

Meeting
02/07/10

Agenda Item
23

Reference No
HEFCW/10/70

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper summarises the Joint Information Systems Committee's (JISC's) budget proposals for 2010/11. It also provides an update on the progress of the JISC Capital 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. Circular W10/02HE, Mechanisms for supporting the enhancement of learning opportunities, identifies HEFCW's funding for JISC as one of the actions by which we support the enhancement of learning opportunities under our current corporate objective, 'The Deal for Students.'

3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Council is invited to:
- i. Note JISC's funding recommendations and the basis on which HEFCW's contribution to the JISC is derived;
 - ii. Note the HEFCW contribution to JISC of £2.738 million for academic year 2010/11;
 - iii. Note the use to date of the JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme for financial year 2009-10;
 - iv. Note the suspension of allocation of further capital funding for 2010-11.

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 2010/11.

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).

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 March 2009 Council agreed to approve a contribution from HEFCW to JISC of £2.738 million for 2009/10 (item HEFCW09/20 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) (item HEFCW/07/CE2 refers).
- 7.4 In March 2008 Council resolved to approve the allocation of funding to the new 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 (HEFCW/08/CE2). The £500k in 2008/09 was in addition to the funding already provided for the JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme, as noted in paragraph 7.3, which ended in 2008/09.

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

JISC's Remit

- 8.1 JISC is funded by the UK HE and FE funding bodies to address the needs of users in HE and FE. It 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.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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 2010/11

- 8.4 HEFCE 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 also implemented a 0% increase in 2009/10.
- 8.5 Following a further HEFCE review of funded bodies, the proposed budget for JISC remained frozen for 2010/11. The funding requested from core funders is therefore the same as that for 2008/09 and 2009/10, ie a 0% increase.
- 8.6 The JISC funding includes total recurrent cost of the services defined by the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between JISC and JANET(UK). The total funding to be allocated across the formula in 2010/11 AY is detailed below.

Activity Area	09-10 Funding	AY 10-11 AY £
Learning & Teaching	£4.230m	£4.230m
Research	£3.780m	£3.780m
Organisational Support	£11.222m	£11.722m ¹ (500k more)
Shared Infrastructure & Resources	£25.869m	£25.791m ² (78k less)
JANET UK	£39.380m	£38.986m (394k less)
Running Costs	£5.381m	£5.353m ³ (28k less)
TOTAL	£89.862	£89.862

- 8.7 The funding formula 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%.
- 8.8 HEFCW's contribution to this budget remains frozen at the 2009/10 figure of £2.738 million. This sum was confirmed by the Council at its meeting in January 2010.

The Council is invited to note JISC's funding recommendations and the basis on which HEFCW's contribution to the JISC is derived.

The Council is invited to note the HEFCW contribution to JISC of £2.738 million for 2010/11.

¹ This figure includes RSC funding at £6.456m based on 2009-10 AY levels plus the previously separate funding streams for Work Based Learning (£606,375) and Information Officer activity (£551,250) which will be discussed separately with the Department (BIS).

² This includes £2.992m for licensing and delivering online content; £0.63m for BUFVC; £6.429m for infrastructure and resource discovery services (including Edina, Mimas and JISC Collections), £4.512m for JISC Advance and £6.790m for innovation activities.

³ This includes £563,871 for communications and marketing, £63,450 for market research and £50,000 for the Chairs committee to fund adhoc studies/work with the Mission Groups

JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme 2009-10

- 8.9 Funding from HEFCW for the JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme funding is allocated separately to the core funding identified above. Funding for this programme for in 2009-2010 FY⁴ was allocated as identified in the table below.

Project	Lead HEI	Funding from HEFCW
Institutional Innovation	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	£102,190
Automated metadata generation & text mining	Aberystwyth University	£90,000
Associate Member of Strategic Technologies Group (STG)	Cardiff University	£5,000
50% of RAPTOR Access Management	Cardiff University /Kidderminster	£20,500
Programme Management		£30,000
TOTAL		£247,690
Remaining		£352,310

- 8.10 As agreed by the Council at its January meeting (HEFCW/10/CE1 refers), the remainder of the funding from 2009-10 is being used to support the technology-enhanced learning strategy, together with approximately £50,000 of the unspent JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme funding from 2008-09. This programme is now underway and will be completed by January 2011.

The Council is invited to note the use to date of the JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme for 2009-10.

- 8.11 Approximately £428k is already committed for 2010-11 (precise sum available in February 2011). This is detailed in the table below:

Project	Lead HEI	Funding from HEFCW
Institutional Innovation	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	£75,156
Automated metadata generation & text mining	Aberystwyth University	£50,000
½ of RAPTOR Access Management	Cardiff/Kidderminster	£82,000
Welsh Voices of the Great War Online	Cardiff	£96,910

⁴ Our funding is by academic year, but JISC invoice us by financial year

Media and Memory in Wales, 1950-2000	Aberystwyth University	£92,811
Programme management		£31,000
Total		£427,877

8.12 Following the review undertaken of JISC funding by HEFCE, HEFCW officers reviewed the allocation of JISC funding by this Council. This analysis noted that some institutions had benefited disproportionately from past allocations and raised questions whether the monies were being used effectively. In the context of the current financial climate and resultant funding pressures, officers took the view that JISC should be asked to suspend the allocation of further funding for this year, pending a more detailed consideration. The amount unallocated is approximately £272k. Further proposals for the use of this funding will be brought Council in due course.

The Council is invited to note the suspension of allocation of JISC Capital Infrastructure funding for 2010-11.

9 Financial implications

9.1 HEFCW's funding for JISC is £2.738 million in 2010/11.

9.2 Officers have asked JISC to suspend the allocation of unallocated JISC Capital Infrastructure funding for 2010-11, ie approximately £272k.

10 Communications implications

10.1 The suspension of funding for the JISC capital projects was reported as a small item in the Times Higher Education magazine, but officers are unaware of any further interest.

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	A major rethink on how HEFCW ensures a comparable level of ICT service to institutions would be required.

<p>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.</p>	<p>This is not feasible in the short-term; therefore a negotiation with the JISC on a more limited service would be required.</p>
<p>Welsh institutions are disadvantaged by being unable to lead Capital Infrastructure Programme bids</p>	<p>Institutions can participate in funded projects as partners. The use of the funding will be examined at a later date to ensure it is used for maximum benefit for the sector.</p>