

For approval without discussion

Meeting of the Council's Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee held on 4 May 2017

Agenda:19
HEFCW/17/56

Disclosable

13/07/2017

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 4 May 2017. It also invites the Council to agree that HEFCW should become a signatory to the Concordat on Open Research Data.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 The RIEC is a standing committee of the Council. 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 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Council is invited to
- a) agree that HEFCW should become a signatory to the Concordat on Open Research Data.
 - b) receive the unconfirmed notes of the RIEC meeting held on 4 May 2017 (attached at **Annex A**).

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 Approval of the recommendation that HEFCW should become a signatory to the Concordat on Open Research Data will enable us to apply to RCUK to sign up to the Concordat as soon as the necessary processes can be completed.

5 Council members' interests

- 5.1 No conflicts of interest have been declared in advance of the meeting other than those held on the formal register of declarations of interest.

6 Further information

- 6.1 All documents referred to in this paper and its attachments are available on the HEFCW Extranet, or from Dr Tove Oliver (029 2085 9718; tove.oliver@hefcw.ac.uk)

7 Meeting of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee on 4 May 2017

7.1 The unconfirmed notes of the meeting of the RIE Committee, which was held at HEFCW on 4 May 2017, are attached at **Annex A**.

i) Concordat on Open Data

7.2 The Committee considered a paper which invited members to endorse HEFCW's intention of becoming a signatory to the [Concordat on Open Research Data](#) (**Minute 8 refers**).

7.3 The Concordat was launched by Research Councils UK, HEFCE, the Wellcome Trust and Universities UK in 2016, with the intention that other organisations would also become signatories over time. It is intended to help ensure that research data gathered and generated by members of the UK research community is made openly available for use by others wherever possible; in a manner consistent with relevant legal, ethical, disciplinary and regulatory frameworks and norms; and with due regard to the costs involved.

7.4 The Concordat is described as a set of expectations of best practice reflecting the needs of the academic community. It recognises the different responsibilities of researchers, their employers and funders of research, and it sets out ten principles with which all those engaged in research should be able to work.

7.5 We propose that HEFCW should become a signatory to the Concordat on Open Research Data in order to demonstrate our support for this agenda, and to encourage universities in Wales to ensure that they are in line with good practice in this area.

7.6 The Committee endorsed HEFCW's intention of becoming a signatory to the Concordat, but noted that there are cost implications for institutions and asked whether any detailed costings have been undertaken. The Research Councils UK (RCUK) representative on the Committee that RCUK is aware of the cost implications, and intends to work closely with the sector to get a better understanding of the costs.

7.7 Subject to Council approval, we intend to apply to RCUK to sign up to the Concordat as soon as the necessary processes can be completed.

The Council is invited to agree that HEFCW should become a signatory to the Concordat on Open Data.

ii) Other Issues

7.8 Among the other issues which the Committee discussed, members are asked in particular to note the following:

- a) The Committee received a presentation on the work of Innovate UK, and had a very useful discussion of current levels of Innovate UK funding in Wales and the underlying reasons. Total Innovate UK funding in Wales is low (£7m out of a total of £267m in 2015/16), although it is likely to increase in future years because of the funding for the Compound Semiconductor Applications Catapult. The success rate for Innovate UK funding from businesses in Wales is just as good as for other parts of the UK, but numbers of applications are low. (**Minute 5 refers.**)

- b) The Committee considered a wide-ranging paper on developments and investments relating to innovation and engagement activity in Wales and across the UK. Members emphasised the importance of ensuring that the recommendations of the Diamond Review are implemented quickly, and noted the importance of the Reid Review of Government Funded Research and Innovation in Wales. Members also asked the Chair to write to Professor Julie Williams, who is stepping down as Chief Scientific Adviser, to thank her on behalf of the Committee for her work. **(Minute 6 refers.)**
- c) Members considered a paper summarising responses from universities in Wales to the key questions in a UK-wide consultation on arrangements for the next Research Excellence Framework (REF). A full paper seeking the Council's endorsement of initial recommendations on arrangements for the REF is included elsewhere on the present agenda. **(Minute 7 refers.)**

The Council is invited to receive the unconfirmed notes of the RIE Committee meeting held on 4 May 2017 (attached at Annex A).

8 Financial Implications

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

9 Publicity Implications

- 9.1 There are no publicity implications arising from this paper.

10 Diversity & Equality Implications

- 10.1 There are no diversity and equality implications arising from this paper.

11 Risk Assessment

- 11.1 Details of identified risks are provided below:

Risk	Action to address risk
The withdrawal of HEFCW's Innovation and Engagement funding (IEF) is 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"> • Clear message to universities to promote continued prioritisation on I&E activity. • Ongoing discussions with universities to appreciate institutional stance(s). • Engagement with universities' via HEFCW's new Strategic Planning and Engagement Document (SPED) process.
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.