

## AGENDA UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

**MINUTE OF A MEETING** of the Sustainable IT Group held in the Cuillin Room, Charles Stewart House on Tuesday 9 May 2017.

**Present:** Dave Gorman (Convener), Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability  
 Paul Clark, Head of IT for CMVM  
 Victoria Dishon, IT Liaison Officer, College of Science and Engineering  
 Joe Farthing, SRS Communications Manager  
 Lesley Greer, Service Team Manager, Learning Spaces Technology  
 Robert MacGregor, AECOM & Estates  
 Abdul Majothi, Head of IT Consultancy Services  
 Fraser Muir, CAHSS Chief Information Officer  
 Graham Newton, Desktop Services Team Leader, ITI Desktop Services  
 Caro Overy, Engagement Manager  
 George Reid, Procurement Manager

**Apologies:** Michelle Brown, Head of SRS Programmes  
 Fiona Carmichael, Computing Support Officer, Literatures, Languages & Cultures  
 Grant Ferguson, Head of Estates Operations  
 Kate Fitzpatrick, Waste & Recycling Manager  
 Jenna Kelly, Students' Association VP Services  
 Simon Marsden, Director IS Applications Division  
 Euan Murray, Development Team Manager, Learning Spaces Technology  
 Ruairidh Stern-Mackintosh, EUSA IT & Systems Manager  
 Tony Weir, Director IT Infrastructure

### 1 Minute

The Convener welcomed new members Victoria Dishon, IT Liaison Officer for the College of Science and Engineering, and Abdul Majothi, Head of IT Consultancy Services, as well as delegates standing in for absent members.

The minute of the meeting held on 31 January 2017 was approved as a correct record subject to one amendment - the final paragraph under Matters Arising to read: 'Fraser Muir was in discussion with service management in ISG who were in contact with mobile contract providers on actively promoting the use of Fairphone.'

### 2 Printing & Imaging – Proposal to IT Committee

SITG noted a copy of the paper that the Director of IT Infrastructure would present to IT Committee on 11 May proposing formulation of a University policy on cloud printing by default, using large multifunction devices, with local printers only as a last resort. The CAHSS Chief Information Officer would take a recommendation to the Desktop CAB to implement cloud queues by default across all devices, to reinforce cloud as the primary printing route.

Action – PC to feed back to the Group whether ITC approved the paper.

### 3 IT in 2020 Vision

The proposed Vision was intended to parallel one developed by the Sustainable Laboratories Steering Group. While SLSG was developing visions for 2020, 2025, and 2040, looking that far ahead was problematic for IT.

A

B

SITG noted that understanding IT supply chains would be key, and the Group would aim to take this to the next level by 2020. There was considerable work ongoing in the area within the sector - including the Scottish Government framework, Electronics Watch, and investigations carried out by suppliers such as HP - and the procurement process for IT was already very focused on supply chains. UoE would need to leverage its name and influence to support this aim. The key issue would be ensuring policy was enforced, as there was not as yet enough practical monitoring. The Scottish Government would need to change its evaluation criteria to focus more on quality than cost. SITG noted the success of the recent student project investigating the UoE supply chain for lentils, which found that these measures could make a difference on the ground.

High Performance Computing would be another key area, offering substantial energy gains. While improvements to individual desktops offered minor gains, the large number of machines made these actions very worthwhile. The HP Desktop Mini range (recommended for normal task work) had seen a substantial drop in energy consumption over the last five years, and solid state drives should reduce this even further. Plans were in place to reinforce the standard Windows power scheme through the Desktop CAB, once all exceptions had been established. There was still a significant amount to do in this area, and while it was in the realm of marginal gains, economies of scale made it worthwhile.

Reuse of equipment where possible should form part of the 2020 Vision, whether internally or within the local area. The running cost of equipment was always taken into account at the purchasing stage as part of the overall price calculation. Energy had been one of the critical components looked at as part of the Storage Area Network replacement.

Looking ahead, solid state drives and cooling for components would be key, including identifying free cooling opportunities in datacentres, and locating datacentres to maximise use of renewables. The continual move to the cloud would also have an impact. Current work looking at datacentre resilience also considered energy implications. The Estates Datacentre Review report would be published later in May.

Action – JR to set up a dedicated workshop for members to discuss the 2020 Vision more fully.

#### **4 Sustainable IT Implementation Plan**

**C**

The Implementation Plan served to bring together activities across different areas. Members felt it would be useful to have a carbon scope of sustainable IT, also looking into how this was reflected in reporting. This would have to wait until work on the IT footprint had been finalised. It could then be converted into a percentage, and the impact of items assessed. There was potential for a student project in this area. The carbon footprint of IT was 3-5%, significant, if not major, and rising, even as it grew more efficient.

Headline figures on PC reuse were available but there was opportunity to go into these in more detail.

SRS had spoken to the Engineering IT Committee on opportunities around reuse and the Sustainable Campus Fund.

Action – CO to work on the reuse figures and report back to SITG in September.

Action – CO to add RAG status for future reporting.

