

Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference No
12/12/08	20	HEFCW/08/98

1 Issue

- 1.1 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 22 October 2008.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 The purpose of the WAC is to advise the Council on all matters related to widening access and the Reaching Wider Initiative.

3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Council is invited to approve, subject to confirmation by the Committee, the unconfirmed minutes of the Widening Access Committee meeting of 22 October 2008.

4 Further information

- 4.1 Contact Jane Johns Tel: 029 2068 2284; e-mail Jane.Johns@hefcw.ac.uk

5 Background

- 5.1 Unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2008 are attached as **Annex A**. The meeting considered a number of key issues in widening access including: the implications for widening access policy development of: *Skills that Work for Wales, Transforming Education and Training Provision in Wales* and the consultation on *A New Approach to Adult Community Learning*; the implications for widening access policy development in Wales of *Widening Participation in Higher Education* (the widening participation in England National Audit Office Report); the Welsh Assembly Government refresh of *Reaching Higher* under the Merfyn Jones Group; and the Higher Education Academy review of the Council's widening access and Reaching Wider activity.

6 Financial implications

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

7 Communications implications

7.1 There are no communications implications arising from this paper.

8 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

8.1 There are no immediate implications arising from this paper. However, the WAC will continue to monitor and reflect upon the impact of diversity and equalities policies on students.

9 Risk Assessment

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
The widening access and Reaching Wider Initiative policy areas not being aligned, as requested by the Assembly Government	The WAC includes the Chairs of the Reaching Wider Partnerships and widening access sector representatives.
The Council not being fully informed of any statutory duties or emerging thinking regarding widening access	The WAC has been established to advise the Council on widening access matters, including the Reaching Wider Initiative, and reports regularly