Quality Assurance Agency Subscribers' Meeting

Challenges for the future of HE in Wales

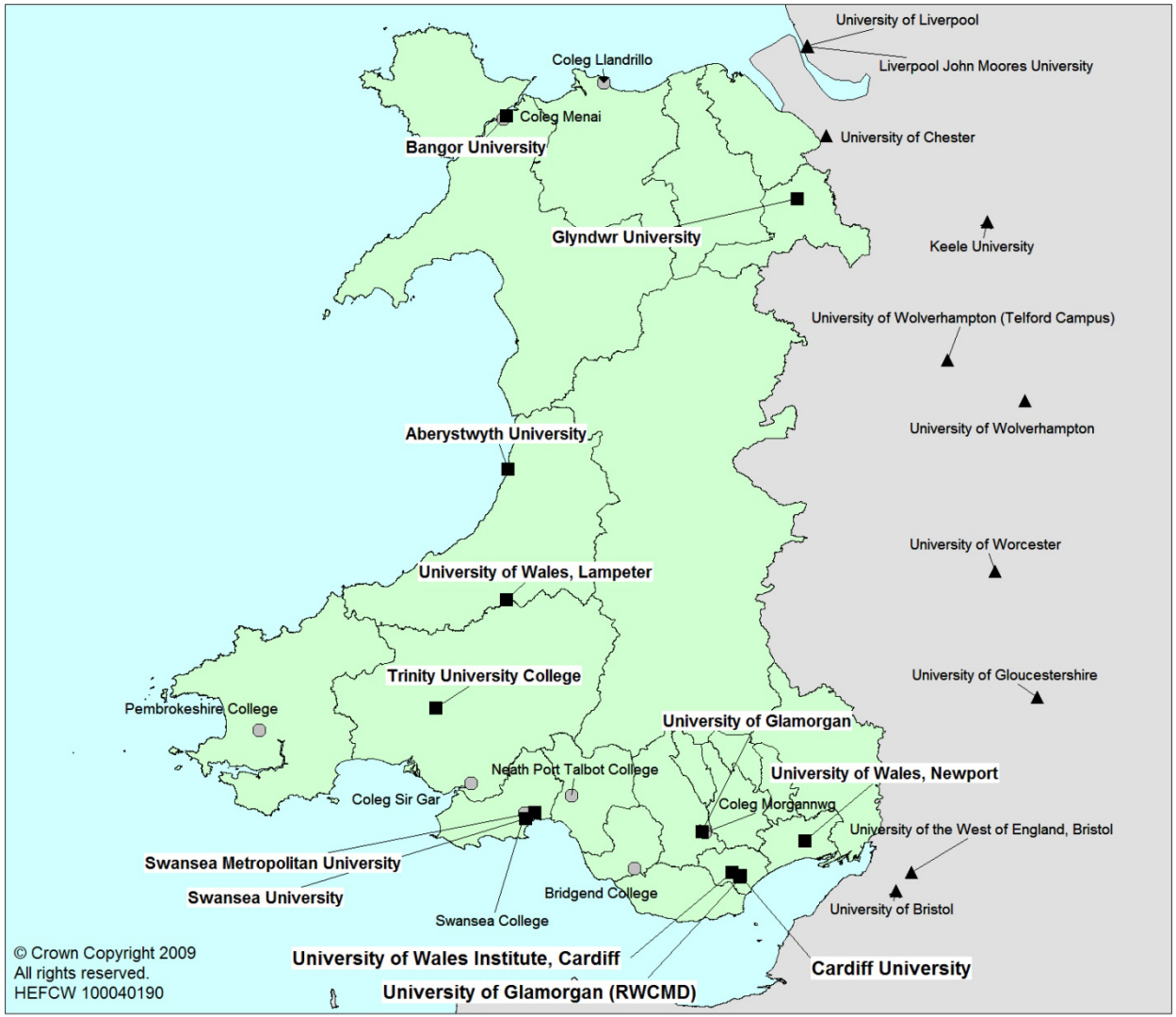
Cardiff: 2 June 2010

Professor Philip Gummett

Chief Executive

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

Welsh higher and further education institutions funded by HEFCW (and England/Wales border institutions)



Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

hefcw

Government of Universities in Wales

- Substantial powers devolved to Welsh Assembly Government
- Including all of education
- (But Research Councils remain at UK level)
- Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning responsible for universities
- Via Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

HEFCW : What we do

- A DCELLS AGSB: intermediary body between WAG and HE system in Wales
- Principal funding source for HE in Wales, and main source of all research funding in Wales
- Advisor to MCELL on HE
- Funding (2010/11)

Teaching	£293m
Research	£80m
Third Mission	£8m
Strategic Development	£50m
Capital	£20m

HEFCW : What we do

Delivering the HE Strategy

HEFCW's Corporate Strategy: core strategic aims

Social inclusion:	***The 'Deal for Students':***	***Research Excellence:***	***Benefiting Economy and the Society:***	***Initial Teacher Training:***
delivering wider participation and access in support of social inclusion and economic upskilling	delivering the highest quality learning and related support	delivering improved research performance to underpin the knowledge economy and cultural and social renewal	delivering more productive relationships between HEIs and the economy, society, and local communities	delivering high quality newly qualified teachers to meet the needs of Wales and beyond

Making it Work: the HE sector in Wales

Reconfiguration, collaboration and other measures to sustain improved performance of individual institutions and the HE system as a whole

Making it work: HEFCW

being an effective public sector body by:

- having the capability and infrastructure that enables us to work effectively internally and with all our stakeholders and partners (especially the Welsh Assembly Government and the HE sector in Wales)
- being an employer of choice

Recent investments in priority areas

Digital Economy	AU-BU Partnership: inc CAFMaD £10.9m	WIMCS £5m	Screen Academy £1.1m	RIVIC £5m		
Low Carbon Economy	AU-BU Partnership: inc CAFMaD £10.9m	EPSRC-CIREGS (Cardiff) £293k	LCRI £5.2m - £34m ERDF	IBERS/BEA (AU-BU) £23.5m	UK Energy Research Centre II (Cardiff) £400k	Climate Change Consortium £5m
Health & Biosciences	DeCipher (Cardiff) £1.5m	Nanotech Centre (Swansea) £1.5m - £21.6m ERDF	Merger of Cardiff & UWCM £15m	WICN £5.2m	Aber-Bangor Partnership : inc CIRRE & CCCR £10.9m	IBERS/BEA (AU-BU) £23.5m
Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing	EPSRC - Physical & Organic Chemistry (Cardiff)	AU-BU Partnership: inc CAFMaD £10.9m	WIMCS £5m	EPSRC/RR Structural Metals (Swansea) £600k	Aerospace Institute (under dev)	

For our Future

"If we are truly to transform people's lives through learning, and if higher education is truly to transform the Welsh economy, the higher education community in Wales must be strong, be well supported by government and its stakeholders and work together as a community if it is to compete in an international market."

For our Future

"A national higher education system for Wales will be created: different providers will have different strengths, and different missions but will work together to complement and enhance their individual strengths and missions. They will form a wider and more coherent system of providers, including FE colleges as well as HE institutions, working together and equipped to deliver sustained high quality higher education."

For our Future

"In future, public funding investment in higher education, via HEFCW, will be steered towards investing to achieve the changes necessary to meet our vision and expectations. Only institutions that can deliver those priorities can expect to be the beneficiaries. Higher education institutions will therefore need to identify how best to exploit their strengths in light of changed funding criteria….expect to see proposals emerging for further reconfiguration…."

Quality Assurance in Wales

- Principles similar to rest of UK: comparability of outcomes critical
- WISE (Wales Initiative for Student Engagement) – partnership of NUS Wales, HEFCW, QAA, HE Academy & HEW
- Rolling IR process – enables changes pre-end of cycle
- Risk-based approach – 'limited confidence' re-reviewed after 4 yrs, 'no confidence' 2 yrs; cf 6 yrs for 'confidence'
- Welsh language dimension in IR – at least one member with knowledge of HE in Wales; bilingual members if wished