

Meeting  
13/03/09

Agenda Item  
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Reference No  
HEFCW/09/13

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## 1 Issue

The paper informs Council of the Assembly Government's intention to complete governance reviews at all executive Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies, and of the likely timescale for the review of HEFCW as part of this programme.

## 2 Rationale for paper

- 2.1 The Management statement between the Assembly and HEFCW provides for the Assembly to periodically conduct a review of the Council (previously referred to as the quinquennial review). The 2008-9 remit letter informed the Council of the CELLS Minister's request to Assembly officials for arrangements to be put in place for a quinquennial review.

## 3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Council is invited to:
- i. note the details received to date attached at **Annex A** regarding the proposed timetable for this review .
  - ii. ask the chief executive and the WAG assessor to provide an oral update of the latest information available about the review proposals

## 4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 This paper does not require any decisions by Council at this stage.

## 5 Council members' interests

- 5.1 No Council member has declared any further interests to those set out in the Register of members' interests which are of specific relevance to the matters covered in this paper.

## 6 Further information

Contact Richard Hirst (Tel 02920 682253; E-mail: [Richard.Hirst@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:Richard.Hirst@hefcw.ac.uk))

## **7 Background**

- 7.1 The Management statement between the Assembly and HEFCW provides for the Assembly to periodically conduct a review of the Council ( previously referred to as the quinquennial review). The Assembly Government made a commitment in 'One Wales' to ' review the governance of public service bodies in Wales to ensure their alignment with [the Assembly Government's] improvement agenda'. The proposed Governance Review will supersede the quinquennial review.
- 7.2 The reviews are intended to encompass the culture and values of public service bodies, as well as their systems and processes for directing their business and engaging with the communities they serve. This review will therefore be of considerable significance to the Council.
- 7.3 The Chief Executive has not received any further details about this review other than the information provided in the letter attached at Annex A. The approximate review dates are May – June 2009 and the letter indicates that Assembly officials will consult with HEFCW with regard to the timing, terms of reference and work plan for the review.
- 7.4 A verbal update will be provided by the Chief Executive at the meeting about any further information that may have been received. The WAG Assessor will also be invited to provide members with a verbal update of any further information that they are able to provide.

## **8 Financial implications**

- 8.1 This paper has no financial implications.

## **9 Communications implications**

- 9.1 Communications implications will be addressed as part of the Council's consideration of the outcomes from the review.

## **10 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications**

- 10.1 This paper has no direct implications for age, disability, gender, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or the Welsh language.

## 11 Risk Assessment

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
<p>Uncertainty about timescales gives rise to risk that the added value from this review for both the Assembly and the Council is not maximised due to a lack of time available before the review visit to tailor the terms of reference and work plan appropriately.</p>	<p>Chief Executive and Director of Finance &amp; Corporate Services to liaise with Assembly officials to confirm the details and the proposed timescales for the planning and scoping of the review as well as arrangements for the review visits, meetings and considerations of the outcomes.</p>
<p>The outcomes of the review has an adverse impact on the reputation and future standing of the Council due to insufficient priority and officer time given to managing the process.</p>	<p>Working group of HEFCW officers to be established to plan for the review (including the preparation and collation of relevant information), to co-ordinate the review visit schedules and to manage the consideration of the outcomes and any proposed action plans.</p>