

Education and Life-Long Learning Committee

Policy Review - Higher Education

The Committee is invited to consider the remit that was previously agreed by the Post 16 Education and Training Committee and agree it. In the light of the Minister's decision to commission an independent review of student hardship the Committee may wish to remove bull point 5 from the remit. The Minister has given an undertaking to keep the Committee informed of progress on the Independent review.

Remit

To identify a vision for higher education in Wales and how it should serve the country's needs, and to develop a long-term strategy for optimising the sector's contribution. The study should take account of the National, European, and wider international dimensions involved, together with the various teaching, research, cultural, vocational and economic missions within the sector. The study should address in particular:-

- the range of disciplines and activities within higher education;
- the portfolio of research undertaken within the sector, and the amount and pattern of research funding obtained from the HEFCW, Research Councils and other sources;
- the economic mission of higher education institutions in relation to wealth and job creation and the commercial exploitation of knowledge;
- the scope for collaboration and integration within the higher education sector and also partnership between HE institutions and schools, further education institutions and others in order to continually raise standards of both teaching and research;
- student financial support and its affect on the volume and pattern of recruitment;
- the Assembly's statutory powers and any constraints they impose on the strategic development of higher education in Wales.

The policy study should describe the opportunities for strategic development, make recommendations for action and set targets for achievement, having due regard to competing priorities and constraints on resources.

Timetable

A draft timetable for the review is attached at **Annex A**. As a consequence of the establishment of the Education and Life-Long Learning Committee the timescale will need to be lengthened with a final report being concluded in the autumn. Members are invited to agree the draft timetable and to note the additional meeting on February 8th.

Committee Secretariat

November 2000

Annex A

Higher Education Review - Timetable

Date	Action	Purpose
29 th November	Introduction by Professor Hobson, Expert Adviser to the Committee (40 minutes)	To identify the key issues and the scope of the policy review
30 th November	Closing date for Consultation	
13 th December	Presentation by: Steve Martin and Phil Gummatt of Wales Funding Council (45 minutes) Sir Adrian Webb, Chair and Professor Robin Williams, Vice Chair, Higher Education Wales (30 minutes) Professor Hobson (30 minutes)	Overview of the HE Sector in Wales Key Issues for HE Sector in Wales Oral Report on themes of the review
Christmas Recess		

21 st March	Presentation (60 minutes)	Discussion of Themes - Learning and Teaching
4 th April	Presentation (2 hours)	Discussion of Themes - Economic and Cultural Regeneration Research
Easter Recess		
9 th May	Presentation (2 hours)	Discussion of Themes - Funding Accountability
23 rd May	Analysis and Discussion by Committee (Professor Hobson) (60 minutes)	Review information gathered and key themes emerging.
13 th June	Evaluation Stage I (60 minutes)	
11 th July	Evaluation Stage II (60 minutes)	
Summer Recess		
1 st Meeting after Recess	Draft Report (60 minutes)	
3 rd Meeting after recess	Final Report (60 minutes)	
4 th Meeting after recess	Ratification of final text (30 minutes)	
November	Plenary and Publication	

