



Infrastructure Advisory Committee Minutes – 20 & 21 November 2025

Location: Materials Innovation Factory, Liverpool
 Date: 20 & 21 November 2025
 Time: 10:30 – 17:45 (Day 1)
 09:00 – 15:45 (Day 2)

IAC Members	
Professor Michele Dougherty	IAC Chair
Professor Andrew Harrison	Interim Co-Chair, externally recruited
Professor Ewan Birney	BBSRC nomination (Day 2 only)
Professor Rory Fitzgerald	ESRC nomination
Professor Sir John Iredale	MRC nomination
Professor Graeme Reid	Research England nomination (Online, Day 2 only)
Professor John Remedios	NERC nomination
Professor Sarah Thompson	EPSRC nomination
Tim Gardam	AHRC nomination
Professor Carsten Welsch	STFC nomination
Dr Susheel Varma	Externally recruited
Astrid Wissenburg	Externally recruited
Dr Claire Devereux	UKRI Infrastructure Fund Programme Director
Observers	
Dr Shabana Haque	Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) (online)
Dr Adam Staines	UKRI Infrastructure Portfolio Director
Guests/Speakers	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
UKRI Attendees	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

1. Welcome & Aims

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed all members to the twelfth meeting of the Infrastructure Advisory Committee (IAC) and thanked Materials Innovation Factory and the University of Liverpool for hosting the meeting. The Chair welcomed Professor Sarah Thompson, EPSRC nomination and Tim Gardam, AHRC nomination, as new members to the Committee and noted apologies from Professor Paola Lettieri, Dr Anneke Lubben, Siobhan Peters, and Dr Richard Gunn. The Chair continued by announcing guest speakers who were presenting across both days. The Chair thanked IAC members for joining in-person and reminded the Committee that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of producing Minutes.
- 1.2. The Chair reminded the Committee of its purpose and outlined the meeting aims across both days, noting the ask from UKRI to tension uninitiated projects against new Wave 4 proposals, which represented a change in approach to previous Waves. The Chair requested members to reach a consensus and position across the portfolio.

2. March 2025 IAC Meeting Minutes

- 2.1. The Committee reviewed and approved the Minutes of the March 2025 meeting. [REDACTED] provided the committee with an overview of the actions that have been addressed since the March 2025 IAC meeting.

Decision: The Committee approved the March 2025 IAC meeting Minutes.

3. Setting the scene

- 3.1. To ensure common understanding, Dr Claire Devereux (CD) reminded the Committee of the Infrastructure Fund prioritisation process, including council prioritisation of projects prior to submission and the possibility for proposals to be submitted out of cycle on the request of government.
- 3.2. CD continued by outlining the process by which the IAC prioritises projects using a portfolio approach, rather than ranking, aiming for a balanced portfolio over time. Recommendations are then provided to the UKRI Executive Committee (ExCo) for decision making.
- 3.3. CD described the expected Infrastructure Fund budget allocation, which is likely to be significantly lower than historical levels and will mean that previously prioritised projects that are yet to initiate will need to be reassessed at this meeting as part of system-wide reprioritisation to confirm that they reflect our highest priorities.

