

Board Paper 2: The role of the Technical Advisory Group

Purpose

The purpose of this board paper is to provide the Board with an overview of the role of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the Resilience Shift. This is in response to a request raised at the May 2018 Programme Board meeting.

Key activities for the last year are captured overleaf in Annex 1 – *The Technical Advisory Group Report – Key areas of activity from January 2018*.

This paper is **for information** and as such there are no recommendations or issues to report.

Role

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was engaged to provide independent technical advice and peer review, in order to assure quality and impartiality for Resilience Shift approach, outputs and decisions. They also have a role as a neutral convenor of industry engagement for the Resilience Shift.

The Programme Director and Arup are solely responsible for setting direction, preparing strategy, and delivery. The TAG complements this by playing an on-going review role, acting as a **Critical Friend** to the core Resilience Shift team. The TAG provides scrutiny of, and advice on, the programme through critiquing the **quality** and **value** of the approach and outputs. This is at the request of (and for feedback to) the Programme and/or Technical Director. The TAG also provides a conduit to a wider knowledge base from academia and within industry.

The functions of the TAG can be categorised as:

1. Organise and provide peer review
2. Scope and identify industry engagement
3. Serve as trusted expert advisor

Under Item 2, the TAG have been, and will continue to, convene “round table” events on behalf of the Resilience Shift. Further detail is provided in Quarterly Report Q4 2018 (draft) section 5.5 included with the package of board papers for information only.

The TAG operates via an annual contract between Cambridge University Technical Services and the Resilience Shift to provide these services. The primary TAG team comprises Professor. Peter Guthrie, Dr Kristen MacAskill and Ces O’Hanlon who are able to draw on wider resources and expertise as necessary.

Annex 1: Technical Advisory Group report - Key areas of activity for year from January 2018

Overview

The way in which the TAG engages with the RS team has evolved over the course of the year. The Technical Director is the primary point of contact. Meetings are held bi-monthly with additional meetings and discussions as required in between, and quarterly reports are issued to the TAG at the same time as to the Programme Board which provide a summary of progress, decisions made and upcoming activities.

The TAG's support over the past year is summarised as follows:

1. Organize and provide peer review

TAG developed a process for peer review of unsolicited proposals for funding, based on assessment protocols used by UK Research Councils. This has been adopted and applied in several cases. The review includes comments on quality of the proposal, importance of the proposal with respect to achieving the goals of the Resilience Shift, the applicant's ability to deliver and proposed resources and management. An overall assessment rating is provided, supported by an indication of confidence of that assessment (lack of specific information, for example, might reduce confidence in the assessment).

The protocol has been agreed that these detailed reviews are not required for awards of £20k and under.

TAG has also participated in peer review of responses to open calls for Projects 1.1 ("tools and approaches") and 2.1 ("incentives in practice"). For project 2.1, feedback was provided on the EOI and on the proposal assessment criteria. Only recommendations are made by TAG, and there are no specific requirements in place for The Resilience Shift to respond to TAG comments, but there has been constructive dialogue throughout the year in response to their observations and recommendations.

2. Scope and identify industry engagement

TAG has supported The Resilience Shift in its engagement activities which relate to establishing relationships that may lead to provision of funding support.

The major activity under this task is the convening of round-tables. TAG operates as an independent convenor and facilitator of these industry focused meetings. A pilot round-table was completed in February 2018 with Arup Fellows as the participants. Learning from this round-table has informed the planning of three round-tables that will be held from November 2018 to February 2019 in the UK (London), the US (San Francisco) and New Zealand (Christchurch). Further detail on the round table events is included in section 5.5 of the Q4 quarterly report (draft)

3. Serve as trusted expert advisor

This involves providing ad-hoc advice as requested on strategy and approach. Throughout the period TAG has provided this advice to the Programme Director and Technical Director when requested. More recently, at the regular and pre-planned meetings (approximately bi-monthly), which have been instituted and arranged by the Technical Director.