



Strategic Funding – projects over £5 million

Purpose

1. This paper requests Council to agree programme funding for Jisc of £8,073,372, since the level of funding 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. These include shared services such as: the Janet network; sector deals on services and collections of digital resources; and advice and support. Jisc has been the main vehicle for SFC's digital programmes since 1992 and is trusted by institutions. The sectors depend on Jisc for key aspects of their ICT infrastructure, which underpins the majority of key institutional information services.
3. Universities pay a contribution to the Jisc budget via a subscription, with the majority of the funding coming from SFC. This achieves economies of scale and ensures that Jisc services are available and affordable to all Scottish institutions. It is cheaper and more efficient to procure and deliver such services on a national basis. Recent estimates show that Jisc provides services at less than half the price institutions would pay if procuring them commercially.
4. The Jisc Board includes two principals from Scottish institutions. Institutions engage individually with Jisc through their account managers and Jisc's annual Stakeholder Forum, and collectively at meetings of the Scottish university and college IT Directors, which Jisc attends.
5. SFC (along with the other UK funding bodies) engages with Jisc at quarterly meetings of the Funders and Owners Group, and through annual meetings with the Jisc Senior Team. Jisc's contributions to Scottish national priorities are reflected in the Outcome Agreement with Jisc (published on the SFC website: <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/ResearchInnovation/sfc-Jisc-outcome-agreement-2017-2020.pdf>)
6. Institutional satisfaction with Jisc services is high and continues to increase. One of the measures for this is Jisc's overall satisfaction score in 2017 (university sector: 85%; college sector: 80%).
7. The Council executive proposes that SFC continues funding Jisc at the same level as AY 2017-18.

Equality and diversity assessment

8. An Equality Impact and Human Rights Assessments has been carried out for JISC and no negative impacts were identified.

Risk assessment

9. The project is considered low risk. JISC has been a reliable and effective delivery organisation for over 25 years. The risks arise mainly if there is a sudden change to the funding.

Financial implications

10. The proposed funding totals **£8,073,372** in AY 2018-19 and is broken down as follows:
 - University sector: £5,205,367
 - College sector: £2,868,005
11. The individual totals are derived from the standard Scottish shares of JISC's UK-wide university sector and college sector budgets, respectively.

Publication

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

Recommendations

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

Further information

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