4. Review of uninitiated projects

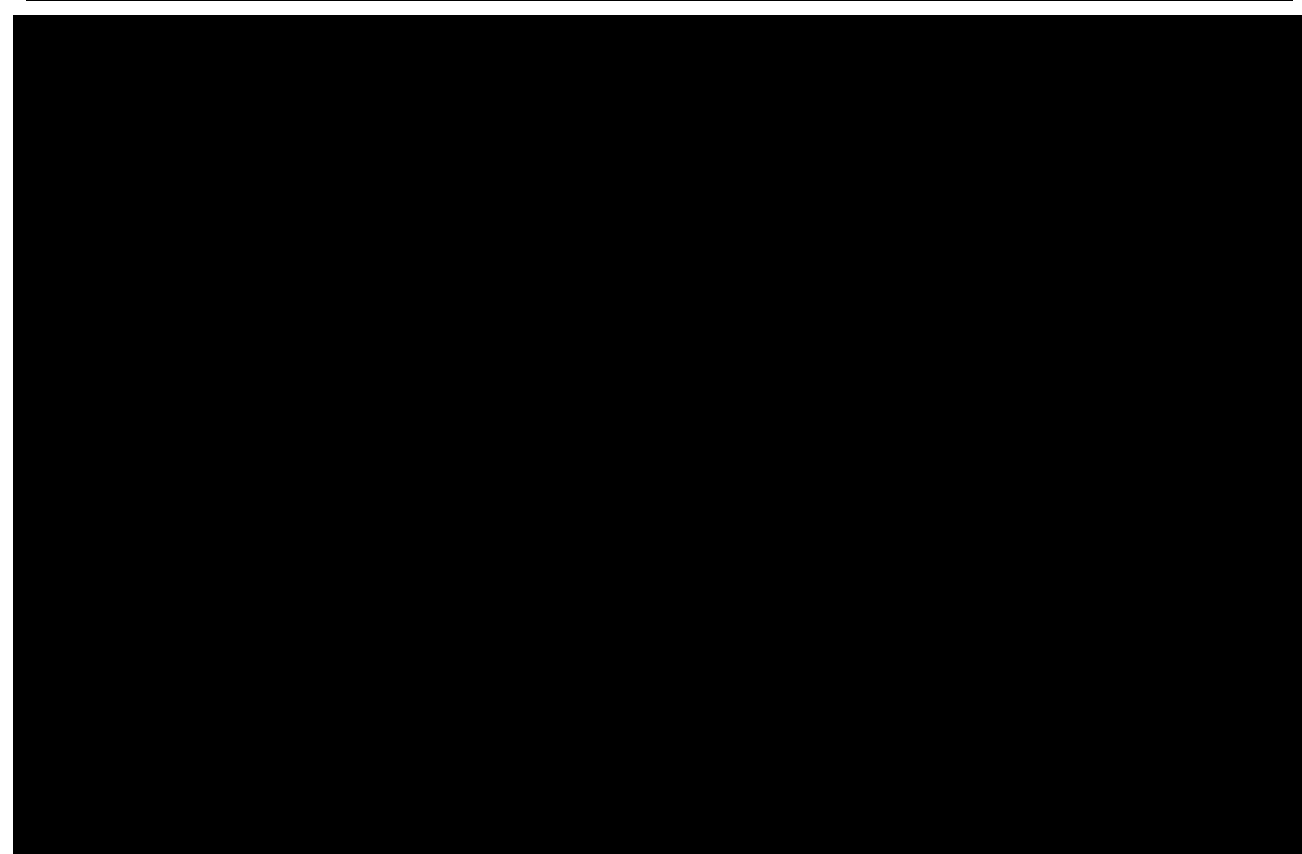
- 4.1. Conflicts of Interest (COI) were declared according to the table below. As the Chair declared several COIs, the uninitiated project discussions were chaired by Professor Andrew Harrison (AH). For indirect COIs, members remained present for discussions on these items but were limited to providing factual comment only. For direct COIs, members excluded from the room for the main discussion. Members agreed that the Chair, as the Infrastructure Champion for UKRI ExCo, would remain in the room to support UKRI ExCo discussions.

