

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Full Council
DATE	23 rd February 2011
DIRECTOR	Annette Bruton
TITLE OF REPORT	Additional School Closure Day
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/11/014

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Council approval for an additional school closure on Tuesday 3rd May 2011 to be used as an In Service training day for teachers. This would replace the existing in service training day on the 29th April 2011. This date has now been agreed by Council as an additional holiday for staff in respect of the royal wedding.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Council approves an additional school closure on 3rd May 2011 to be used as an In Service training day for teachers.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Officers would require to seek Scottish Government approval for an additional school closure day. Scottish Government has indicated that they would support the 29th of April as a national holiday and therefore are likely to support any implications of this decision.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The Council agreed to make the 29th April 2011 in a flexible holiday for staff in Aberdeen city in respect of the royal wedding. As a consequence of this decision all schools will be closed on that day.

This was already a designated in service day for school staff, one of the days nationally agreed and locally allocated in each academic session. Normally there are 5 in-service days however in recent years additional days have been allocated to support the implementation of

the Curriculum for Excellence. The 29th April 2011 was therefore already a school closure day for pupils.

The consequence of the council's decision is that we now need to identify an alternative in-service training day for school staff and an additional closure for pupils.

The proposal would be to use Tuesday 3rd May 2011 and thereby create a long weekend which is in line with our principles in agreeing school holidays. The principle is that we minimise disruption to parents and families by trying where possible to begin and end holidays adjacent to weekends.

In order to progress this we require the agreement of the local authority and the Scottish Government. As indicated above there is an agreed protocol for requesting additional school closure days from the Scottish Government which we can progress quickly once we have agreement from the local authority.

6. IMPACT

The in-service training day is required to support school staff in implementing the Curriculum for Excellence. If this was not provided we would be in breach of a national agreement and there would be a negative reaction from school staff and trade unions.

We require to advise parents and families as soon as possible if there is to be an additional school closure so that they can make their plans accordingly.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

School Terms and Holiday Dates 2010 – 2015

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/SchoolsColleges/scc_SchoolHols.asp

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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