

Smart phone, tablet and other mobile device ownership is now the norm amongst the vast majority of the student population. The Information Systems Sub-Committee (ISSC) has agreed a mid-term review of the IT Strategic Plan that includes new and updated objectives to increase focus on mobile service delivery. This is to be supported by a significant increase in the provision of wireless networking across the whole campus (including halls of residence, lecture theatres, offices and public spaces).

The Wireless Roll-out Project will ensure that the wireless network infrastructure is upgraded to a desirable standard to enable the University to meet the goals of its 2020 Vision and the ISSC objectives. The project will also ensure that wireless coverage is increased to a pervasive level, both within University buildings and in selected public spaces.

The project will endeavour to identify and complete whole buildings where possible, rather than create a patchwork of partially completed buildings that require higher levels of on-going management. Buildings with high levels of student usage will be prioritised first.

The project will provide pervasive coverage across frequently occupied areas of a building. Design consideration will take into account the usage of these areas within the building, with an expectation that certain areas may have higher densities and occupation of end users (for example, lecture theatres and other teaching spaces) and the design will reflect this.

A Programme of Works has been developed by the Estates Project Manager. Working with the appointed Design Team and appropriate third party contractors, a common and structured approach will be used for the delivery of this project. The project will be split into multiple phases, consisting of groups of buildings.

Within each building, a number of new access points will be installed. Additional cabling may also be installed to the existing access points. Where possible, access points will be installed in public circulation areas, in order to ease access issues and reduce disruption during the installation and allow for maintenance in the future. However, with the remit of pervasive wireless coverage and the nature of some of the buildings on campus, it is inevitable that some access points will need to be placed in teaching spaces and offices.

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