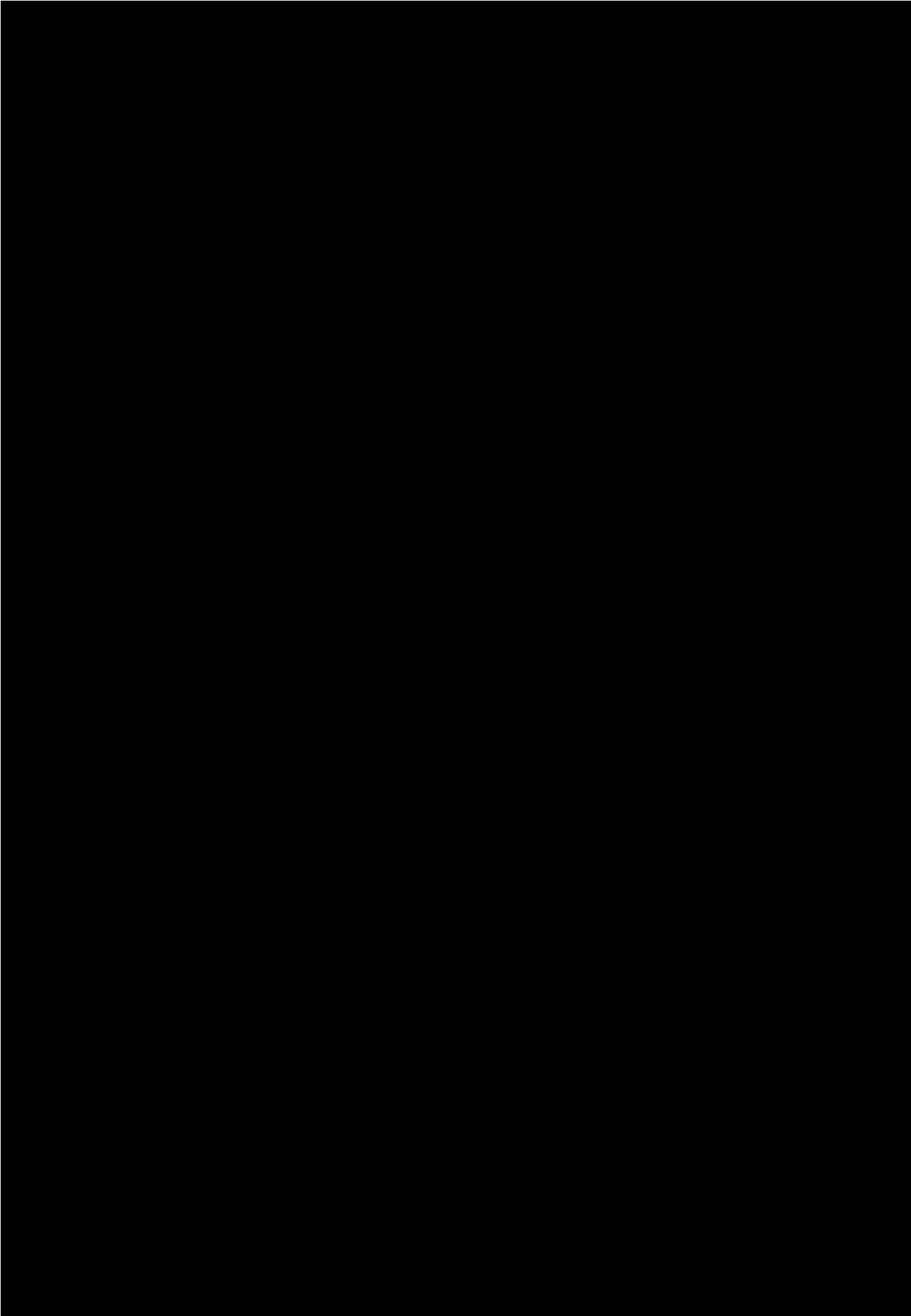
Uninitiated Project declared Conflicts of Interest		
Proposal	Indirect COI	Direct COI
[REDACTED]		

