

Meeting  
13/03/09

Agenda Item  
15

Reference No  
HEFCW/09/20

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## **1 Issue**

- 1.1 This paper summarises the Joint Information Systems Committee's (JISC's) budget proposals for 2009/10. The Council is asked to approve HEFCW's contribution to the budget. It also provides an update on the progress of the JISC Infrastructure Programme.

## **2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper**

- 2.1 The work of the JISC is not explicitly included within the Corporate Plan but having an effective ICT infrastructure and associated services are essential to the efficient running of institutions and their ability to engage in high quality teaching and research.

## **3 Recommendation(s)**

- 3.1 The Council is invited to:
- i. Note the overall JISC funding recommendations and the derivation of HEFCW's contribution to the JISC for 2009/10;
  - ii. Approve a contribution of £2.738 million for 2009/10;
  - iii. Note the outcomes to date of the JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme.

## **4 Timing for decisions**

- 4.1 The decision is required now in order to secure funding to the JISC to enable it to take forward its work for 2009/10.

## **5 Council members' interests**

- 5.1 No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

## **6 Further information**

- 6.1 Contact Dr Cliona O'Neill (Tel 029 2068 2283; E-mail: [cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk))

## 7 Background

- 7.1 The JISC was established by the Higher Education Funding Councils in 1992 in recognition that information systems, and IT in particular, is an area where a central body can be particularly effective in providing value for money and in stimulating worthwhile developments which might otherwise not take place.
- 7.2 Each year, the Council is asked to approve the budget for the coming year. In February 2008 Council agreed to approve a contribution from HEFCW to JISC of £2.738 million for 2008/09 (item HEFCW08/03 refers).
- 7.3 In January 2006, the Council endorsed a proposal that Wales should join the JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme with a contribution of £1m over two years (HEFCW/06/06 refers). Two further sums were agreed subsequently, bringing the total to £1.55m with the contributions spread over a further year (ie 2008/09). In March 2008 Council resolved to approve the allocation of JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme funding for 2008/09 to 2010/11. The sums agreed were: £500k in 2008/09; £600k in 2009/10; and £700k in 2010/11 (item HEFCW/08/CE2 refers).

## 8 The JISC's Remit, Funding Proposals and the Capital Infrastructure Programme

### JISC's Remit

- 8.1 The JISC is charged with exercising vision and leadership in bringing about developments in the use of information and communication technologies (ICT), which are for the benefit of the sector as a whole and in the national interest. The following criteria are applied to define where JISC involvement is appropriate:
- The activity should be technology based;
  - The activity should provide a UK wide benefit and add value beyond that which could be achieved by institutions acting individually or collectively;
  - The activity is not possible without central support;
  - A clear output is delivered, with improved value for money;
  - The activity could not be performed as well and more appropriately by institutions or another body.
- 8.2 The JISC supports institutions in their exploitation of ICT in three ways:
- by providing **infrastructure**: the JANET network; online content and associated delivery platforms; so called 'middleware' to manage access to resources (authentication, authorisation and accountancy); and security.
  - by promoting **innovation** in the form of development programmes to support: online learning and teaching; e-science; digital library applications; and, in particular, the creation of a common information environment to enable users (researchers, lecturers and students) to find, access and link resources in an holistic and coherent way.

- By providing **advice and guidance** on how best to use ICT in the support of research, learning and teaching and the management of institutions.

### JISC's Funding Proposals and Derivation of the Budget for 2009/10

- 8.3 HEFCE has announced a freeze in the budget for JISC for 2009/10 due to financial constraints in the current economic climate. Because of the UK-wide nature of the funding agreement with JISC, the other funding councils will also implement a 0% increase. This means that the funding for JISC's services will remain at the 2008/09 level, and therefore the funding proposed for 2009/10 is less than the £2.8 m reported to Council in its January 2009 meeting (item HEFCW/09/07 refers). As a consequence of this, cuts to existing services will be minimised, but existing and new innovation programmes will be reduced in size or not taken forward.
- 8.4 The UK-wide budget of JISC is therefore recommended as £65.426 m for 2009/10, including a real term reduction of more than 5% on running costs. The funding requested from core funders is the same as that for 2008/09, ie a 0% increase.
- 8.5 This includes total recurrent cost of the services defined by the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between JISC and JANET(UK) of £25.732 million once income of £32.395m from other organisations is deducted.
- 8.6 The total recommended funding to be allocated across the formula in 2009/10 AY is therefore:

