HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND

Principles, priorities and practices: Implementing change in higher education

Alan Langlands

Next steps in admissions to HE conference

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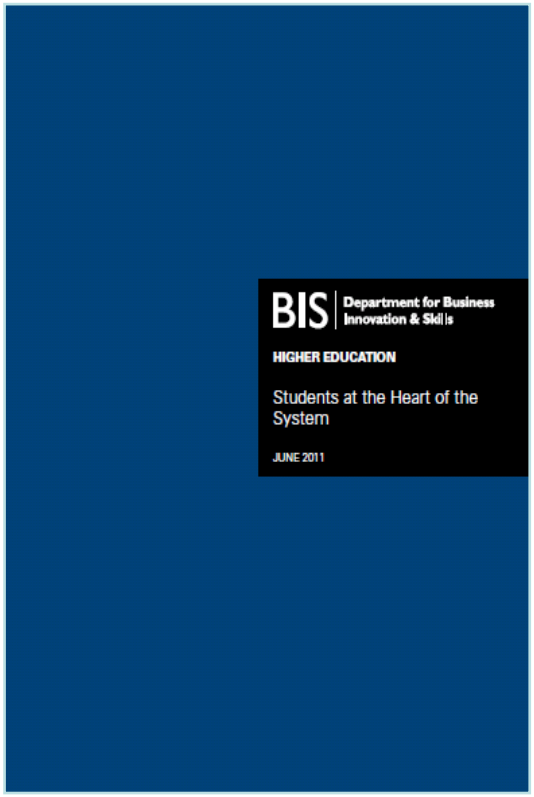
CONTEXT

Students at the heart of the system

Key themes

- sustainable and fair funding
- well-informed students driving teaching excellence
- a better student experience and better qualified graduates
- a diverse and responsive sector
- improved social mobility through fairer access
- a new, fit-for-purpose regulatory framework – including a 'level playing field' for all providers



Focus on the bigger picture

National priorities

- promoting and protecting the student interest
- maintaining public confidence
- supporting economic recovery and growth
- focusing research efforts
- maintaining a rich diversity of higher education institutions

International ambitions

- building education and research partnerships in the faster growing economies
- preparing graduates with a ‘global’ outlook

Tackling higher education reform

Opportunity

- people with potential to benefit from higher education must continue to do so
- building on past achievements in widening participation and fair access
- focusing on whole life cycle of WP - from pre-entry through admission, study support and into employment or further study
- ensuring opportunities extend to overseas students, PGT and PGR

Choice

Choice

- more diverse and flexible range of provision across all academic disciplines
- greater plurality that injects innovation, expertise and high quality education
- new approaches which drive up quality and standards of higher education

Excellence

- renewed commitment to a high quality student experience
- delivering internationally excellent and world leading research
- working with industrial, commercial, public and third sector partners to stimulate economic growth and build social capital through knowledge exchange

