

Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference No
12/12/08	10	HEFCW/08/90

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## **1 Issue**

This paper provides an update on progress as at the end of the November 2008 against activities in HEFCW's Operational Plan 2008-09. It also reports on the timetable for development of the HEFCW Corporate Strategy 2009-10 – 2011-12.

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

The 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 E to the Plan.

## **3 Recommendation(s)**

The Council is invited to:

- i. note progress on the Operational Plan 2008-09;
- ii. discuss the arrangements for developing the new Corporate Strategy.

## **4 Timing for decisions**

There are no decisions arising from the issues presented in this paper.

## **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**

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## **7 Background**

At its meeting in July 2008, Council endorsed the Corporate and Operational Plan 2008-11 for submission to the Assembly Government (within delegated authority). Council views were also sought on the strategic aims/mission for the new Corporate Strategy and Operational Plan for 2009 onwards. Members noted that the next Remit letter was due before the report of the Jones Task and Finish Group, and so would be overtaken by it. Discussion would therefore be needed with the Welsh Assembly Government before the end of 2008 about guidance for 2009-10.

Officers subsequently raised this matter in the quarterly monitoring meeting with WAG officials in October. Further meetings are planned to gain early information on Assembly steers to inform the next Corporate Strategy. This includes a meeting with WAG officials on 9 December to discuss future HE outcomes and performance monitoring. In addition, we discussed the need for some flexibility around the submission of the next Corporate Strategy, subject to timing of receipt of the remit letter for 2009-10.

The Corporate Strategy 2008-09 to 2010-11 was approved by WAG and submitted to Council for information at its September meeting.

## **8 Operational Plan 2008-09**

**Annex A** provides a final report on progress against the Operational Plan up to the end of November 2008. This is the first report to be provided to the Council on this plan due to the late remit letter and consequent delay in finalising an updated Corporate Strategy and Operational Plan.

**Members are invited to note progress on the Operational Plan 2008-09**

## **9 Corporate Strategy 2009-10 – 2011-12 and Operational Plan 2009-10**

Given the likely timetable for information being made available from phase 2 of the Jones Task and Finish Group, officers have been considering the scope for taking account of the outcomes in the new Strategy. The following timetable is proposed:

- The corporate strategy and operational plan to be divided into two documents;
- The discrete sections of the strategy to be updated but the seven strategic objectives retained
- The text of the strategic objectives and text to take account of the outcomes of the external stakeholders survey and the Task and Finish Group.

## **10 Corporate Strategy 2010-11 – 2014-15**

The new strategy will be developed as follows:

- A major revamp of the strategy (with impact on the operational plan) including revised strategic objectives;
- A move to a five year period for the strategy;
- Internal activities to gain ownership of staff across HEFCW;
- The strategy to take full account of the outcomes of the external stakeholders survey;
- The strategy to take full account of the outcomes of the Task and Finish Group, including performance measures;
- Sector consultation planned for August 2009 on new strategy.

A draft Corporate Strategy structure will be brought for consideration to the January meeting of the Council. Officers will be meeting with WAG officials in early December to commence consideration of performance measures.

**Members are invited to discuss the arrangements for developing the new Corporate Strategy.**

## **11 Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this paper.

## **12 Communications Implications**

As noted above, a sector consultation is planned as part of the development of the new strategy.

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

There are no direct equal opportunities implications from this paper.

## **14 Risk Assessment**

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
The Remit letter 2009-10 is delayed.	A revised timetable for submitting the Corporate Strategy will be agreed with WAG officials, as in 2008-09.
The Assembly's response to the Jones Task and Finish Group, part 2 is delayed	The Corporate Strategy will be updated for 2009-10 with a full update for 2010-11.