<b>Activity (£m)</b>	<b>2009/10 AY</b>
JANET(UK) Total	<b>25.732</b>
Other JISC Activities Total	<b>39.694</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>65.426</b>

- 8.7 The following table outlines each of the funding bodies' recommended contributions to the JISC core budget for 2009/10 AY in £m. The funding formula that has been used to calculate each partner's contribution is: HEFCE - 74.8%; SFC(HE) - 11%; HEFCW - 4.6%; DEL(HE) - 1.9%; SFC(FE) - 4.1%; DCELLS - 2.6%; DEL(FE) - 1.0%.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>HEFCE</b>	<b>SFC (HE)</b>	<b>HEFCW</b>	<b>DEL (HE)</b>	<b>SFC (FE)</b>	<b>DCELLS</b>	<b>DEL (FE)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
JANET(UK)	19.240	2.840	1.186	0.476	1.063	0.669	0.261	25.735
Income from Network Charge	(4.957)	(0.734)	(0.306)	(0.122)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(6.120)
JISC Core	29.680	4.381	1.829	0.734	1.639	1.033	0.403	39.699
BUFVC	0.390							0.390
Procureweb	0.486	0.070	0.029					0.585
Additional bandwidth contributions					0.844	0.140		0.984
<b>Total by each FC 09/10 AY</b>	<b>44.839</b>	<b>6.557</b>	<b>2.738</b>	<b>1.088</b>	<b>3.546</b>	<b>1.842</b>	<b>0.664</b>	<b>61.274<sup>1</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> This figure is £65.426m minus £6.12m network charge to UK HE institutions, plus additional bandwidth contributions, ProcureWeb and BUFVC.

***The Council is invited to note JISC's funding recommendations and the basis on which HEFCW's contribution to the JISC is derived, and to approve the contribution of £2.738 million for 2009/10.***

**JISC Capital Infrastructure Project**

- 8.8 Welsh institutions have put forward proposals for a wide range of development projects and initiatives to support the work of the higher education and research community through improvements to the ICT infrastructure.
- 8.9 In March 2008 Council resolved to approve the allocation of JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme funding for 2008/09 to 2010/11. The sums agreed were: £500k in 2008/09; £600k in 2009/10; and £700K in 2010/11 (item HEFCW/08/CE2 refers). Projects are grouped under three themes: innovation of the national infrastructure; institutional innovation; and the development of a greater understanding of user practice.
- 8.10 Funding allocated in 2008-2009 FY is identified in the table below.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Lead HEI</b>	<b>Funding from HEFCW</b>
Users and Innovation e-Tutor Project	Swansea Metropolitan University	£50,000
Lean Enterprise Architecture Project,	Cardiff University	£50,000
Re-use of e-Learning Content	Swansea Metropolitan University	£25,000
Repositories Metadata Project,	Aberystwyth University	£49,579
Digitisation, Welsh Ballads,	Cardiff University	£66,601
Security Review of ID	Cardiff University	£109,899
Programme Management		£28,921

***The Council is invited to note the outcomes to date of the JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme.***

**9 Financial implications**

- 9.1 In approving the JISC budget, the Council is committing to contributing £2.738 million in 2009/10.
- 9.2 In March 2008 Council approved the allocation of JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme funding for 2008/09 to 2010/11, which included £600k in 2009/10.

**10 Communications implications**

- 10.1 There are no communications implications except in that the JISC will need to be informed of the Council's decision on the budget by the end of February.

**11 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications**

- 11.1 This paper has no direct implications for age, disability, gender, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or the Welsh language. However, ICT developments can offer opportunities to students with disabilities who have difficulty in accessing higher education by more traditional methods. One of

the services funded through JISC is the TechDis service. This aims to be the leading educational advisory service in the areas of accessibility and inclusion, and works across the UK. Its mission is ‘to support the education sector in achieving greater accessibility and inclusion by stimulating innovation and providing expert advice and guidance on disability and technology.’

## 12 Risk Assessment

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
The institutions in Wales would be denied access to some or all of the JANET infrastructure and JISC services if HEFCW does not contribute at the level requested in the JISC budget proposals. Welsh institutions would not then have the infrastructure or services to support high quality teaching and research.	A major rethink on how HEFCW ensures a comparable level of ICT service to institutions would be required. This is not feasible in the short-term; therefore a negotiation with the JISC on a more limited service would be required.