

School Session Dates for the Academic Year 2015/16**Report by Mary Smith, Director, Education, Communities and Economy****1 Introduction**

The authority is required to set school session dates each year with regard to statutory attendance.

2 Background

We make every effort possible to synchronise Midlothian session dates with neighbouring council areas and in particular with the City of Edinburgh Council and East Lothian Council. Consultation is undertaken with the appropriate teaching unions, schools and Parent Councils to draw up a scheme of session dates for Midlothian schools for each academic year.

A proposed scheme of session dates for 2015/16 was presented to Cabinet on 27 May 2014 which was based on the proposed Edinburgh session dates which they had published for consultation. In the meantime Edinburgh has adopted school session dates for 2015/16 which differ significantly from the session dates on which they had consulted. In particular the October break is now a week earlier.

In order to maximise synchronisation of Midlothian 2015/16 session dates with those of the City of Edinburgh Council we have revised the proposed 2015/16 session dates for Midlothian.

The revised scheme is attached to the report as Appendix 1.

4 Report Implications**4.1 Resource**

There are no resource issues arising from this report.

4.2 Risk

By aligning with neighbouring authorities risk implications are mitigated with regard to pupil attendance at school.

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth

- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
☒ None of the above

4.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Session dates have been designed to maximise attendance by minimising the number of broken weeks for staff and pupils.

4.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

As per 4.4 above.

4.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Discussions have been held with the appropriate teaching unions and school establishments and efforts have been made to synchronise session dates with the City of Edinburgh Council as far as possible.

4.7 Ensuring Equalities

The proposed report will have a neutral effect on equalities groups.

4.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

This proposal takes into account the need to deliver an educational service across Midlothian which anticipates and acknowledges the needs and views of stakeholders.

4.9 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

5 Recommendation

Council is recommended to agree the revised school session dates for 2015/16 as set out in the attached appendix.

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Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Day School Session Dates 2015/16