

School Term Time - Report of Committee's Task & Finish Group

Reason for the Report

1. This report enables the Committee to approve the draft report of this Committee's Task & Finish Group, copy attached at **Appendix A**.

Background

2. At its meeting in September 2016 the Committee agreed to request from Council on 28th July 2016 to undertake a Task & Finish group to investigate 'School Terms Times. The Committee agreed the Motion as agreed at Council on 28 July as the Terms of Reference for the task group:
 - To undertake an inquiry into amending school term times with a view to shortening the summer break in order to create an additional week's holiday elsewhere during the school calendar.
3. Members of the Task & Finish group were:
 - Councillor Richard Cook (Chair)
 - Councillor Jim Murphy
 - Councillor Lynda Thorne
 - Councillor Jo Boyle
 - Councillor Paul Chaundy
 - Councillor Iona Gordon
 - Mss Carol Cobert, Church in Wales Co-optee member.

- 4 The members considered that they were unable to provide any advice or recommendations to Cabinet without seeking the gauging the views of Cardiff's Schools Chair's of Governors and Head Teachers on the potential change of term times.

- 5 The task group members, to identify appropriate findings for the Inquiry and its recommendations, used evidence received throughout the inquiry and from the Questionnaire sent to all Cardiff's Maintained School's Chair of Governors and Head Teachers.

Way Forward

- 6 The draft report of the Task & Finish Group, is attached at **Appendix A**. Members' attention is particularly drawn to the Recommendations section (page 16).

- 7 Members may wish to consider the report, make any amendments and agree whether to approve the report to be considered by the Cabinet.

Legal Implications

- 8 The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and

properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

- 9 The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- Consider the draft report of the Task and Finish Group, copy attached at **Appendix A.**
- Endorse the report, subject to any comments the Committee wish to make, for submission to the Cabinet.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

28 February 2017