

*For information*

**Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Progress Report**

Agenda: 25  
**HEFCW/16/32**

Disclosable

**18/03/2016**

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**1 Issue**

- 1.1 This paper provides a progress report on the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol since March 2015.

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

- 2.1 Our Corporate Strategy notes that we will 'We will continue to support Y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to extend the range of Welsh medium provision and increase student participation in Welsh medium higher education, including in more vocational subjects. During the period of the strategy we will undertake an evaluation of the outcome of the activities of Y Coleg.'

**3 Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Council is invited to note the progress of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol since March 2015.

**4 Timing for decisions**

- 4.1 This paper is for information.

**5 Council members' interests**

- 5.1 No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting. Professor Robin Williams was the author of the original Coleg Ffederal report to the Welsh Government in 2009 and is an Honorary Fellow of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

**6 Further information**

- 6.1 Contact Kimberley Meringolo (029 2068 2258; [kimberley.meringolo@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:kimberley.meringolo@hefcw.ac.uk)).

## 7 Background

- 7.1 The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (the Coleg) was established in March 2011 as a company limited by guarantee and it is also registered as a charity. All higher education institutions in Wales are members of the Coleg and it has an equal number of stakeholder member organisations. The Coleg has a Board of 13 Directors comprising the independent chair, six higher education sector directors, four independent directors, a student director and a staff director. HEFCW has observer status on the Board.

## 8 Funding

- 8.1 For the current academic year 2015/16 the Coleg was allocated a grant of £8,479,549 with the additional Scholarship Scheme allocation increasing to £330,000 (to cover the three cohorts of scholarship students).
- 8.2 The funding allocated is based on the funding requirements set out in Professor Williams' 2009 report to the Welsh Government. It is a combination of funding specifically made available by the Welsh Government and funding which had previously been made available by HEFCW to support the development of Welsh medium provision. Since its establishment the Coleg has received £33,306,906 of core grant, with an additional £1,020,000 for the Scholarship scheme<sup>1</sup>.
- 8.3 The projected funding for the Coleg in 2016/17 would see this reduce to £5.4m, due to the final FY year of funding from WG being paid in 2016-17 and the subsequent 60/40 split between the academic and financial year. No further indication of funding has been made at this point. The rolling nature of the schemes offered by the Coleg means the appointments made to the five year Academic Staffing Scheme since 2012/13 run beyond the current funding period.
- 8.4 2015/16 was due to be the final year of funding for the Scholarship scheme, therefore those scholarships offered to students from 2014/15 went beyond the period of funding set out in the legal agreement. Officers wrote to WG bringing the situation to their attention, and subsequently WG confirmed that the current legal agreement could be extended for a further three years at the same level as previous years. Caveats were attached stipulating that the WG budget is only confirmed for 2015-16 FY and any extension of the legal agreement was subject to a budget being approved in 2016/17. These caveats have been made explicitly clear to the Coleg and officers have requested that the Coleg make this clear to all students applying for the scheme, as HEFCW would not cover the costs of the scholarships should the funding not be agreed.
- 8.5 The level of funding for the Coleg in 2016/17 is yet to be confirmed by Council [see *agenda item 7, HEFCW/16/16*] as the cut to HEFCW's budget for 2016-17 will impact on funding, as noted above. The funding of the Coleg beyond 2016-17 has been a topic of discussion for some time but in light of the impending election the position is still unclear. Discussions are taking place between Universities Wales, HEFCW, the Coleg and Welsh Government around future funding for the Coleg. It is likely that any agreement will depend on the outcome of the Diamond Review and

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<sup>1</sup> This does not include the payment for Scholarships that began in 2015/16. The Coleg will receive the funding for this cohort at the end of March 2016.

officers and Universities Wales officers have therefore recommended an earlier publication date.

## 9 Academic Staffing Scheme

- 9.1 The Academic Staffing Scheme provides funding to institutions to employ Welsh medium academic staff, fostering new lecturers and increasing the delivery of Welsh medium provision. Institutions make applications for posts to the Coleg, which are considered by an expert panel.
- 9.2 The overall target set in the Robin Williams report was to have 100 Welsh medium academic posts in place by academic year 2015/16. The first cohort of posts was in 2011/12. There is a legal agreement between institutions and the Coleg that, if for any reason the Coleg is unable to continue to pay for the scheme, it is the responsibility of the institution to continue to fund the posts or to take responsibility for the implementation of redundancy arrangements.
- 9.3 In light of the Coleg funding position in 2017/18 the Coleg committed not to recruit any new academic staff through the scheme after the 2015/16 cohort. As Coleg funding under the current arrangements is due to end in 2017/18, there are posts that began in 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 that have no funding to see them through to the end of the 5 year scheme. There are also the posts that have reached the end of the 5 year scheme; the first cohort of funded posts will reach the end of the funded scheme in 2016/17. This means as of 2016/17 there are posts that become the responsibility of the institution (either to continue to fund or implement redundancy arrangements). The Coleg has informed us that at present institutions are only projecting to keep around half of those academic posts that will reach the end of their 5 year funded period.
- 9.4 Here is a breakdown of posts, across the sector, recruited per academic year:

