

Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference No
09/05/08	12	HEFCW/08/32

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## **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 13 February 2008.

## **2 Rationale for paper**

- 2.1 The Widening Access Committee has been established as a Council sub-committee to advise Council on widening access matters, including the Reaching Wider initiative.

## **3 Recommendation(s)**

- 3.1 The Council is invited to:
- i. Approve, subject to confirmation by the Committee, the unconfirmed minutes of the Widening Access Committee meeting of 13 February 2008.

## **4 Timing for decisions**

- 4.1 There are no timing issues for this paper.

## **5 Council members' interests**

- 5.1 No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

## **6 Further information**

Contact Jane Johns (Tel 029 2068 2219; E-mail: Jane.Johns@HEFCW.ac.uk)

## **7 Background**

- 7.1 The purpose of the Widening Access Committee is to advise the Council on all matters relating to widening access and the Reaching Wider initiative.

## **8 Unconfirmed minutes of the Widening Access Committee meeting (13 February 2008)**

- 8.1 Unconfirmed minutes of the February 2008 WAC meeting are attached as **Annex A**. The meeting considered a number of key widening access issues including:
- The implications for widening access policy development of: *The Independent Review of the Mission and Purpose of Further Education in Wales in the Context of The Learning Country: Vision into Action* (December 2007); *The Skills and Employment Action Plan* (January 2008) and; the Welsh Assembly Government's planned strategy for adult community learning.;
  - HEFCW's draft Widening Access Strategy 2008-13;
  - Actions to improve retention in higher education;
  - HEFCW's Looked After Children/Care Leavers Action Plan;
  - HEFCW's Annual Equality and Diversity Report;
  - The Widening Access Committee's remit.

## **9 Financial implications**

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

## **10 Communications implications**

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

## **11 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications**

- 11.1 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.

## **12 Risk Assessment**

- 12.1 The Widening Access Committee has been established to advise the Council on widening access matters, including the Reaching Wider initiative. The WAC helps to ameliorate the risk of:
- (i) The widening access and Reaching Wider initiative policy areas not being aligned, as requested by the Welsh Assembly Government; and
  - (ii) The Council not being fully informed of any statutory implications or emerging thinking regarding widening access.