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Towards a Vision of Higher Education for the Twenty First Century

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A vision for higher education (1)

- The challenges of globalisation
- Knowledge society
- Higher education at the heart of the modern economy and society
- HEIs judged by international standards



A vision for higher education (2)

- Increase and widen participation
- Lifelong learning and mass higher education
- Fundamental shift from 'once in a lifetime' higher education
- World-class excellence in teaching, research and knowledge transfer



A vision for higher education (3)

- More flexible and varied routes into and through higher education
- Focus on comparative advantage
- Individual HEIs to focus on their own strengths
- Institutional diversity and flexibility



White Paper – The Future of Higher Education (1)

Issue:

- Higher education must expand
- Social class divide
- Competitors invest more in higher education
- Need to employ top academics



White Paper – The Future of Higher Education (2)

- Issues (continued):
- Funding per student fell 36% in 1989-97
- Investment backlog in Teaching and Research (~ £8bn)
- Need for stronger links with business and the economy



White Paper – The Future of Higher Education (3)

Challenges:

- Recognise and encourage diversity
- Use public funding to drive up quality
- Fair access
- Contribution to economy via innovation
- New forms of collaboration
- Invest more in leadership
- Maintain democratic values



White Paper: summary

- Need for reform
- Research excellence
- Higher education and business
- Learning & teaching excellence
- Higher education expansion
- Fair access
- Freedoms and funding



HEFCE strategic plan 2003-08 (1)

- **Developed within broad national policy framework established by White Paper**
- **Sets out plans to carry forward key policy aims in White Paper**
- **5-year action plan - clear objectives and targets**
- **Follows process of consultation and discussion**



Four core strategic aims

- Widening participation and fair access
- Enhancing excellence in learning and teaching
- Enhancing excellence in research
- Enhancing the contribution of higher education to the economy and society



Three cross-cutting supporting aims

- Building on institutions' strengths
- Supporting leadership, governance and management
- Excellence in delivery: organisational development within HEFCE



Widening participation and fair access

- Increase participation towards 50% of those aged 18-30 by 2010
- Widen participation and maintain standards and completion rates
- Stimulate new sources of student demand
- Improve opportunities through lifelong learning



Enhancing excellence in learning and teaching (L&T)

- **Provide rewards to celebrate and encourage excellence in teaching**
- **Promote professional development of teaching staff**
- **Promote activities to enhance quality of L&T across the sector**
- **Establish new Academy for Learning and Teaching**
- **Establish Centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning**



Enhancing excellence in research

- **Sustaining a dynamic world-class research sector**
- **Supporting and rewarding world-class research**
- **Encouraging effective collaboration**
- **Review of research assessment**
- **Review of research funding method**



Enhancing the contribution of higher education to the economy and society

- Effective application of knowledge for economic and social benefit
- Closer collaboration between institutions and potential users of knowledge
- Collaboration with other institutions and local and regional partners
- Support for 20 Knowledge Exchanges



Building on institutions' strengths

- **Diversity and excellence**
- **Developing distinctive missions, building on areas of relative strength**
- **A higher education sector that is diverse and increasingly interconnected**
- **Encouraging more collaborative working**



Supporting leadership, governance and management (LGM)

- **Enhancing capacity in LGM to respond to new challenges**
- **Promoting a more sustainable approach to rewarding and developing staff**
- **Supporting the sector's Leadership Foundation initiative**
- **Research, develop, communicate and encourage good practice in LGM**
- **Reduce the administrative burden on the sector**



Research: Funding and Assessment

- Dual support system of funding
- Selective funding of best research
- 75% of research grant allocated to 25 out of 131 higher education institutions
- HEFCE grant supports 'blue sky' research



Research Assessment

- Research assessed for quality assurance and to inform funding
- Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) conducted regularly, covering research in all higher education institutions in the United Kingdom
- RAE by peer review: expert panels review submissions from 68 disciplines



Research Assessment

- Next RAE expected in 2007
- Exact form of next RAE under review
- Consultation with the higher education sector has demonstrated strong support for continuation of peer review methodology



Research Issues

- Sustainability – how to ensure that research base is funded adequately in the longer term
- Future of ‘dual support’ system of funding
- Forward planning to ensure we continue to innovate and meet national priorities