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Total
Aberystwyth	6	5	3	4	3	21
Bangor	8	8	4	5	4	29
Cardiff Met	2	2	1	3	1	9
Cardiff	2	3	4	2	2	13
Glyndŵr	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swansea	4	3	4	3	2	16
OUIW	0	0	0	1	0	1
USW	2	3	2	0	2	9
UWTSD	1	5	1	1	0	8
Coleg Sir Gar	0	0	0	1	1	2
Llandrillo Menai	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>109</b>

## 10 Evaluation of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

- 10.1 HEFCW commissioned Old Bell3 to carry out an evaluation of the outcomes of the Coleg's activities, including a review of the funding to date. The final report was published in September 2014 and a copy was shared with members (item [HEFCW/14/70](#) refers).
- 10.2 A number of recommendations were set out in the report and the Coleg has taken action against all of the recommendations that were specific to them and provides regular feedback to HEFCW officers at the monitoring meetings and within their operational plan.

## 11 Scholarship Scheme

- 11.1 The Coleg operates three categories of undergraduate scholarships: Main Scholarships, Incentive Scholarships and Flexible Scholarship and one category of Masters' level scholarship funded by the Welsh Government. HEFCW has a separate legal agreement with the Welsh Government to allow it to exercise functions on behalf of the Minister in allocating funding to the Coleg for student scholarships. The funding is outside of HEFCW grant in aid.
- 11.2 The **Main Scholarships** are for students who intend to study degree courses that include at least 240 credits of Welsh medium provision (including at least 80 in each year). The value of the scholarships is £1,000 per year for the duration of the three year course. The Coleg, in conjunction with the individual institutions, is responsible for the process of awarding the scholarships and the institutions are allocated an agreed number of scholarships, according to the range of eligible provision which they offer, with universities using their various procedures for allocating scholarships.
- 11.3 In 2015/16 a total of 30 Main Scholarships were awarded and distributed as follows:

University	2015/16
Swansea University	4
Aberystwyth University	6
Bangor University	6
Cardiff University	3
University of Wales Trinity St David	7
Cardiff Metropolitan University	3
University of South Wales	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

- 11.4 The **Incentive Scholarships** are for students who intend to study degree courses that include at least 120 credits of Welsh medium provision (including at least 40 credits in each year). The value of the scholarships is £500 per year for the duration of the three year course. These scholarships are awarded by the Coleg following receipt of applications from students for courses agreed as meeting the credit volume threshold for eligibility.
- 11.5 In 2015/16 a total of 131 Incentive Scholarships were awarded in the following subject areas: Agricultural Sciences; Animal Science; Biology; Business and Management; Chemistry; Environmental Sciences; French; Genetics; Geography; Health Sciences; Law; Mathematics; Medicine; Midwifery; Modern Languages; Nursing; Physics; Police Science; Psychology; Social Work; Sports Science and Studies; Tourism and Zoology:

University	2015/16
Swansea University	22
Aberystwyth University	20
Bangor University	35
Cardiff University	14
Cardiff Metropolitan University	26
University of Wales Trinity St David	7
University of South Wales	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>

- 11.6 Proposals were submitted in December 2012 to award two or one year flexible Incentive Scholarships. This was agreed by Welsh Government and a variation document was signed in July 2013. The two year and one year Scholarships will be made available when students that were awarded three year main or incentive scholarships become ineligible for the Scholarship. The balance available for Scholarships would remain the same, however, the use of funding will be maximised when these instances arise. The following flexible Incentive Scholarships were awarded in 2015/16.

