



Strategic Funding – projects over £5 million

Purpose

1. This paper requests Council to agree programme funding for JISC and the Schools for Higher Education Programme (SHEP) as the level of funding for both projects is above the Chief Executive's delegated authority limit.

Background

2. SFC funds a share of the UK-wide JISC programme costs to provide digital services for universities and colleges: shared services such as the Janet network, sector deals on services and collections of digital resources, and advice and support. The sectors depend on JISC for key aspects of their ICT infrastructure.
3. SFC has been providing support to SHEP for several years. This new funding award will allow SHEP to continue to raise awareness of the opportunities higher education brings among pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds in S3 to S6 in targeted low progression schools. The key outcome of this funding will be more pupils from the target schools applying for and accessing higher education. In light of recommendations from the Commission on Widening Access, this funding will also support SHEP as part of the development of SFC's national schools framework, along with our other funded schools programme – Access to High Demand Professions.
4. SFC's Strategic Funding Group (SFG) supported both proposals at its January 2017 meeting.

Equality and diversity assessment

5. Equality Impact and Human Rights Assessments have been carried out for both projects and no negative impacts were identified.

Risk assessment

6. JISC – The project is considered low risk. JISC has been a reliable and effective delivery organisation for over 20 years. It has almost completed its transition to being a sector-owned and directed company, and the risks arise mainly if there is a sudden change to the funding.
7. SHEP – The project is considered low risk. SHEP is an established programme of work involving four universities where success can be partly monitored on an annual basis through the SDS School Leaver Destination Rates as well as through school staying-on rates. Engagement with SHEP was an Outcome Agreement measure and target for universities, and in 2016-17, became one for

colleges as well. These institutions are expected to engage more with the relevant regional programmes and schools, therefore, there is an ongoing level of commitment from partner institutions, as well as schools and local authorities.

Financial implications

JISC

8. The funding approved by SFG totals **£8,073,372** in AY 2017-18 and is broken down as follows:
- HE: £5,205,367
 - FE: £2,868,005

SHEP

9. The funding approved by SFG totals **£5,579,475** in AYs 2017-20 and is broken down as follows:

Organisation to receive funding	AY 2017-18	AY 2018-19	AY 2019-20
Abertay University	£325,000	£325,000	£325,000
University of Strathclyde	£925,000	£925,000	£925,000
University of Edinburgh	£285,825	£285,825	£285,825
University of Aberdeen	£324,000	£324,000	£324,000

Publication

10. This paper will be published on the Council website.

Recommendations

11. The Council is invited to agree this strategic funding.

Further information

JISC

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