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To: Councillor Greig, Convener; Councillor Mennie, Vice Convener; Councillors Allard, Blake, Brooks, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Fairfull, Grant, MacGregor, McLeod and Mrs Stewart; and Ms Danielle Barclay (Parent Representative - Nursery / Primary), Mr Doug Haywood (Teacher Representative - Primary Schools), Ms Jacqueline Munro (Teacher Representative - Secondary Schools), Dr Alison Murray (Parent Representative - Secondary), Mr John Murray (Roman Catholic Religious Representative), Mr Madhav Regmi (Third Religious Representative) and Mrs Hilda Smith (Church of Scotland representative).

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 11 February 2026

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

The undernoted item is circulated in connection with the meeting of the **EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE** to be held in the **Council Chamber - Town House** on **TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2026 at 10.00am**. This is a hybrid meeting and Members may also attend remotely.

The meeting will be webcast and a live stream can be viewed on the Council's website. <https://aberdeen.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

JENNI LAWSON
CHIEF OFFICER - GOVERNANCE

BUSINESS

EDUCATION

- 10.4 Additional Closure Day to Mark Scotland's Participation in the Men's Football World Cup Finals - F&C/26/047 (Pages 3 - 6)

Impact Assessments for this Committee can be viewed here:- [Search Integrated Impact Assessments | Aberdeen City Council](#)

Service Updates can be viewed here:- [Education & Children's Services Committee service updates](#)

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Steph Dunsmuir, sdunsmuir@aberdeencity.gov.uk

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services Committee
DATE	17 February 2026
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Additional Closure Day on Monday, June 15, 2026, to Mark Scotland's Participation in the Men's Football World Cup Finals
REPORT NUMBER	F&C/26/047
DIRECTOR	Eleanor Sheppard
CHIEF OFFICER	Shona Milne
REPORT AUTHOR	Shona Milne
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For the Chief Officer Education and Lifelong Learning to seek authority to apply to the Scottish Government for an additional closure day to mark Scotland's participation in the Men's football World Cup finals, subject to the decision taken at the Staff Governance Committee on 23 February 2026.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee delegate authority to the Chief Officer Education and Lifelong Learning to make a formal request to Scottish Government for an additional closure day on 15 June 2026, subject to a decision by Staff Governance Committee of an additional public holiday for staff.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Scottish Government has announced that there will be a [national bank holiday to mark Scotland's participation in the men's football World Cup finals](#) on Monday 15th June 2026. His Majesty King Charles III approved the [Royal Proclamation](#), confirming the bank holiday on 3 February 2026.
- 3.2 There is no law requiring banks or any other businesses to close on bank holidays. Public or local holidays are determined by local councils and can differ between areas; it is for each local authority to determine which dates will be classed as public holidays.
- 3.3 First Minister John Swinney proposed the holiday to allow people, businesses and other organisations in Scotland to celebrate after the team's opening game against Haiti, which kicks off at 2:00am GMT on Sunday 14th June 2026. This will be the first time the men's national team has participated in the tournament since 1998.
- 3.4 The Council recognises 7 public holidays; for the majority of staff, these fall on Good Friday, May Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Hogmanay, New

Year's Day and 2nd January, with days being substituted where a public holiday falls on a weekend day. Craft workers do not have a public holiday on Good Friday and instead have an Autumn holiday on the 4th Monday of September. The rest of the public holidays are the same as for other employees.

- 3.5 On 23 February 2026 the Staff Governance Committee will consider an additional closure day to mark Scotland's participation in the Men's football World Cup finals.
- 3.6 Regulation 5 of the Schools General (Scotland) Regulations 1975, as amended, requires schools to be open for a minimum of 190 days in a school year. However, section 133(4) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 allows Scottish Ministers, on application by a local authority, to modify this requirement providing they are satisfied that it would be unreasonable for Regulation 5 to apply.
- 3.7 Education authorities are therefore requested to apply for an exemption in order that schools can close. The decision taken at the Staff Governance Committee may result in the need to apply for an exemption for an additional closure day. The granting of an exemption would allow children, young people and families to be advised of the additional closure day at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.8 It is proposed that the Chief Officer Education and Lifelong Learning be given delegated authority to apply for this exemption to mark Scotland's participation in the Men's football World Cup finals if an additional public holiday on 15 June 2026 is agreed by Staff Governance Committee at its meeting on 23 February 2026

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Regulation 5 of the Schools General (Scotland) Regulations 1975, as amended, requires schools to be open for a minimum of 190 days in a school year. However, section 133(4) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 allows Scottish Ministers, on application by a local authority, to modify this requirement providing they are satisfied that it would be unreasonable for Regulation 5 to apply.
- 5.2 Where an additional public holiday or leave day would cause a reduction in teaching days, the Scottish Government requires local authorities to seek permission for this from the Scottish Government Learning Directorate through an e-mail request, in accordance with the statutory provisions noted in paragraph 5.1.
- 5.3 The Chief Officer Education and Lifelong Learning will make a formal request to Scottish Government for an additional closure day, should the decision of

the Staff Governance Committee be to approve an additional public holiday for staff.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risk	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	Target Risk Level (L, M or H)	Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified			Yes
Compliance	No significant risks identified			Yes
Operational	There is a risk that service users will not be able to access the services they require due to the additional holiday	Normal public holiday service delivery levels will be applied in all essential service areas	L	Yes
Financial	There is an additional cost in respect of paying enhanced public holiday rates for staff working on the public holiday	Staffing levels will be the minimum to allow for safe service delivery	L	Yes
Reputational	No significant risks identified			Yes
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified			Yes

8. OUTCOMES

8.1 The proposals in this report have no impact on the Aberdeen City Local Improvement Outcome Plan 2016-26.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 [World Cup bank holiday confirmed - gov.scot](#)

10.2 [Scotland Bank Holiday Proclamation](#)

10. APPENDICES

N/A

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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