University	Two-year Scholarship			One-year Scholarship	
	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 3
Swansea University	2	1	1	1	6
Aberystwyth University	0	1	3	0	1
Bangor University	0	3	10	0	1
Cardiff University	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff Metropolitan University	1	0	11	0	1
University of South Wales	0	0	2	0	0
University of Wales Trinity St David	0	6	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

- 11.7 Masters' Scholarships are for students on taught Masters' programmes. Such programmes enable the students concerned to work professionally through the medium of Welsh at a high level. To be eligible the course must have at least 60 credits taught through the medium of Welsh and have the capacity to enable the student to undertake their thesis through the medium of Welsh.
- 11.8 Thirty-one applications for Masters' Level Scholarships were received in 2015/16 in the following subjects: Applied Arts; Bilingual Studies; Business Studies; Composition; Early Literacy; Fine Art; Language Policy and Planning; Languages; Music; Social Work; Sociology; Sports Studies; Sustainable Environmental Management; Welsh; Welsh and Celtic Studies; Welsh History and Welsh Literature. A number of these applicants were successful in applying for funding from elsewhere, and therefore 16 scholarships were awarded in 2015/16 as follows:

University	2015/16
Aberystwyth University	1
Bangor University	8
Cardiff University	5
University of Wales Trinity St David	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

- 11.9 As noted in paragraph 8.4 the funding for the Scholarship scheme was due to come to an end in 2015/16. An extension agreement has been signed between WG and HEFCW however there are a number of caveats around the timing of the election and future budgets that have been made explicitly clear to the Coleg.

## 12 Welsh Language Skills Certificate

- 12.1 The Welsh Language Skills Certificate has been developed to enable students studying in Wales to gain an additional qualification which demonstrates that they have the necessary language skills to work through the medium of Welsh. Many employers are backing the Certificate.

- 12.2 In order to gain the Certificate, candidates must successfully complete an oral presentation task and written examination. The written exam consists of 3 tasks. Since the establishment of the certificate over 450 students have passed the certificate.

### **13 Pilot competency certificate**

- 13.1 In our 2014-15 remit letter, WG asked HEFCW to 'facilitate with key partners the development and implementation of a pan-Wales Welsh language ITT competency certificate with the aim of an award to all prospective teachers who wish to teach through the medium of Welsh'. Officers tasked the Coleg with taking on responsibility for developing the specification for a language competency certificate and to conduct a pilot of the certificate in 2015/16.
- 13.2 The Coleg appointed a consultant to co-ordinate discussions with the sector and to draw up the specification. Following a consultation with the three Centres a specification was finalised and it was agreed that the pilot would be offered to those secondary PGCE students already taking part in the Welsh-Medium Improvement Scheme (WMIS) and all PGCE primary students.
- 13.3 The certificate comprises two elements: a written assessment and a practical assessment. The written assessment is based around the Coleg' Welsh Language Skills Certificate tailored to the requirements of a teacher. The practical assessment takes place during the trainee's second placement and a trained mentor carries out the assessment. The outcome of both elements of the assessment is not linked to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

### **14 Welsh medium target**

- 14.1 The Coleg is undertaking a range of strategic actions which aim to assist the sector in meeting the Welsh medium target; 'of those studying at least 5 credits of their course through the medium of Welsh will rise to 5,600 in 2015/16, including a rise to 3,030 in the number of those studying at least 40 credits.'
- 14.2 Provisional performance data for 2014/15 are indicating that there has been an overall increase of more than 250 students studying at least 5 credits, and a small reduction in the number studying 40 credits or more.

***The Council is invited to note the progress of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol since March 2015.***

### **15 Financial implications**

- 15.1 The funding provided to the Coleg to date is noted in paragraph 8.2.
- 15.2 The Coleg funding was set aside for an initial period of six years with the level of grant increasing on an annual basis due to the rolling nature of the academic staffing scheme. As noted above, there is a reduced amount proposed in 2016/17, due to the final FY year of funding from WG being paid to HEFCW in 2016-17 and the 60/40 split between the academic and financial year. The Welsh Government funding period ends in 2016-17 without any further indication of support.

## 16 Communications implications

- 16.1 The Coleg provides full information on its work and programmes on its website [www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/cy/](http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/cy/) and [www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/](http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/).
- 16.2 The future funding of the Coleg is likely to be of interest to the media and broader public in the run up to the election.

## 17 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

- 17.1 The paper is central to the development of Welsh medium higher education and enhanced choice for students. Our funding agreement with the Coleg states that the Coleg will be expected to have regard to legislative requirements relating to diversity and equal opportunities matters which impact on its work.

## 18 Risk Assessment

- 18.1 The main risks are:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Action to address risk</b>
Funding beyond 2016-17 is not provided by WG.	HEFCW officials are working closely with the Coleg, Universities Wales and WG to consider all possible funding opportunities beyond 2016-17.
Failure to meet the target for Welsh medium provision.	The Coleg is working closely with institutions to achieve this target.