The group received an update on the ongoing negotiations with Springer Nature. The group discussed the approach to the negotiations ensuring this aligned with the sector’s requirements.

The group considered a revised set of strategic objectives. The objectives and key activities for 2022/23 aim to support the priorities of UK higher education institutions in the sector’s negotiations for digital content. This includes advancing the ability of institutions to embed and deliver an open research culture, delivering value for money, fostering diversity inclusion, innovation and equity. The objectives would then flow through to and support the work of all the Jisc strategic groups, contributing to their workplans whilst ensuring that sector priorities are the focus. The group discussed and agreed the objectives, identifying some refinements.

The group discussed the transition of OA monographs identifying the key role long form publications play in the dissemination of a university’s research to the global community. It was important to ensure academic colleagues were aware of the different route that longer forms of research can be published. Guidance around the licensing and economic models would be required as they can be complex. The approach the group would take in the transition to OA monographs included support for innovative, community led and institutional presses, including through use of library budgets. The group were mindful that a different approach would be required in relation to a small minority of trade books.

The group agreed to expand its remit to support the learning content expert group which Jisc will be setting up. The group membership will expand to represent teaching and learning, including PVCs for teaching and learning.