

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 1 APRIL 2003

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2004/2005

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform the Education Committee of the consultation exercise carried out regarding school holiday arrangements for school session 2004/2005 and to seek agreement of the committee to implement the preferred school holiday option.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Consultation on proposed school holiday arrangements has taken place with educational establishments and school boards, the teachers' unions, local Chambers of Commerce, Trades Council and with the local Churches.

The response rate to the consultation process has been poor in recent years and it is generally unusual to gain consensus from all parties. Members will also recall that the Scottish Ministers have expressed a wish that holidays should be co-ordinated across Authorities.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1** The result of the consultation exercise is as follows. (A copy of the Appendices is attached). Of the 62 responses, Appendix III attracted a majority of favourable responses (36), 21 were in favour of Appendix I while 5 were in favour of Appendix II.
- 3.2** Adoption of Appendix III would mean that the Christmas holidays would be out of line with those proposed for North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Councils. This would cause inconvenience in some families. It is therefore proposed that Appendix I be adopted as the school holidays for session 2004/2005. An indication of how the school holiday proposals for 2004/2005 align with North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Councils is given in Appendix IV.

4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Nil

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- (i) agree that Appendix I is accepted as the proposed school holiday arrangements for school session 2004/2005; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

JS/JH
13 March 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools, telephone (01563) 576089 or Janice Shaw, Personnel Manager (Schools), telephone (01563) 576045.

Implementation Officer - Graham Short