

Approvals Committee
22 November 2005

Department of Education
Forward planning for ODP programmes
(amended)

Executive Summary and Recommendations

1. Introduction

The Education department is currently in the process of undertaking forward planning for approvals visits for the 2005/2006 academic year. At this stage, we have scheduled 24 of the 26 ODP programmes which require visits into the January-June 2006 calendar.

All ODP programmes are currently undergoing a QAA major review and will undergo a further AODP curriculum review in 2006/2007, which aims to align more closely with the HPC's Standards of Proficiency. The AODP has advised that the new curriculum is to be implemented by September 2007 and it is expected that the curriculum review will result in major changes for the majority of the 28 ODP programmes that are currently HPC approved.

As it is likely that there will be major changes resulting from the curriculum review for most ODP programmes, the Education department proposes that, in order to reduce the burden on providers, visits to ODP programmes are postponed until after the curriculum review has been completed. Thus, visits to ODP programmes will be scheduled for the period between May 2006 and September 2007.

There will no doubt be a number of programmes which only experience minor changes, or which do not adopt the new curriculum. For these programmes, visits will be still be undertaken but may fall outside the abovementioned timeframe.

2. Decision

The Committee is asked to agree:

That, in light of the timing of the QAA major review and the AODP curriculum review, HPC visits to ODP programmes is scheduled for the period May 2006-September 2007.

3. Background information

There is no background information

4. Resource implications

There are no resource implications.

5. Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

6. Background papers

None

7. Appendices

None