

Proposed budget and subscription levels 2005/06

This paper sets out the proposed Consortium budget and subscription levels for the financial year 2005/06, for approval by the membership.

Context – current financial situation

At the start of 2004/05, Consortium funds totalled £74,361. This went comfortably beyond the Consortium's policy of maintaining a level of reserves in the region of 100-120% of the current year's general subscriptions (which, for this year, would be £52,164 to £62,597).

At the time of writing, a budget surplus for 2004/05 of £16,000 - £18,000 is predicted. However, £10,000 of this has been allocated for web developments, which will now effectively be carried forward to spend in 2005/06. Thus overall there will be a modest increase in the level of reserves, but the Steering Group took the view that, in the context of a strategic review, this level of reserves was appropriate.

Proposed budget for 2005/06

The following Consortium budget has been approved by the Steering Group.

This year the funds allocated to Working Groups have been considerably reduced, but a significant sum has been set aside to enable the Consortium to respond to initiatives that arise during the year. This is based on the experience of recent years, when most Working Groups have only required modest budgets but the Steering Group has wished to provide support for projects such as MASC25 that were not anticipated when the budget was set.

The total Consortium budget is unchanged from last year at £49,900.

Although financially separate, the budgetary requirements of the Systems Team and CPD25 are included on the subscriptions spreadsheet so that members are made aware of the total cost of Consortium-related activities. The Systems Team budget of £53,000 represents an agreed 3% on last year's budget plus an additional £4000 for a new server (including implementation and data migration costs). The CPD25 budget covers the costs of the administrator (including oncosts, training etc) only – participants are separately charged for the cost of events.

Proposed Consortium budget for 2005/06		
<i>Budget head</i>	<i>££</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Administration: general expenses	3500	General Consortium meetings, Steering Group meetings, other misc expenses
Administrator	11200	Part-time administrator

Advocacy (WG)	7000	Increase on last year. Annual review (design, printing) costs likely to be in region of £3500. Anticipated that additional resources required for web development.
Collaboration and Partnership (WG)	7000	LLDA sub, M25 contribution to joint meetings with LLDA & ALCL, other collaborative projects.
Disabled & Special Needs Support (WG)	2000	To support continuing activities
Disaster Management Group (WG)	2000	To support continuing activities
Health Libraries joint WG	500	To support continuing activities
Quality (WG)	1000	To support continuing activities
Resource Discovery (WG)	2500	To support continuing activities
Student Centred Services (WG)	1000	To support continuing activities
Fund to respond to initiatives that arise during the year	14,000	
	51700	
Less minimum anticipated income	-1800	Bank interest
TOTAL	49900	

Proposed subscription levels

Proposed subscription levels are given on the attached spreadsheet. The method of calculation, based on JISC bands (or staff numbers for non-HEFCE institutions) is that agreed at last June's AGM, subject to the following changes.

- (a) The category of "Observer" has been removed, in line with the Steering Group recommendation to be approved by the membership. This produces very significant increases for the Consortium's two current observers, who would now pay the same subscription levels as other members.
- (b) In line with a Steering Group recommendation that all full members should pay the same charges for CPD25 events (with "associate" and non-members paying a higher charge), non-HEFCE members are now being asked to contribute to the cost of the Administrator (at a rate of 25% of their general Consortium subscription – a lower rate than HEFCE members in recognition of the fact that some events may be specifically aimed at university librarians). This increase in subscription should be balanced by a fall in the cost of attending events.
- (c) An institution may move from one category to another if it is added to the list of institutions given a JISC banding.

Overall most subscription levels are exactly the same (with fractional percentage changes due to rounding).

If the membership does not approve the changes noted above then a recalculation of subscriptions will have a marginal effect on the charges set out here.

As the total amount raised in subscriptions equals the agreed budgets there is a potential risk of a shortfall e.g. if a member leaves the Consortium. However, experience shows that the risk is small given reserves levels and the possibility of sponsorship and new members.

Nick Bevan, Treasurer
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