

**Reaching Wider Initiative (RW):
2010/11 Funding Allocation Processes**

Disclosable

Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference No
07/05/10	15	HEFCW/10/44

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper invites Council to approve, without discussion, the membership and processes for approving the 2010/11 Reaching Wider (RW) Partnerships' allocations.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 The Reaching Wider Advisory sub-group was established to make Reaching Wider funding recommendations to Council. Therefore, it contributes towards the Council meeting its strategic aims in relation to widening access.

3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Council is invited to:
- i. Note the proposed processes for approving 2010/11 Reaching Wider Partnerships' funding allocations;
 - ii. Approve the Advisory sub-group membership, including Chair; and
 - iii. Approve the Reaching Wider 2010/11 funding processes.

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 A decision is required now in order to begin the process of allocating Reaching Wider Partnerships' funding for 2010/11.

5 Council members' interests

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

6 Further information

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7 Background

- 7.1 In order to assist the process of allocating funding for the Reaching Wider initiative, an Advisory Group was convened in November 2002 to consider bids and make recommendations to Council. In subsequent Reaching Wider funding periods Council agreed that the Advisory sub-group should continue to assess RW funding proposals and make recommendations to Council. Two Council members have formed the sub-group, one of whom chairs the sub-group.
- 7.2 In addition to submitting RW Partnership funding recommendations to Council for approval, the sub-group has also submitted recommendations to ensure the RW initiative's contribution to the Assembly Government's widening access priorities.
- 7.3 In March 2010, Council approved: a one year extension of RW funding to 2010/11; confirmed an allocation of **£2,132,756** for the Reaching Wider initiative, noting that £100k was to be retained from the RW budget for central coordination; and delegating authority to the Chief Executive to release the Partnerships' funding allocations.

8 RW Funding Processes 2010/11

- 8.1 In 2009/2010 Council reorganised its sub-committees and widening access policy development became the remit of the Student Experience Quality and Teaching Committee (SETQC) chaired by Professor Leni Oglesby. Therefore, we propose that Professor Oglesby chair the Reaching Wider advisory sub-group and that Professor Mari Lloyd-Williams also becomes a sub-group member. HEFCW officers will support the work of the sub-group.
- 8.2 The sub-group will submit funding recommendations for approval to the Chief Executive in July 2010 to enable allocations to be made in July 2010 for the 2010/11 academic year. Delaying the confirmation of Partnership funding until after September Council would cause funding issues for the Partnerships, particularly in relation to staff contracts. In addition to funding recommendations, the sub-group will also submit to the Chief Executive recommendations on the development of the RW initiative to ensure it takes account of *For Our Future* expectations.
- 8.3 Council's September meeting will receive a report on the RW Partnerships' 2010/11 funding allocations and the sub-group's recommendations.

9 Financial implications

- 9.1 There are no additional financial implications as Council agreed the Reaching Wider 2010/11 funding allocations as noted in paragraph 7.3 above.

10 Communications implications

10.1 Reaching Wider Partnerships' allocations will be shared with the sector following the Chief Executive's approval of the funding and other recommendations. A press release will also be prepared.

11 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

11.1 The aim of our widening access policy developments, including the Reaching Wider initiative, is to contribute to social justice by improving access to higher education and skills for people of all ages. The sub-group will ensure that its recommendations take account of the principles of equity, opportunity and success for all Reaching Wider participants.

12 Risk Assessment

12.1 The following risks have been identified:

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
Partnership plans are not sufficiently developed to enable the allocation of funding.	HEFCW officers will work with Partnerships including publishing guidance to support the development of funded plans.
Plans do not begin to take steps to meet <i>For Our Future</i> widening access expectations	The Chief Executive will make recommendations, including imposing funding conditions, to ensure appropriate progress is made towards contributing to <i>For Our Future</i> widening access expectations.