

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE | Education Operational Delivery Committee |
| DATE | 23 September 2021 |
| EXEMPT | No |
| CONFIDENTIAL | No |
| REPORT TITLE | Platinum Jubilee Public Holiday |
| REPORT NUMBER | OPE/21/225 |
| DIRECTOR | Rob Polkinghorne |
| CHIEF OFFICER | Eleanor Sheppard |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Eleanor Sheppard |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 1.1.1 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For the Chief Education Officer to seek authority to apply to the Scottish Government for an additional closure to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee subject to the decision taken at the Staff Governance Committee on 28th September.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee: -

- 2.1 delegate authority to the Chief Education Officer to make a formal request to the Scottish Government for an additional closure day, subject to approval of an additional public holiday for staff at the Staff Governance Committee on 28th September.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The UK Government have announced that there will be an extended long weekend in June 2022 to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government acknowledges that it is for each local authority to determine which dates will be classed as public holidays.
- 3.3 On 28th September the Staff Governance Committee will consider a recommendation on the timing of the holiday.
- 3.4 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; to modify this regulation providing they are satisfied that it would be unreasonable for Regulation 5 to apply, or to apply without modification.

- 3.5 Education authorities are therefore requested to apply for an exemption in order that schools can close for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Applications are invited as soon as reasonably practical.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 It is proposed that the Chief Education Officer be given delegated authority to apply for this exemption for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee if an additional public holiday is agreed by Staff Governance Committee at its meeting on 28th September.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is a legal requirement for the Authority to provide 190 days of education to school pupils in each academic session. Approval from the Scottish Government is required to vary this in any way.
- 5.2 If the Staff Governance Committee decides that all Council employees should receive an additional fixed day, there will be a requirement for the Council to make an application for an additional closure day.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

| Category | Risk | Low (L) Medium (M) High (H) | Mitigation |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Strategic Risk | None identified | | |
| Compliance | None identified | | |
| Operational | There is a risk that service users will not be able to access the services they require due to the additional holiday | L | Normal public holiday service delivery levels will be applied in all essential service areas |
| Financial | None identified | | |
| Reputational | None identified | | |
| Environment / Climate | None identified | | |

7. OUTCOMES

7.1 The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Impact Assessment | Full impact assessment not required |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | Not required |

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

10. APPENDICES

N/A

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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