

INTRODUCTION

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to seek Council approval for the next instalment of funding for the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE).

BACKGROUND

- 2 The LFHE is a UK wide body, launched in March 2004, with the backing of Ministers, funding bodies and the sector across the UK. LFHE focuses on leadership and management issues in HE, including governor development.
- 3 The LFHE business model requires it to move towards self-sustainability following a period of investment from the funding bodies, which initially was five years. There is a mixed economy funding model, with HEIs themselves paying corporate subscriptions to LFHE and they or individuals paying for specific activities. At its meeting in March 2003 the Council originally agreed to provide £450k support to the LFHE to the end of 2006-7 (paper HEFCW/03/16 refers).

DISCUSSION

- 4 The UK funding bodies commissioned an interim evaluation of LFHE from independent consultants in 2006. The report was very positive about the contribution LFHE is making to the development of leadership, governance and management in the sector, but cast doubt on whether it was realistic to expect the LFHE to be self-financing at this stage. It therefore recommended a further period of investment by the funding bodies.
- 5 Consequently the UK funding bodies, with HEFCE leading, have been negotiating a second phase funding package with LFHE for the period 2007-12. The HEFCW share of this funding would, over five years, total £310k. This is a smaller sum over a longer period than the original funding, reflecting LFHE's ability to generate its own income.
- 6 Continued funding of the LFHE sits well with the Council's increasing focus on the importance of leadership, governance and management in the sector, and with the requirement in the remit letter to review the development of governors and senior management. In order to improve the LFHE's links with HEIs in Wales the LFHE has recently announced the appointment of Heather Graham as part-time Associate Director for Wales. Her appointment will also provide a focus for determining any Wales-specific activities the LFHE could deliver in order to assist with meeting the remit letter requirement or other Council priorities.

The Council is invited to agree to provide support to the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education of up to £310k for the period 2007-12.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7 Funding has already been provisionally included in the budget for 2007/08, and will need to be included in the budgets for following years when appropriate.

PUBLICITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8 There are no publicity implications arising from the paper.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9 The quality of leadership, governance and management has a high profile in the sector and with Ministers. Continuing to support the work of the Leadership Foundation generally and in Wales particularly should lessen the risk of instances of poor leadership, governance or management, which would damage the reputation of higher education in Wales, occurring..

DIVERSITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

10 The work of the Leadership Foundation includes, as one of its elements, a focus on diversity, and ensuring that institutions are aware of, and are fully addressing, their responsibilities. This applies in particular at governor level. The appointment of a Leadership Foundation associate director for Wales should help ensure that the Welsh language responsibilities of institutions are also emphasised in training and development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10 The Council is invited to:
- i) Agree to provide support to the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education of up to £310k for the period 2007-12.

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