

Meeting of the Council's Research, Innovation and  
Engagement Committee held on 16 October 2014

**Disclosable**

Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference No
07/11/14	18	HEFCW/14/90

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## **1 Issue**

- 1.1 This paper presents the unconfirmed notes of the meeting of the Council's Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee (RIEC) held on 16 October 2014. It also includes the Committee's Annual Report for 2013/14.

## **2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper**

- 2.1 The RIEC is a standing committee of the Council, established in 2009. It advises the Council on the development and delivery of HEFCW's corporate plan as it relates to the research and innovation and engagement capacity and activities of the HE sector in Wales.

## **3 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Council is invited:
- i. to receive the unconfirmed notes of the RIEC meeting held on 16 October 2014 (attached at **Annex A**)
  - ii. to approve a number of adjustments to the composition of the Committee (attached at **Annex B**).
  - iii. to receive the RIE Committee's Annual Report for 2013/14 (attached at **Annex C**).

## **4 Timing for decisions**

- 4.1 Approval is required now so that the adjustments to the constitution can be implemented for 2014/15.

## **5 Council members' interests**

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

## **6 Further information**

All documents referred to in this paper and its attachments are available on the HEFCW Extranet, or from Linda Tiller (Tel 029 2068 2228; Email: [linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk)) or Tove Oliver (Tel 029 2068 2264; Email: [tove.oliver@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:tove.oliver@hefcw.ac.uk)).

## **7 Background**

- 7.1 The RIE Committee meets twice a year. Its membership is drawn from senior managers and practitioners from the higher education (HE) sector, together with representatives from the public and private sector with an interest in the research and innovation & engagement outputs of HE.

## **8 Meeting of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee on 16 October 2014**

- 8.1 The unconfirmed notes of the meeting of the RIE Committee, which was held at HEFCW on 16 October 2014 are attached at **Annex A**.

- 8.2 In particular members are asked to note:

- a) The presentation by Mr Berwyn Davies (Head of Welsh Higher Education Brussels) on WHEB's new Strategic Plan 2015-2018 and current work programme (**Minute 4 refers**).
- b) The RIE Committee's discussions of HEFCW's proposed approach to funding in 2015/16 and subsequent years (**Minute 5 refers**). Key points will be fed into the Council's consideration of this issue under a separate agenda item at the present meeting.
- c) HEFCW's proposed RIE role and action plan 2014/15 to 2015/16 (**Minute 6 refers**). The final action plan will be presented to a subsequent Council meeting following informal consultation with the sector.
- d) Proposed amendments to the RIE Committee's consultation (**Minute 8 refers**). The Council is invited to approve the proposed adjustments to the committee as proposed in **Annex B**.
- e) The Committee's Annual Report to the Council 2013/14 (**Annex C**)

## **9 Financial implications**

- 9.1 No new financial implications arise immediately from this paper.

## **10 Publicity implications**

- 10.1 There will be an informal consultation with the sector on HEFCW's proposed research, innovation and engagement action plan 2014/15 to 2015/16 (**8.2 above**), and the final action plan will be published on HEFCW's website.

## 11 Diversity and equality implications

- 11.1 In developing HEFCW's proposed RIE role and action plan 2014/15 to 2015/16 (**8.2 above**), we carried out an equality impact assessment (EIA) screening to help safeguard against discrimination and promote equality. We also considered the impact of policies on the Welsh language, and Welsh language provision within the HE sector in Wales. Contact [equality@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:equality@hefcw.ac.uk) for more information about EIAs.

A similar responsibility rests on university partners to assess the impact of their proposals to help safeguard against discrimination and promote equality.

## 12 Risk Assessment

- 12.1 Details of identified risks are provided below:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Action to address risk</b>
Reduction in HEFCW's Innovation and Engagement funding (IEF) in 2013/14 misinterpreted by sector and stakeholders as indicative of I&E not continuing to be a core agenda for HE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Funding for collaborative projects extends into 2014/15</li><li>•Clear message to universities to promote continued prioritisation on I&amp;E activity</li><li>•Ongoing discussions with universities to appreciate institutional stance(s).</li><li>•Ongoing monitoring via Annual Monitoring Statements (AMS), Institutional Risk Registers (IRR) and project reporting processes and</li><li>•Engagement with universities' via HEFCW's new Strategic Planning and Engagement Document (SPED) process</li></ul>
Council fails to deliver its strategic aim of securing research of internationally excellent quality to deliver a buoyant economy and support social justice.	RIE Committee established to offer Council advice and guidance on the development of policy in this area.