

The background of the slide features the coat of arms of the Government of Nunavut. It consists of a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a stylized building, the top-right shows a caribou head with antlers, the bottom-left shows a sailing ship on wavy lines representing water, and the bottom-right shows a bird with spread wings. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. Below the shield is a banner with the text "ANĖ FOR A'".

Agenda Item 5

Outcome of Consultation on School Term Dates

Falkirk Council

Title: Outcome of Consultation on School Term Dates
Meeting: Emergency Executive
Date: 14 May 2020
Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. This report provides the Emergency Executive with:-

- a summary of the results from the consultation exercise undertaken by Falkirk Council;
- an update on the position regarding similar consultation exercises carried out by both Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils; and
- proposals on how to progress the outcomes of the consultation exercises.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Emergency Executive is asked to:-

- (1) note the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken within the Falkirk area (Appendix 1);
- (2) note the update provided on the consultation exercises undertaken by both Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils; and
- (3) agree that the Director of Children's Services can proceed with the proposal to amend term dates, as outlined in Section 3.1 with effect from August 2022 once confirmation has been received that both other Councils have also agreed to do this.

3. Background

3.1 Falkirk Consultation Exercise

The consultation on the revised school term took place from 21 November 2019 to 6 January 2020. The consultation was undertaken online using the Council's Consultation Hub.

In summary, the proposal consulted on was:

- the new school year/term would start on the second full week in August rather than the third full week.

- **the October holiday would start on the Monday of the first full week in October and would last for two weeks.**

3.2 Children's Services asked Headteachers to email parents/ carers to share the online link to the consultation. Headteachers of secondary schools also invited pupils to respond to the consultation. Children's Services shared the link with the Chairs of Parent Councils and discussed the consultation with the Trade Unions via the Children's Services Service Partnership Forum on 26 November 2019.

4. Considerations

4.1 Summary of Outcomes of Falkirk's Consultation Exercise

In total 9,427 responses were received:

- 6,275 (66.6%) from parents, guardians or carers (78.5% in favour)
- 972 (10.3%) from pupils (67.5% in favour)
- 2,137 (22.6%) responses from employees (79.3% in favour)
- 43 (0.5%) responses from Parent Councils (62.8% in favour)

Overall, **7,305 (77.5%) of these responses voted in favour of the proposal.**

4.2 Summary of Consultation Exercises Undertaken by Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils

- Clackmannanshire Council consulted 21 November 2019 to 5 January 2020. **2,444** responses were received with **83%** in favour of the proposal. The People Committee on 30 January 2020 agreed to the proposed changes.
- Stirling Council consulted 10 January 2020 to 21 February 2020. A report is going to the Children & Young People Committee for a decision on 23 April 2020.

4.3 Proposed Implementation Date of Term Date Changes

In order to give parents as much notice as possible. Term dates are normally published at least 16 months in advance i.e. the term dates for the school session starting August 2021 would be published by Easter 2020. The exact term dates are worked out by officers across the three authorities before being agreed by management and teaching unions at the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT).

5. Implications

Financial / Resources

5.1 The report has no financial implications.

Legal

- 5.2 The proposal complies with the Education Authorities Statutory Duty under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to deliver 190 days of education to pupils.

Risk/Equalities

- 5.3 No issues.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 5.4 No issues.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The consultation responses received indicate significant overall support for the proposal.

Director of Children's Service

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Appendix 1 – Response summary**List of Background Papers**

Education, Children and Young People Executive 19 November 2019, proposal to consult on amending school term dates.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL TERM DATES
RESPONSE SUMMARY

Question : Do you want a 2 week October break?

Response	Parent/ Guardian/ Carer	% of Group Total	Pupil	% of Group Total	Employee	% of Group Total	Parent Council	% of Parent Council Responses	Total Responses	% of Total Responses
1. Yes	4,927	78.5%	656	67.5%	1,695	79.3%	27	62.8%	7,305	77.5%
2. No	1,227	19.6%	294	30.2%	408	19.1%	14	32.6%	1,943	20.6%
3. Don't Know	121	1.9%	22	2.3%	34	1.6%	2	4.7%	179	1.9%
Group Total	6,275	100%	972	100%	2,137	100%	43	100%	9,427	100%