

**Disclosable**

Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference No
01/02/08	11	HEFCW/08/05

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**1 Issue**

This paper invites Council to note progress as at the end of the third quarter of FY 2007-08 (October to December 2007 inclusive) against activities in HEFCW's *Corporate Strategy to 2010 and Corporate & Operational Plan 2007-08 to 2009-10*.

**2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper**

Council has agreed to receive quarterly progress reports against activities included in its current Corporate Strategy and Corporate & Operational Plan. This commitment is set out under 'Corporate Governance and Compliance Arrangements' at Annex C to the Plan.

**3 Recommendation(s)**

The Council is invited to:

- i. Note progress as at the end of the third quarter of FY 2007-08 (October to December 2007 inclusive) against activities in HEFCW's' *Corporate Strategy to 2010 and Corporate & Operational Plan 2007-08 to 2009-10*.

**4 Timing for decisions**

There are no decisions arising from the issues presented in this paper, which is a routine item presented to Council for information on a quarterly basis.

**5 Council members' interests**

No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting regarding the issues presented in this paper.

**6 Further information**

Dale Hall (Tel 029 2068 2280; E-mail: [dale.hall@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:dale.hall@hefcw.ac.uk))

## **7 Background**

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

## **8 Corporate Plan 2007-10: Year 1, Operational Plan 2007-08**

8.1 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. The table at **Annex A** provides a progress report on the 52 actions that make up the 2007-08 Operational Plan (it also sets out the actions for years two and three of the Plan, 2008-09 and 2009-10). The 'Progress Update' column is shaded green, yellow or red according to the present status of the activity.

8.2 The key points from this update are:

- All four of the activities due for completion in the third quarter of 2007-08 (October to December inclusive) have been achieved. (Green)
- One action – the review of institutional disability equality schemes – has, with Council's approval, been deferred to 2008/09. (Red)
- The remaining 47 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***

## **9 Corporate Plan 2007-10: Year 2 (2008-09) and Year 3 (2009-10)**

All actions identified for Year 2 (2008-09) and Year 3 (2009-10) of the Corporate Plan 2007-10 currently are on schedule. As noted by Council at its meeting on 7 December 2007, a number of the Year 2 activities are included in the draft Operational Plan 2008-09 currently being developed.

## **10 Reporting and monitoring arrangements**

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 DCELLS Minister, Chair and Chief Executive (usually held 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/February and March).
- Reviews of the corporate risk register by Management Board; at each meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee (normally held in March, June and October); and by Council.
- Scrutiny visits by the Assembly (*N.B. it has yet to be confirmed if the Assembly's Enterprise and Learning Committee will be making occasional 'scrutiny visits' to HEFCW as did the ELL Committee in the Second Assembly*).

## **11 Financial implications**

The deliverables set out in the Council's *Corporate Strategy to 2010 and Corporate & Operational Plan 2007-10* are 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; its indicative proposals for 2008-09 and 2009-10; and the Council's budget commitments for the academic year 2007/08, are set out at Annex B to the Plan.

## **12 Communications implications**

The Plan has been translated into Welsh, designed for hard-copy publication, and currently is being printed. It has already been posted on HEFCW's website.

## **13 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications**

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

## 14 Risk Assessment

Risk	Action to address risk
Neither Council nor Welsh Assembly Government has adequate assurance that HEFCW is on track to meet its high level targets and objectives.	These quarterly progress reviews to Council, along with the other reporting and monitoring arrangements set out at paragraph 10.