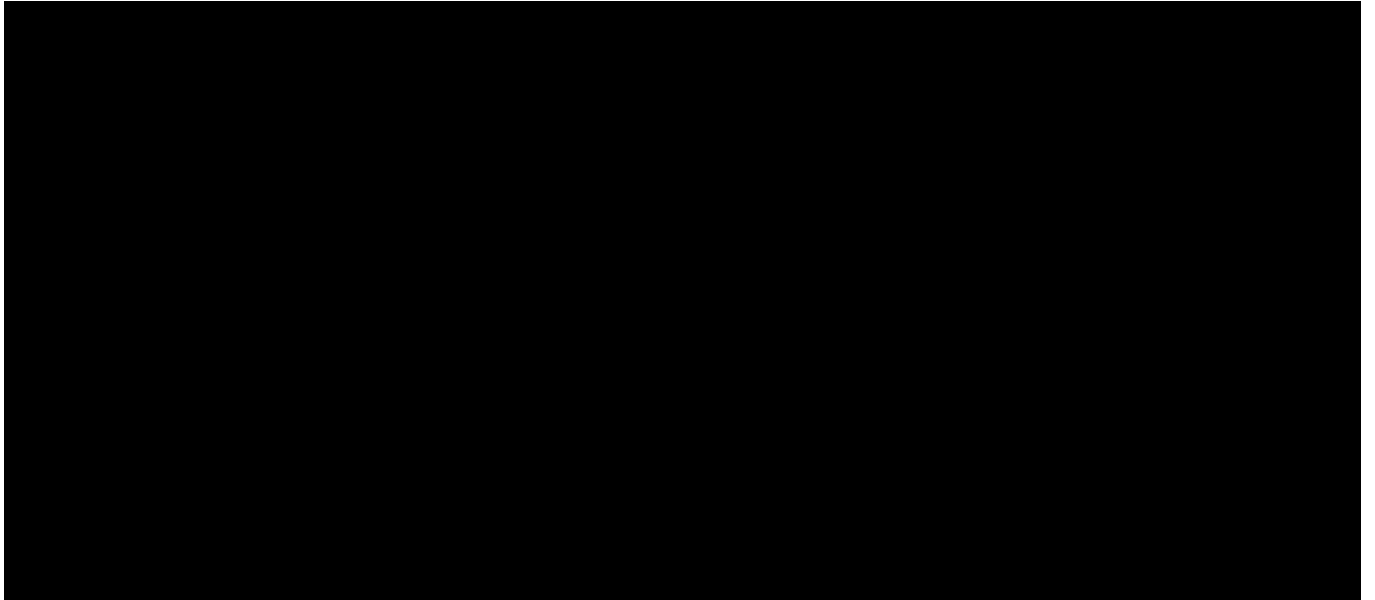


- 4.2. ■■■ reminded Members of the outcome of the previous IAC assessment for each and provided information from the Research Councils covering background information, additional context and any updates. DSIT international Infrastructure team provided a verbal statement outlining their position on the involvement of the UK in the two international infrastructures and noted their diplomatic interconnectivity.
- 4.3. A framework was used to assign a priority to each project, with the following final classifications used in feedback:

1. Proposal as presented is the highest priority for inclusion in a portfolio (subject to affordability)
2. Proposal as presented is a high, or a strong priority, for inclusion in a portfolio (subject to affordability)
3. Proposal is a priority for funding subject to affordability and minor revision, which could be addressed for reconsideration, such as:
 - a. change in timing or scale
 - b. separating out in scope and out of scope elements
 - c. after addressing minor points (for IAC or UKRI team to approve)
4. Proposal has strong concept but could not be prioritised as presented. Clarifications would be required before any future consideration by the Committee.
5. Unable to recommend proposal for funding as presented (e.g. low priority, significant rework required)
6. Out of scope