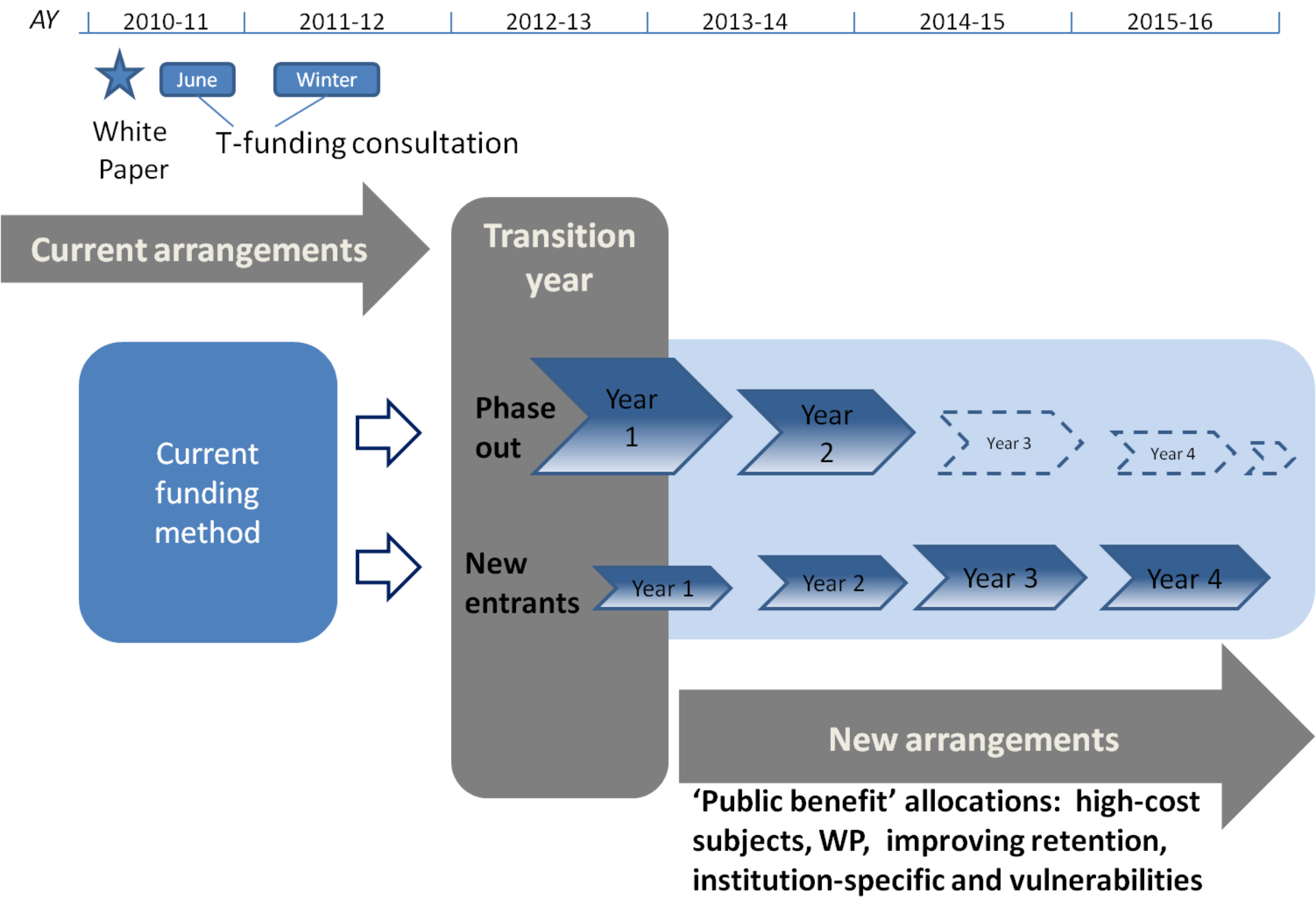
Excellence

Excellence and diversity in learning and teaching

- a clear focus on quality and standards
- graduates with the knowledge, skills and qualities vital to the economy and society
- targeting teaching funding towards activities with a clear ‘public benefit’
- curriculum review, new undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and a strong voice for students

HEFCE's practices

- **investment**: targeting investment on clearly defined 'public benefit' outcomes and ensuring a smooth transition to the new funding arrangements
- **regulation**: undertaking our role as the 'lead regulator, safeguarding the collective interests of students and the wider public, and supporting the development of the new regulatory framework
- **information**: taking forward the KIS, and undertaking a streamlined approach to information management including monitoring impact of reforms
- **partnership**: continuing to work in close collaboration with universities and colleges, public bodies, students, charities and the business community


AY
2010-11
2011-12
2012-13
2013-14
2014-15
2015-16
June
Winter
White Paper
T-funding consultation
Current arrangements
Transition year
Current funding method
Phase out
Year 1
Year 2
Year 3
Year 4
New entrants
Year 1
Year 2
Year 3
Year 4
New arrangements
'Public benefit' allocations: high-cost subjects, WP, improving retention, institution-specific and vulnerabilities

Summary of outcomes from the T-funding consultation

- a temporary allocation for 2012-13 to ensure no reduction in London weighting (compared to 2011-12)

Student number controls

- protection to universities and colleges specialising in the creative and performing arts
- protection for strategically important and vulnerable subjects
- amendment to the list of AAB+ equivalents related to the international baccalaureate for 2012-13
- tolerance band in case of under-recruitment
- protection for institutions with small numbers of students
- setting a core at 20% of the student number control (before removal of AAB+ students) for 2012-13

Challenges to university admissions

- responding to the expectations of students and providing a better student experience
- managing fluctuations in demand e.g. students' perceptions of indebtedness, increased competition from new providers
- impact of core and margin and AAB proposals on widening participation, issues of equality and diversity, part-time students
- mitigating against unintended consequences on part-time students, postgraduate economy and overseas market

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Thank you for listening

a.langlands@hefce.ac.uk