

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

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Name | Shona Milne |
| Title | Chief Officer – Education and Lifelong Learning |
| Email Address | shmilne@aberdeencity.gov.uk |