

CORPORATE STRATEGY TO 2010 AND
CORPORATE & OPERATIONAL PLAN 2007-10:
1ST QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT

DISCLOSABLE

Meeting
29/06/07

Agenda Item
16

Reference No
HEFCW/07/58

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This paper presents to Council a report on progress for the first quarter (April to June 2007 inclusive) against activities in the *Corporate Strategy to 2010 and Corporate & Operational Plan 2007-08 to 2009-10*.

BACKGROUND

- 2 Council receives quarterly progress reports on performance against its current three-year Corporate Plan, focussing on Year 1 activities (the Operational Plan) but also including updates as necessary on actions identified for Year 2 and Year 3.

CORPORATE PLAN 2007-10: YEAR 1 - OPERATIONAL PLAN 2007-08

- 3 The deliverables identified for the Operational Plan 2007-08 include, but are not limited to, the specific requirements set out in the 2007-08 Remit Letter from the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 4 The table at **Annex A** provides a progress report on the 52 actions that make up the 2007-08 Operational Plan. The 'Progress Update' column is shaded green, yellow or red according to the present status of the activity. The key points from this update are:
 - Of the 4 activities due for completion in the first quarter of 2007-08 (April to June inclusive):
 - three have been achieved or are on-going (green).
 - one has been delayed (awaiting Assembly approach to discuss a more coherent approach to communications activities) (red).
 - All of the remaining 48 activities for 2007—08 are on track, with some already achieved in part or in full (green).

Council is invited to note progress to date against actions in the Operational Plan 2007-08 at Annex A

CORPORATE PLAN 2007-10: YEAR 2 (2008-09) AND YEAR 3 (2009-10)

- 5 All actions identified for Year 2 (2008-09) and Year 3 (2009-10) of the Corporate Plan 2007-10 currently are on schedule.

REPORTING AND MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

- 6 Progress against the Council's *Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan & Operational Plan*, and against its corporate risk register, is monitored and reported via:

- The annual monitoring meeting between the DECWL Minister, Chair and Chief Executive (to be confirmed that these meetings will continue with the new Minister as with the ELL Minister in the Second Assembly, usually around each October).
- Quarterly monitoring meetings with Welsh Assembly Government officials from HEFCW's sponsoring division, arranged by the Assembly.
- Quarterly progress and monitoring reviews by Management Board.
- Quarterly progress reports to Council (at its meetings in June/July, October, January and March).
- Reviews of the corporate risk register by Management Board and at each meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee (normally held in March, June and October).

It is not clear whether the new Third Assembly Committee dealing with education (yet to be established at the time of writing) will wish to make occasional 'scrutiny visits' to HEFCW as did the ELL Committee in the Second Assembly.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7 The Council's *Corporate Strategy to 2010 and Corporate & Operational Plan 2007-10* is based on grant-in-aid allocations confirmed in the latest National Assembly for Wales' budgets. Details of the Assembly's approved final budget proposals for the financial year 2007-08 and indicative proposals for 2008-09 and 2009-10, and also of the Council's budget commitments for the academic year 2007/08, are set out at Annex B to the Plan.

PUBLICITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8 Following Assembly approval of the Plan at the end of May 2007, the Plan currently is being translated into Welsh and thereafter will be published in hard copy and on HEFCW's website.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9 If Council did not regularly review and monitor progress against its Corporate Strategy and Corporate & Operational Plans, it would have no assurance that it was on track to meet its high level targets and objectives. The monitoring arrangements set out at paragraph 6 above are intended to address this.

DIVERSITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10 The Plan includes reference to the key *Making the Connections* themes of equality and social justice. It also includes various activities planned by the Council which relate to the themes of diversity and equal opportunities, including:
- Increasing new entrants to HE from Communities First areas, and general support for widening access
 - Review arrangements for central support of equal opportunities in HE
 - Support for Welsh language provision in HE
 - Review of institutions' disability equality schemes
 - Development of guidance for external partners on HE and care leavers
 - Evaluation of HEFCW's Welsh Language Scheme, and implementation of a revised Scheme
 - Preparation of HEFCW's Gender Equality Scheme

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11 The Council is invited to note the first quarter progress report against the actions in the *Corporate Strategy to 2010 and Corporate & Operational Plan 2007-08 to 2009-10*.

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