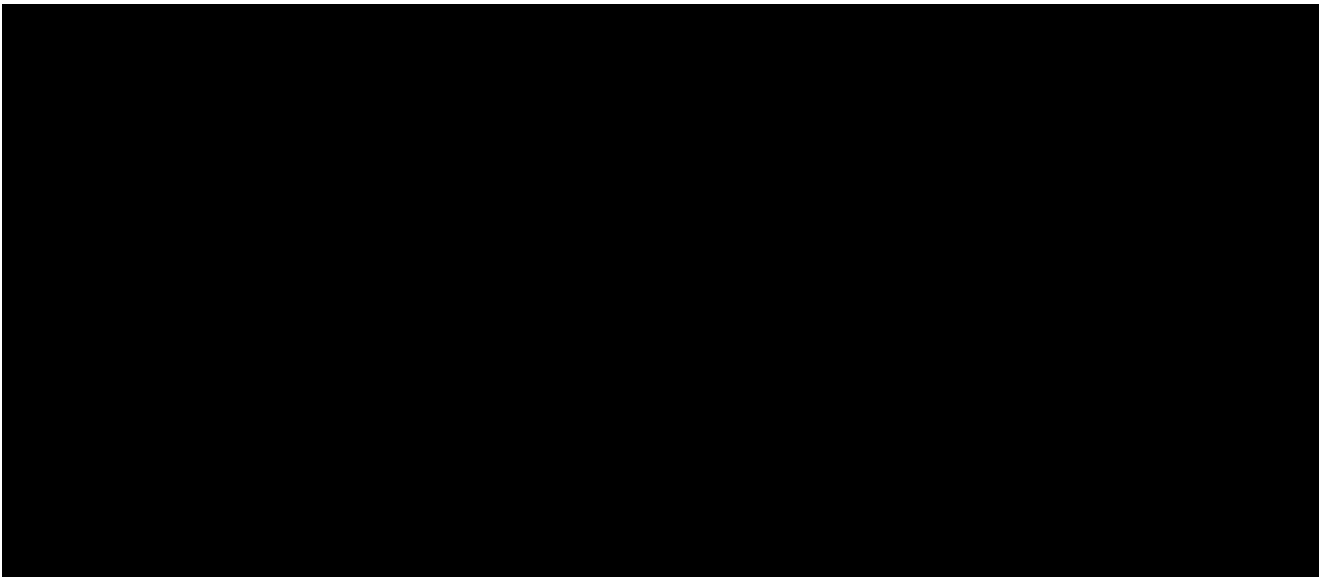


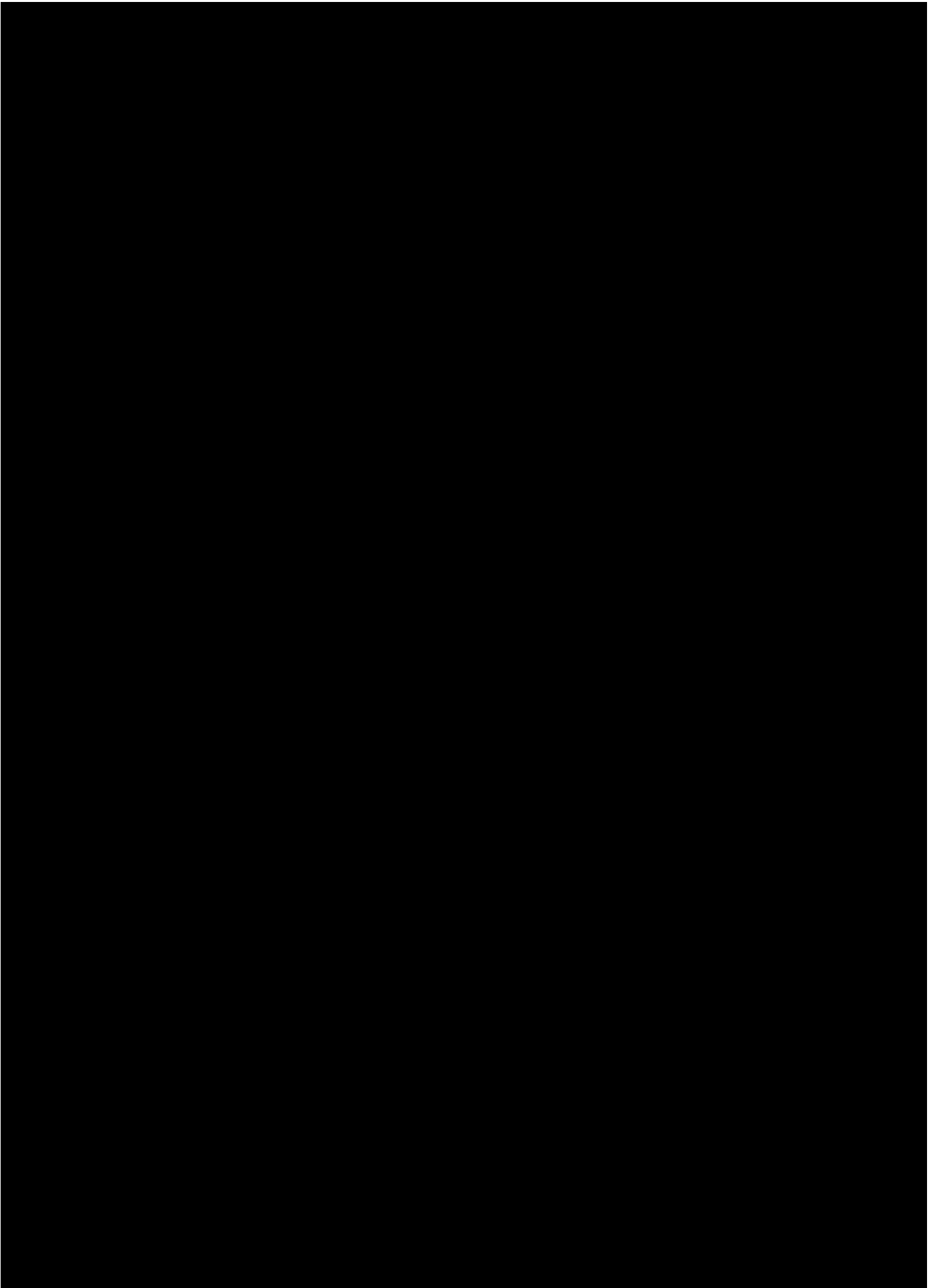
5. Assessment of Wave 4 project proposals

