

Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference No
23/03/07	20	HEFCW/07/27

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This paper presents for approval without discussion, subject to confirmation by the Committee, the unconfirmed minutes of the Council's Widening Access Committee (WAC) held on 10 November 2006.

BACKGROUND

- 2 At its July 2006 meeting, Council agreed to establish the Widening Access Committee, with a broader membership and remit than the former Reaching Wider National Steering Group which steered the Reaching Wider Initiative. The purpose of the Widening Access Committee is to advise the Council on all matters related to widening access and the Reaching Wider Initiative.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE FIRST WIDENING ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2006

- 3 Unconfirmed minutes of the first meeting held on 10 November 2006 are attached as **Annex A**. The meeting considered a number of key issues in widening access including looked after children and care leavers in higher education; retention and widening access; and the Graham review of part-time HE study in Wales. Members also received a presentation from the consultants undertaking the national evaluation of widening access funded activities and the Reaching Wider initiative.
- 4 As noted in the minutes, members recommended revisions to the Committee's terms of reference and membership. Proposals will be brought to the next meeting of the Council, following further consideration at the March WAC meeting.

The Council is invited to approve, subject to confirmation by the Committee, the unconfirmed minutes of the Widening Access Committee meeting of 10 November 2006.

AVAILABILITY OF PAPERS

- 5 Copies of all papers referred to in the Widening Access Committee minutes can be made available to members on request.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6 There are no financial implications arising from this paper.

PUBLICITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7 There are no immediate publicity implications arising from this paper.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8 The Widening Access Committee has been established to advise the Council on widening access matters, including the Reaching Wider Initiative. The Widening Access Committee helps to ameliorate the risk of:
- The widening access and Reaching Wider Initiative policy areas not being aligned, as requested by the Assembly Government;
 - the Council not being fully informed of any statutory duties or emerging thinking regarding widening access.

DIVERSITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9 There are no immediate implications arising from this paper. However, the Widening Access Committee will monitor the impact of diversity and equalities policies on students more effectively than the former Reaching Wider National Steering Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10 The Council is invited to:
- i) Approve, subject to confirmation by the Committee, the unconfirmed minutes of the Widening Access Committee meeting of 10 November 2006.

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