The group considered OA requirements including transformative journals including guidance to support institutions in communicating with authors and researchers. It was noted that the requirements and consequently the communications could be complex and that institutions are likely to need to advise their authors even while there are tools available.

It was suggested that there should be some tolerance by funders to begin with due to the new processes which are effectively being tested out as they are implemented.

It was also noted that some processes while not required by funders would be required by institutions and set out in their own policies on open research.

Jisc would use the feedback provided by the group to consider how best to support authors in their advice and guidance. There is complexity at present due to the number of models. In future requirements and guidance need to be made as simple as possible. The communications will emphasize the benefits including the constraint of costs.

The group looked at some information dashboards which provided consortium level information for this group to support their work.

The group considered potential post transitional models, focusing on transparency in relation to the rate of commitment to the transition to OA and cost transparency.

Indicators that can be used across agreements are needed and these should have standards/targets set against them. If titles are expected to flip this should be looked at in context of why there was that expectation - including the volume of OA. Where publishers sign an agreement confirming their intention to move towards transparency, they need to be transparent, sharing their plan for how they will get there and agreeing targets.

The sector is seeking a breakdown to understand the costs of publication. This approach is different from publishers who have reported approaches such as apportioning fees according to value. The born OA publishers have much lower costs, and these might be a useful comparator.

The sector also needs to widen the dialogue about what is valued within scholarly communications, beyond the transactional cost. It should be ensured that the approach to value can align with the approach taken by different disciplines. The sector should also establish what an author values in a journal aside from brand and prestige including what level of publishing services they expect. The group were aware of concern among authors that the standards of publishing services have decreased.

It was agreed that the group with the other strategic groups should set out how understanding cost and commitment to an OA transition supports the sector’s objectives for open scholarship.