

Enterprise and Learning Committee

Minutes (EL(3) 20-08)

Date: 10 July 2008

Time: 13:30 - 15:55

Venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd

Assembly Members in Attendance

Gareth Jones, (Chair) Aberconwy
Christine Chapman, Cynon Valley
Jeff Cuthbert, Caerphilly
Andrew RT Davies, South Wales Central
David Melding, South Wales Central
Sandy Mewies, Delyn
Janet Ryder, North Wales
Kirsty Williams, Brecon and Radnorshire

Committee Service

Dr Kathryn Jenkins, Clerk
Daniel Collier, Deputy Clerk

Committee Specialist

Ben Stokes, Members' Research Service

Others in Attendance

Professor Philip Gummett, Chief Executive, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
Roger Carter, Head of Research, Business and Community, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
Dr Alyson Thomas, Senior Economic Development Manager, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
Professor R Merfyn Jones, Chair, Higher Education Wales (Via Video Conference)
Amanda Wilkinson, Director, Higher Education Wales

1: Introduction, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public to the meeting.

2: Evidence to the Committee inquiry into the economic contribution of higher education

Papers: EL(3) 20-08 - Paper 1, EL(3) 20-08 - Paper 2

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)

2.1 The Committee welcomed Professor Philip Gummett, Chief Executive, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales; Roger Carter, Head of Research, Business and Community, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales; Dr Alyson Thomas, Senior Economic Development Manager, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.

Via Video Conference - Higher Education Wales (HEW)

2.2 The Committee welcomed Amanda Wilkinson, Director, Higher Education Wales to the meeting and Professor R Merfyn Jones, Chair, Higher Education Wales via video conference.

2.3 The Committee scrutinised all of the witnesses.

Action points:

HEFCW agreed to provide:

A note on the highlights of the HE Business and Community Interaction Survey (HEBCIS)

An analysis of the numbers graduating in STEM subjects in Wales and other parts of the UK and how they compare.

3: Draft Committee response to Network Rail consultation on the Route Utilisation Strategy

Paper: EL(3) 20-08 - Paper 3, Annex

3.1 The Committee commented on and with one amendment with regard to the heart of Wales line, agreed the draft Committee

response to Network Rail consultation on the Route Utilisation Strategy.

3.2 The Committee's response would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

Private session

The Committee resolved to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 10.37(vi).

4: Scoping of future inquiries and work programme

4.1 The Committee discussed the scoping of future inquiries and its work programme.

Paper to note:

Minutes of the last meeting

Paper: EL(3) 19-08 - Minutes

The Committee ratified the minutes of the 3 July meeting.

Committee Service

July 2008