Caren Milloy presented on the Elsevier negotiations including the history and details of the latest proposal (proposal 7). The proposal has been evaluated against the sector’s requirements and benchmarked against international agreements – it meets the core requirements of full and immediate open access publishing and reducing and constraining costs. Fully OA titles will be the last element of the negotiations and the team are expecting an improved offer on this aspect, incorporating simplicity and transparency.

There is more clarity around the issue of rights retention since the release of the UKRI policy. The negotiation team will continue to discuss rights retention with Elsevier and secure their commitment to engage regarding potential solutions.

The group recognised the achievement that the proposal represented including an unprecedented level of reduction and endorsed the proposal for the read and publish agreement as meeting the sector’s requirements. A number of clarifications will be carried out before the proposal is ready to go to the sector for consultation.

The group recognised the importance of unity in the sector and how this supported the negotiations, demonstrating what the sector can achieve through working together. Jisc and the negotiations team thanked the group for their support which had been essential in reaching this stage and achieving the objectives.

The group considered the requirements for transformative/transitional journals in the context of the sector requirements and UKRI OA policy. The group discussed the requirements and criteria and how these should be expressed.

Members reported an increased agenda for open research, looking for justification for charges and recognising the value that UK researchers bring to publishing. Members noted the impact of high APCs and the need for price transparency to justify such costs.

The group considered a proposal from Jisc to extend the group’s remit into learning and teaching, including by recruiting PVCs for learning and teaching. The revised group would support a learning content expert group in addition to the current content expert group (focused on research content). The group were in agreement to this in principle but asked for more information about how the meetings would work in practice to ensure there would be capacity for additional matters.