The sector position statement which will be published on the Jisc website in December was discussed and agreed.

The group considered the proposed Elsevier negotiations governance structure, which includes this group and the content expert group. There will be an Elsevier negotiations oversight group in addition to the negotiation team and the Jisc team will work with the group to support the negotiations.

The group considered the terms of reference for the Elsevier negotiations oversight group, including membership and meeting schedule. It was agreed that Professor Stephen Decent would chair the Elsevier negotiations oversight group.

The group were advised of the membership of the negotiation team. It was agreed that Professor Stephen Decent would represent this group on the negotiation team. Professor Paul Boyle Vice-Chancellor of Swansea University will join the negotiation team.

Instead of a ToR for the team Jisc plan to provide Elsevier with some terms of engagement which Elsevier would also agree to. These would set out the frequency of meetings, what is in and out of scope, who will be in attendance and how decisions will be reached and communicated throughout the discussions. There must also be time for the sector to review proposals.

The group discussed a series of renewal scenarios and their acceptability to the sector and to Elsevier, keeping in mind the principles which the sector had supported in the recent Elsevier consultation carried out by Jisc. Members discussed and endorsed the communications strategy.

The actions arising from the discussions about Elsevier will be taken forward with members.

The group reviewed the work that they had carried out during 2020. Caren Milloy reflected on the year’s work confirming how the group had supported Jisc and thanking members for their support. Achievements included developing the requirements for transitional agreements and the COVID-19 response.

The group considered how the issues with extremely high prices in e-textbooks could be addressed. Jisc have an e-textbook publisher strategy group who will continue to support e-textbooks issues. There will be discussions to establish what the sector would like to achieve moving forward, noting that there is a significant digital shift which needs to be recognised in provision so that e-textbooks and other materials align with the shift in pedagogy. SCONUL will also be discussing the e-textbooks issues in the content forum.