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2. Minutes of the previous meeting: Action

The minutes of the meeting held at University of Glasgow on 22 February 2012 were approved.

RM reported that work was underway and a link to the online resource would be circulated shortly. RM

3. Reports from Shared Services report progress groups:

The Vice-Chair asked each of the sub-group convenors to report on any progress with their relevant shared services work commencing with an update from him on item 3a.

3a. IT Continuity and Storage

BM updated members on progress referring to the results of the survey previously circulated. Further discussions with JANET Brokerage had been undertaken however there had been a hiatus following departure of staff.

An update on JANET Brokerage was then received by the group. Aim to better understand storage requirements. Questions remain around resilience, capacity and usage profiles for types of data. Further work on data analytics and search tools as well as purchasing mechanisms. Keen to use HEIDS as potential case study.

The group discussed the Brokerage offering with particular reference to pricing which was seen as a key starting point. FN reported that Brokerage would provide detailed pricing on request, dependent on requirements. Further discussion on technical requirements was undertaken and BM/FN agreed to feed back details to JANET Brokerage contacts

BM/FN

3b. Collaboration tools

AD updated members on behalf of Andy McCreath re generic SIP handset. 50 responses from suppliers to initial notification. AD has met with major suppliers.

AD reported that it would be realistic to implement a framework agreement for SIP handsets in three lots: basic; MS Lync compliant and additional functionality handsets from the major suppliers.

TM then reported a recent project to purchase second-hand handsets for their VoIP installation.

The group also discussed the recent announcement from the LSE regarding hosted Microsoft Lync.

AD elaborated on contract – framework effort was considered worthwhile pursuing. Members discussed pros and cons of pursuing the approach of proposed framework. Benefits were possible, with mini competition required to purchase from the framework.

The group agreed to pursue a framework for all three aspects of the contract and AD should proceed. AD

3c&d. Blackboard; licensing and hosting

AD also updated members on negotiations with Blackboard drawing particular attention to the difficulty in ascertaining costs and therefore potential savings. Members agreed that they should be allowed to share costs within the group for this purpose. Information on usage of the system was however more forthcoming from the supplier.

A 2-phase approach was being developed; core software pricing and hosted offering. The group agreed that APUC have a mandate to proceed further with the contract negotiations and that members should be allowed to share their costs to further discussions.

3e. Moodle

FM relayed on behalf of David Telford the need for further information from members in order to properly inform this strand of work. Members using Moodle were strongly encouraged to make contact if they had not yet done so. All

4. Update on FE/HE ICT strategy

AH introduced this item and updated group on progress on FE/HE ICT strategy. Primary concern is consultation through working group. Sectoral concerns with direction of strategy that may or may not be founded. A vanguard mechanism may lead and shape the eventual service.

It was felt that there were holes in the strategy with respect to management of a cost mechanism. AH drew an analogy with UHI & Pathfinder North project.

DB updated the group on progress with SJ6 project. SJ6 should proceed, SFC is advising contribution to SJ6 for backbone. It was considered that regional delivery is a good option regarding local collaboration, e.g. UWS and local authority.

AH/MT/DB will endeavour to keep the sector updated on progress. AH/MT/DB

Group then discussed the points raised by previous speakers.

BG reported that by 2014 Janet UK will be the eventual RNO for front door data provision. AH updated members on how RSN could offer benefits to institutions who are geographically challenged.

DB reported that the plan to link NGB project is off the agenda. PSN protocol/security to be separated from data links.

AH then proceeded to discuss sectoral strategy. A version will be out for consultation via Universities Scotland. AH/DB will undertake to share locally with HEIDS members. AH/DB

AH set out major themes of the strategy introducing the concept of a body with technical oversight and a need to identify a member of the community to be involved. Members felt that an HE member would be preferred but that it should be coordinated with FE input. AH agreed to circulate & collate responses and to liaise with Gerry Dougan for input from Scotland's Colleges. AH

AH/DB then introduced paper circulated the previous day regarding McClelland

Review of Public Sector ICT - HEIDS Update on Shared Services Entity.

Following a wide-ranging discussion, AH agreed to take comments offline from those who wished to do so.

- 5. Presentation: UWS for SAC managed service at the Ayr campus**
BM, RMcl and DJ presented the work undertaken between the two organisations within the Ayr campus.
- 6. Reports from groups**
 - 6.1 SFC (DB)**
DB updated the group on SFC work regarding FE regionalisation agenda; further internal restructuring and that DB would continue to be the HEIDS representative.
 - 6.2 UNIVERSITIES SCOTLAND (DT)**
No update received.
 - 6.3 JISC (MT)**
Attention was drawn to the report previously circulated via email.
 - 6.4 JANET UK (FN)**
FN updated members on developments with SJ6 procurement including suppliers and timescales. SPSN was covered elsewhere in discussions. A further JANET Scotland strategy/technical two-day event is being considered.
 - 6.5 SMCG**
Covered elsewhere in discussions.
 - 6.6 RSCs (CC)**
CC reported on the now single service for Scotland. Regionalisation of colleges is the main agenda. JEEP project is continuing. Annual conference on June 8.
 - 6.7 SCURL/SCONUL**
Members were referred to the update circulated via email.
 - 6.8 UCISA**
TM update members on the work within UCISA for engagement with regions, with particular reference to Scotland and how UCISA could better engage here.

Members discussed various options, approaches and proposals.

TM also updated the group on further work to update the statistics captured in relation to ICT in the sector.
 - 6.9 APUC**
AD updated members on a number of developments not covered in discussions already; NDNA, NSSA and iTrap.
- 7 AOCB**
There was no other business. Members discussed the venue and timing for the next two meetings and both Dundee and Heriot-Watt agreed to host in September and November respectively.

Fraser Muir
16/05/12