This was the first meeting of this group, so the co-chairs and members introduced themselves. The composition of the group provides a broad range of experience and expertise across individual's specialisms, from within their institutions or consortium and their membership groups. The group received a presentation on the UK’s transition to Open Access (OA) including the development and impact so far of transitional agreements (TAs).

Members were reminded of the sector’s requirements for TAs, including the need for cost reduction, transparency, and an agreement’s ability to transition to full and immediate OA. This group will have a key role in scrutinising the cost, rate of transition and transparency at both an agreement and publisher level.

The group will also evaluate the effectiveness of TAs as a transitional mechanism and these discussions will help to understand the pace at which the sector wants to move away from legacy models.

TAs make it easier to monitor progress but do not allow the monitoring of all aspects of the transition. Subscription and publishing costs are brought together but other parts including peer review and editorial costs are left out. There are also differences across TAs depending on when they were agreed and some are truer to the requirements than others.

The short, medium and long term challenges and opportunities in the move to open access (OA) were considered. Looking at the longer term will support taking appropriate actions in the short term. One question to address would be whether transitional agreements are the correct mechanism by which to move to OA.

The scholarly communications market includes traditional publishing models but other models are rising in prominence.

The group considered the progress in the transition to OA in the context of the UK and the global market.

This group will support the understanding of the impact of potential models that might be offered by publishers.

The group discussed what should be monitored and the data they would need to ensure effective oversight of the existing TAs.