

Meeting  
29/01/10

Agenda Item  
12

Reference No  
HEFCW/10/08

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## 1 Issue

This paper invites the Council to approve its reviewed *Code of Practice for Members of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales* referred to in paragraph 5.7 of the *Standing Orders for the Conduct of Council Business*.

## 2 Corporate Planning Implications

The Corporate Strategy and Corporate & Operational Plan 2007-10 specifically commits Council to undertake an annual review of its *Standing Orders for the Conduct of Council Business*.

## 3 Recommendation

The Council is invited to:

- i. Review and approve the proposed amendments to its *Code of Practice for Members of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (Annex A)*.

## 4 Timing for decisions

HEFCW's Corporate Governance arrangements are reviewed and the outcomes discussed and approved by Council every December. In December 2009, further discussion of the *Code of Practice for Members of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales* was undertaken by officers with the Welsh Assembly Government sponsor division.

## 5 Council members' interests

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

Bethan Owen (Tel 029 2068 2215; E-mail: [bethan.owen@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:bethan.owen@hefcw.ac.uk))

## 7 Background

7.1 11 December 2009 Council meeting - Minute 8.6:

Resolved:

to note that the *Code of Practice for Members of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales* (referred to in paragraph 5.7 of the standing orders) was currently being reviewed by officers and that the amended Code would be presented to the Council meeting to be held 29 January 2010.

7.2 Discussions have been held with officers in the sponsor division and advice received from the Welsh Assembly Government Corporate Governance Unit regarding amendments required to the Council Members' Whistleblowing Policy.

7.3 The Council's *Standing Orders for the Conduct of Council Business* are attached at **Annex A**. **The following changes are proposed and highlighted as follows:**

## 8 Financial implications

There are no financial expenditure implications for the Council of agreeing to the recommendations in this paper.

## 9 Communications implications

The Council is committed through its Publication Scheme to publish information on its corporate governance arrangements. The Council's *Code of Practice for Members of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales* are published on the Council's website and extranet. General details of the Council's corporate governance arrangements are published in its Corporate Strategy and Corporate & Operational Plan.

## 10 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

In accordance with HEFCW's Equality Impact Assessment Guidance, the Council's corporate governance documents will be assessed for any potential impact on each equality strand (disability, gender, race, religious belief or sexual orientation etc.) and also for any Welsh language implications.

## 11 Risk Assessment

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
Council's corporate governance arrangements not documented, monitored or further developed to reflect recognised best	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council has in place Code of Practice for Members</li><li>• Corporate governance</li></ul>

practice, leading to potential breach of MS/FM with the Assembly and reputational damage.	documents and arrangements regularly reviewed by Council, and by internal audit.
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