

Council Meeting

For information

Operational Plan 2017-18: End of Year Report

Agenda: 15
HEFCW/18/44

Disclosable

17/05/2018

1 Issue

1.1 This paper provides an end of year report for the 2017-18 Operational Plan.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

2.1 We are required by the Welsh Government to have a corporate plan setting out our medium to long-term objectives, and an operational plan for the financial year ahead.

3 Recommendation

3.1 The Council is invited to note the end of year report of HEFCW's Operational Plan 2017-18.

4 Timing for decisions

4.1 There are no decisions arising from the issues presented in this paper.

5 Council members' interests

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

6 Further information

6.1 Contact Steve Williams (029 2085 9744; steven.williams@hefcw.ac.uk)

7 Operational Plan 2017-18

- 7.1 The Operational Plan is attached at **Annex A** and provides an end of year report detailing the activities which make up the Operational Plan 2017-18 (April 2017 – March 2018). Each activity is shaded according to the status of the activity and further information about progress can be found against each action. This is the first Operational Plan that reports against progress to achieving our new Corporate Strategy 2017-20.¹
- 7.2 Some activities set out in the Operational Plan have not been fully achieved in the timescales set out in the Plan or have not been completed in the planning period and remain ongoing. Reasons for this have been outlined in the ‘current status’ column but some delays have been also due to officers continuing to prioritise the full implementation of HEFCW’s new statutory responsibilities within the necessary timescales. The broader range of activities included in the Operational Plan can be ongoing activities which either have no set end date or can have flexible end dates to ensure the delivery of the outcomes required. This is reflected in the status of the activities.
- 7.3 Of the 154 activities in the plan, 142 activities have been completed. One activity was no longer applicable due to the budget for the Newton fund being overcommitted.
- 7.4 In total 11 activities in the plan were not completed for the following reasons:
- HEFCW is awaiting profile information from Welsh Government for the Sêr Cymru programme;
 - Further information is required from Welsh Government in relation to proposals for funding the Learned Society for Wales;
 - Further information is required from Welsh Government in relation to proposals for responding to the Diamond recommendations on research and knowledge transfer, taking into account the outcomes of the Welsh Government’s review of research and innovation (the Reid Review);
 - Welsh Government have indicated that the part-time system will not be regulated in the timescale initially set out in the response to the Diamond Review;
 - Work is ongoing to investigate the use of TRAC(T);
 - HEFCW is awaiting confirmation of allocation of funding from Welsh Government for degree apprenticeships;
 - Evaluation of reconfiguration and collaboration projects are still to be initiated;
 - UHOVI monitoring has continued but formal evaluation will be undertaken in 2018-19
 - No remit to deliver a post compulsory education strategy;
 - The review of the Strategic Planning and Engagement Document process is ongoing to align with other HEFCW institutional processes;

¹www.hefcw.ac.uk/documents/publications/corporate_documents/HEFCW%20Corporate%20Strategy%202017-20%20English.pdf

- A system to allow Council and Committee members to access papers electronically had been reviewed and a trial is to be set up with completion in 2018-19.

7.5 The Operational Plan for 2018-19 is currently being developed and a draft is provided for discussion under item 6 of this agenda (HEFCW/18/38 refers).

The Council is invited to note the end of year report of HEFCW's Operational Plan 2017-18.

8 Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this paper.

9 Communications implications

9.1 The final report and outcomes of the 2017-18 Operational Plan will be published on our website.

10 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

10.1 This paper has no direct implications for age, disability, marital/civil partnership, maternity/pregnancy, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, any other protected characteristic or Welsh Language.

11 Risk Assessment

11.1

Risk	Action to address risk
Elements of the remit letter are not included in the operational plan.	Ongoing dialogue with WG and officers to ensure that the remit letter is interpreted correctly and covered in the operational plan.
Parts of the operational plan are not achieved within the agreed timescales.	<p>Quarterly updates and monitoring meetings with WG ensure a continued assessment of achievement and timely opportunities to address areas that may be not progressing adequately.</p> <p>The team and corporate risk registers are also updated termly and reflect potential risks of non-achievement as appropriate, with additional actions identified.</p> <p>Process of cross reference has been established to ensure that tasks are carried forward as appropriate.</p>