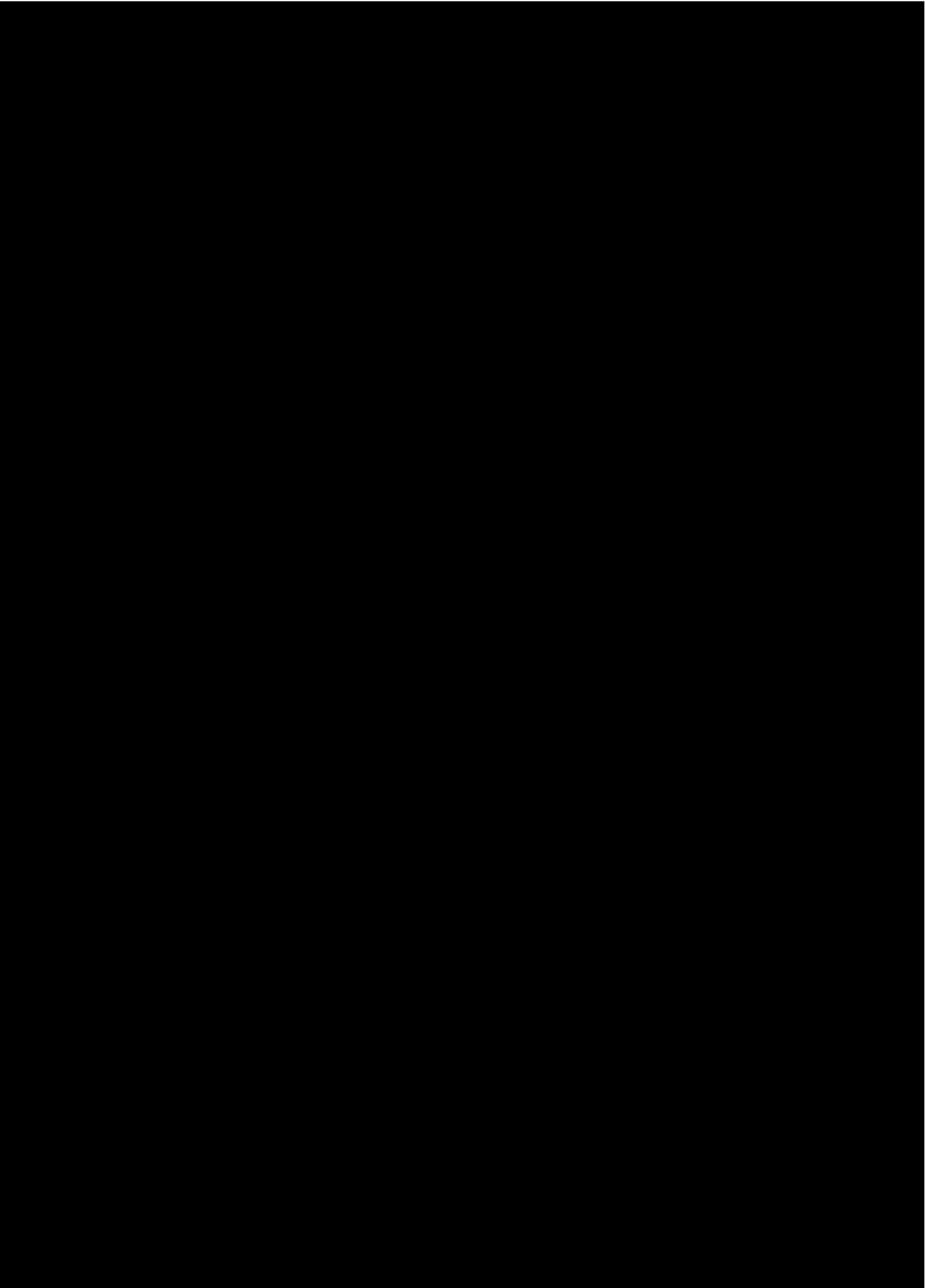
5.1. COIs were declared according to the table below. For projects where the Chair was conflicted, the discussion was led by AH, but the Chair remained present (as noted above).