Easysearch, a dedicated search engine, had been installed on open access computers with the result that every search made would raise funds for the Turing Trust. Sponsorship of the Easysearch engine would end this year and talks were ongoing to set up a similar arrangement with another company.

UoE had been working with the Turing Trust to help them recycle equipment, but was not yet in a position to provide them with cascaded machines.

Funding had been awarded by the Scottish Institute For Remanufacture to the Sustainable Business Initiative to develop sustainable delivery models for IT reuse that would be replicable across Scotland. The inception meeting had been held in early May.

Action – CO to report back on progress.

## **5 IT Energy Footprint & Prioritised Projects for Energy Savings**

Work was ongoing to secured data to 100%. All IS managed areas were complete.

Action – TW to give an update at the September meeting.

## **6 Sustainable Travel Programme Brief**

**D**

On the University's commitment to become zero carbon by 2040, while the vast majority of emissions were currently from energy, as UoE improved the carbon efficiency of its energy supply, and as it continued to internationalise, business travel (comprising the University fleet, taxis, rail, ferries and aviation) would become a more significant proportion of emissions (approximately 25% by 2025). Domestic aviation versus rail was a sensitive topic for many staff, and arriving in time for 9am meetings was often not possible by other means. However 70% of UK flights were to London. Looking at whole journey costing, it was 1/3 cheaper to take the train, and look around an hour longer.

The initial Sustainable Travel paper was presented to CMG in May 2016. Since then a pilot had been developed focusing on four locations – two support departments and two academic units. Senior management in each area had been approached to determine a feasible approach, and focus groups have been set up to engage with staff on barriers, challenges, and opportunities, with recommendations on what was viable in the area going back to senior management (such as travel clinics, or review of local policies). The key was to establish what meaningful interventions could be made without curtailing academic freedom.

There had been an initial assumption that the University lacked adequate videoconferencing infrastructure. On investigation, it was found to be more a socialising issue than an infrastructure problem. The Group could be reasonably confident that the University's VC suites were well appointed and relatively underused (though this was not the case in Science & Engineering). There were still some challenges with the central suites. They could be difficult to book, and the availability of support staff did not correspond with core times for business calls to China or the US. A major issue was staff confidence in their ability to successfully run a video conference, and resources should be allocated to overcoming this initial barrier, including putting together a business case to have technical staff in attendance to help overcome any initial uncertainty. The majority of calls to staff supporting the suites were about user confidence. Information about the facilities was patchy and difficult to find. At KB, the website was out of date and the suites themselves physically difficult to access. More focus should fall on digital activity in users' own space, using desktop options such as v-seen or Skype for Business. Members noted potential software

limitations, depending on what was blocked in the country being contacted. Another potential approach was to make face-to-face meetings in Edinburgh more attractive, looking at the accessibility of meeting rooms and the quality of catering provision.

SITG recommended that a Communications Plan be developed for the pilot.

Action – All members to email JF with any further comments or questions.

Action – JF to report back to the Group on the pilot, consulting on any infrastructure or policy improvements.

## **7 Utilities Programme - Pathways to 10% & Sustainable Campus Fund**

**E**

The energy target was a 10% reduction from a 2014-15 baseline. The Campus Fund had been created to support delivery, and was just about to make its first annual report to Estates Committee.

The multifunction device project discussed at UWG had not been approved – it was felt that this was normal capital business and hence out of scope for the SCF. Alternative funding may be found from underspend elsewhere. If it could be done by the end of July, the SRS Department may be able to contribute.

Action – CO to follow up with Bob O'Malley.

The SCF was still hoping to fund £1/4M of IT equipment this year or next, as part of the datacentres project. The fund would have £1M total to spend next year.

Action – All to share their ideas on any potential projects.

## **8 Sustainable ICT Procurement & Recent Research Bids (Make ICT Fair)**

UoE was in the running for a large European bid of £3M over 4 years as part of a larger team of 12 partners from 9 countries, including NGOs, working to build a movement for change within IT supply chains and designed to influence the European Parliament and Commission. UoE would receive 10% of the funding. Plans included getting a researcher to work with the School of Social and Political Science.

Action – DG to report back with more information in due course.

## **9 Energy Engagement in IS**

The Engagement Manager thanked colleagues for their support in getting the six IS Energy Coordinators in place. One of the first tasks would be carrying out a full audit of the Main Library to establish what more could be done in the area.

## **10 ICT in the Context of Reuse**

To the end of the third quarter of 2016-17, 84tCO<sub>2</sub>e had been saved, with indicative savings of £88K. 53 PCs had been reused internally, with 125 going to charitable partners. SITG noted time pressure around transitioning the PC Reuse Intern into an open-ended post within IS, with his contract currently due to finish at the end of July. The CIO wanted a central storage space secured for the project before the job description could be drawn up. Estates were struggling to source a suitable location that was easily accessible by van, with any space coming up in the central area prioritised for teaching in the first instance. There was nothing suitable in Argyle House. Locations further out of town were being considered. The PC Reuse project was currently housed within the Turing Trust, but IS would want to scale the project up which its current location could not accommodate. There were empty plant rooms at Holyrood that might be suitable.

Action – AM to forward the email request to DG & RM.