

## **For Information**

### **Purpose**

A brief summary of current issues and activities affecting the EAUC's Wales Branch.

### ***EAUC-Wales Branch Developments***

#### **Regional Objectives and Targets**

The Welsh Region continues to encourage all HE and FE in the region to link with the EAUC Group. We have also had a number of institutions interested in renewing/joining the EAUC.

A Directory of Expertise is now complete; the list will be made available to members and placed on the EAUC website.

Video conferencing is to be arranged for the meeting at Coleg Sir Gar and Coleg Cambria next year.

The number of FE institutions signed up to the SD Charter was noted as being high.

Sustainable procurement is high on the agenda and an area for discussion at a future meeting. There was recognition of some barriers such as tendering for significant sums re: EU tender rules. There were excellent examples of support for local suppliers from institutions present.

### **Main Report**

Since the last EAUC Board meeting there has been one Regional meeting held. This report details key items from this meeting – (Bridgend College - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 'Community involvement')

#### **Launch of Food app project**

All attendees were invited to the Theatre to watch and listen about a collaborative project based around food poverty. The project involved the creation of a food application which provides recipes on a budget, with direct links to food outlets. This work reflected collaboration between Bridgend College, local business and primary schools with funding via Bridgend Rural Development REACH<sup>4</sup>.

#### **Update from HEFCW**

The Future Generations Bill Working Group was discussed including integrated reporting in the accounts and use of the Global Reporting Initiative<sup>3</sup> (GRI) framework.

Discussion ensued regarding the voice of HE/FE within the working group and the importance of the voice of the EAUC in supporting this group. It is unclear at this moment whether HE will sit inside or outside of the Bill – the feelings from the group were supportive of inclusion of HE within the Bill and that an HE representative needed to attend the meetings.

Revision of the impact assessment process (equality/Welsh language and now, sustainable development) was under way. This would help clarify impacts and focus on awareness and action at the highest level. A Critical Friends Group is being formed – CC will contact individuals in the future regarding volunteers.

There is an ongoing 'push' to develop a working group for carbon management plans. This aims to identify and share best practice and, agree what actions organisations should be undertaking via 'sign-up'.

HEFCW are talking with HE planners regarding the Strategic Plan Review; a proposed model has been forwarded but further discussion is required to develop further.

CC is pushing hard to get sustainable development within the Strategic Plan and would like to see links to resources on their website.

A new Bill on the powers of HEFCW will be seen in March 2014.

### **Update on ESDGC**

Cynnal Cymru has suggested that an ESDGC conference could be arranged but this is now not to go ahead. However, RT is currently meeting with FE groups to capture sustainability within the organisation via various media; an excellent project for sharing best practice.

Swansea ESDGC network group continues to meet; discussing the Future Generations bill at the latest meeting.

A discussion took place on the Welsh region voice and its ability to influence VC's/Principal's through e.g. NUS, students and People and Planet. There was agreement that this voice should be progressed with haste.

### **AGM**

It was agreed that the Convenor, Deputy and Secretary would remain in place for a further twelve months. KH thanked the group for their support, recognising the strength, representation and benefits of being a member of the Welsh region. It was agreed that we should take advantage of the additional services offered by central EAUC. The financial difficulties brought about by funding cuts and merger's was recognised. More representation was needed from academics. This is to be reiterated prior to the next meeting. The relationship with Cynnal Cymru is very important and must be maintained.

The positive value of EAUC membership to institutions was discussed.

The next meeting will be 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 venue and theme to be confirmed.

**Katrina Henderson**

*EAUC-Wales Branch Convener*

*27/11/13*