

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL'S THIRD MISSION COMMITTEE ON
5 APRIL 2007

DISCLOSABLE

Meeting
4/5/07

Agenda Item
14

Reference No
HEFCW/07/43

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This paper presents for information the agenda and unconfirmed notes of the last meeting of the Council's Third Mission Committee held on 5 April 2007, which are attached as **Annex A**.
- 2 In particular, the attention of Members is drawn to the annual report from the Chair of the Committee for the academic year 2005/06, which is presented at **Annex B**. Members are also asked to note the forthcoming publication of a circular to announce indicative Third Mission Fund allocations for 2007/08-2009/10 and request institutions to submit updated third mission strategies. Finally, attention is drawn to the Committee's discussion of the outcomes of the first joint meeting of the Council's Third Mission and Learning & Teaching Committees.
- 3 Members are invited to receive:
 - (i) the unconfirmed notes of the Committee's meeting on 5 April 2007; and
 - (ii) the Chair's annual report to the Council, which covers the academic year 2005/06.

BACKGROUND

- 4 At its meeting on 9 May 2003, the Council approved the establishment of a Third Mission Committee and the Chairman subsequently invited Dr Len Arthur to act as its chair. Dr Arthur accepted and in turn, invited a total of eleven individuals to join him on the new committee (paper **HEFCW/05/27 refers**). The Committee was originally conceived as a key vehicle for the delivery of closer working relations between the Council and the former Welsh Development Agency (WDA) and ELWa as required by the then Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Minister for Economic Development and Transport. The Assembly mergers effective from 1 April 2006 necessitated a review of the Committee's membership and terms of reference and a revised remit for the Third Mission Committee was approved by the Council at its meeting on 19 October 2006.

2005/06 ANNUAL REPORT

- 5 The requirement on the Chair to submit an annual report to the Council is set out in the Committee's revised Terms of Reference and Standing Orders, which were approved by the Council on 16 October 2006. Annex B presents the third annual report from the Chair of the Third Mission Committee and covers the academic year 2005/06.
- 6 2005/06 was an important year for the Third Mission Committee because the merger into the Welsh Assembly Government of ELWa and the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) on 1 April 2006, heralded a new phase in its development. As the report shows it was also a very busy year for the Committee and meetings ranged across the full breadth of the third mission agenda. The report highlights the ways in which the HE sector continues to contribute to the achievement of Assembly Government aims and objectives in respect of both economic and social well-being in Wales. The report also looks to the future and how the Committee can most

effectively continue to develop its role in advising the Council on how to ensure that HEFCW's own corporate plan and strategy facilitate even further progress in this area.

- 7 Members are invited to receive the Chair's annual report for 2005/06 and note the issues raised.

THIRD MISSION FUND

- 8 Notes 9-10 in Annex A refer to a paper that updated the Committee on progress towards finalising funding arrangements for the Council's second three year Third Mission Fund cycle, 2007/08-2009/10. (At its meeting on 21 January 2007 the Council granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive and Chair of the Third Mission Committee to authorise Third Mission Fund allocations between 2007/08-2009/10). The notes report the intention to publish a circular requesting updated third mission strategies and announcing indicative funding allocations during the week commencing 16 April 2007. Members are asked to note that publication of this circular has been postponed until after the elections to the National Assembly for Wales and will now be published on 4 May.

JOINT MEETING OF HEFCW'S THIRD MISSION AND LEARNING & TEACHING COMMITTEES

- 9 Notes 6-8 in Annex A record the discussion around the outcomes of the first joint meeting of the Council's Third Mission and Learning and Teaching Committees, which was held on 9 March 2007. The discussion took place in the context of the Council's remit to advise the Assembly Government on steps that might be taken to strengthen the role of the sector "in support of the Skills Agenda in Wales." Members are asked to note the issues raised in the course of this discussion and the Committee's decision that in the light of developments in Wales and the UK currently impacting on the skills agenda, the sector's role in this regard should be debated in more depth at its next meeting.

AVAILABILITY OF PAPERS

- 10 Copies of all documents referred to in this paper and the attached meeting notes can be made available to Council Members on request to the secretary of the Third Mission Committee, Teresa.Cooper@hefcw.ac.uk.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11 No new financial obligations arise from this paper.

PUBLICITY IMPLICATIONS

- 12 No new publicity implications arise immediately from this paper. However, publication of the circular referred to in paragraph 8 above may attract some press interest.

DIVERSITY & EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 13 When submitting their revised third mission strategies all institutions will be asked to consider how it will address the needs of potentially disadvantaged groups (in relation to race, gender, disability and age, including monitoring arrangements). In addition, institutions will be asked to consider the needs of Welsh speakers, Welsh learners and Welsh speaking communities and, where appropriate, take account of their institution's/institutions' role/roles in the new sector Welsh medium strategic framework and development plan. However, there are no immediate implications arising from this paper.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- 14 The need to develop the third mission activities of Wales' higher education institutions is a significant plank of *Reaching Higher* and the Council's current remit from the Assembly Government. The Council has established the Third Mission Committee to advise it on the development of policy and strategy in this area and to overlook its advice might jeopardise the effective implementation of the Council's own strategic aim of "*benefiting society and economy*" in Wales.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15 The Council is recommended to:
- (i) ***note the unconfirmed notes of the Committee's meeting on 5 April 2007; and***
 - (ii) ***note receipt of the Chair's annual report for 2005/06.***