination.

Financial Impacts:

There are no implications associated with this report.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

There are no implications associated with this report – see attached IIA Stage 1 Screening Assessment.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

All Neath Port Talbot schools will benefit from a day in lieu of the additional bank holiday being held during the Whitsun half-term to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Workforce Impacts:

The additional day in lieu of the bank holiday allows school-based staff to enjoy an additional day in the same way as all other employees.

Legal Impacts:

The setting of term dates are governed within Regulations. The 2021/22 term dates were agreed by both the Council and Welsh Minister in 2019. There is now a need to vary those dates reducing the term by one day to allow for a day in lieu for the additional bank holiday described within this report.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item. Individual governing bodies are currently setting their chosen date for their day in lieu of the additional bank holiday.

Recommendations:

- i) That members note the reduction in the 2021/22 term dates by one day in recognition of a day being granted to schools in lieu of the national bank holiday taking place on Thursday, 2nd June, 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- ii) That delegated authority be provided to the Director of Education to agree individual governing bodies choice of their day in lieu to enable the local authority to notify Welsh Government of all school choices by no later than 4th March, 2022.

Appendices:

Integrated Impact Screening Assessment – Stage 1

List of Background Papers:

ESC Cabinet Report of 6th June, 2019 seeking permission to set the term dates for 2021/22:

<http://modgov.npt.gov.uk/documents/s51155/NEATH%20PORT%20TALBOT%20COUNTY%20BOROUGH%20COUNCIL%20ApproveTERM%20DATES%2020212022.pdf>

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