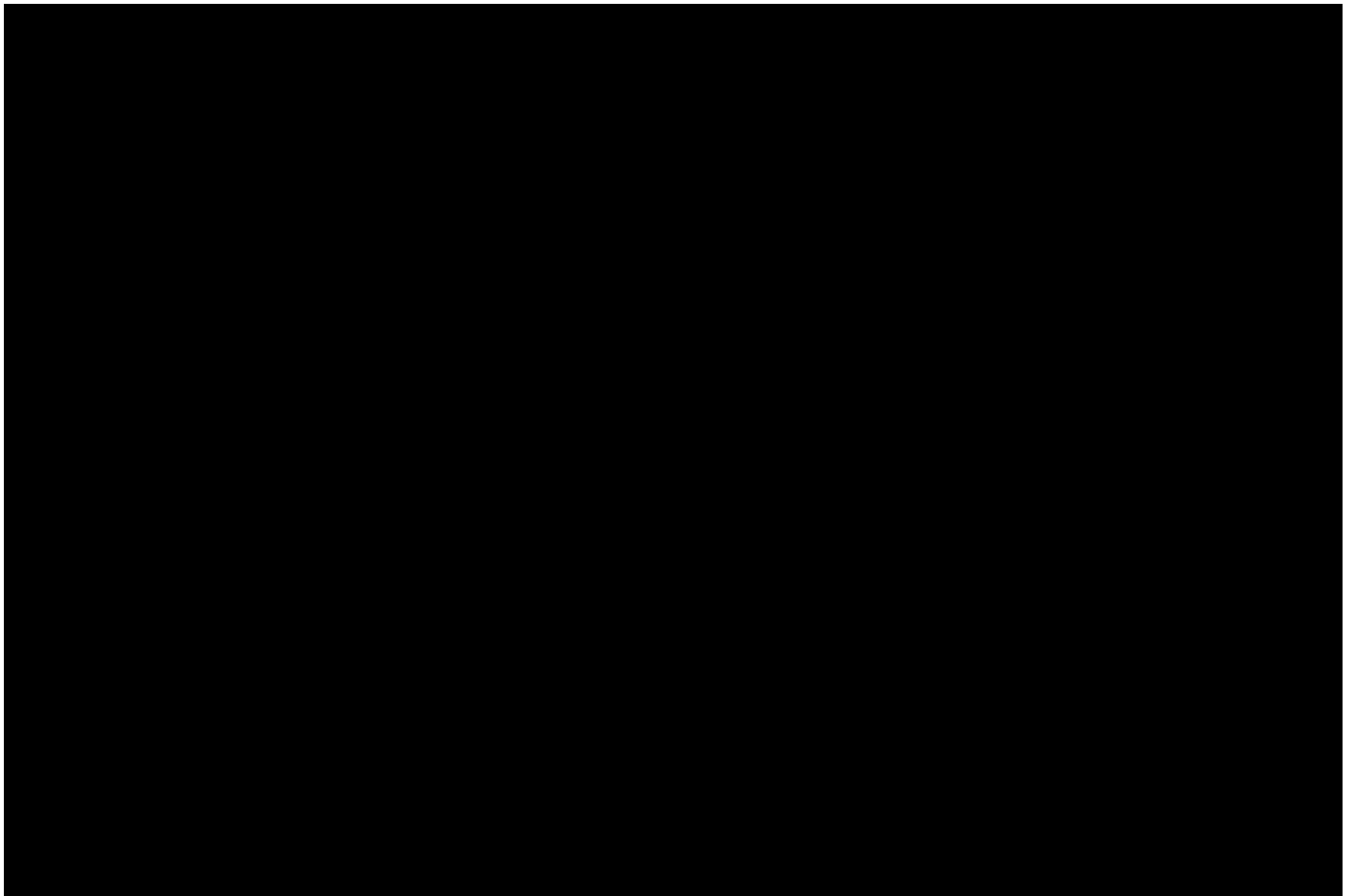
Full Project declared Conflicts of Interest		
Proposal	Indirect COI	Direct COI
		

5.2. ■ introduced each project and summarised the assessments submitted by Members during Summer 2025.



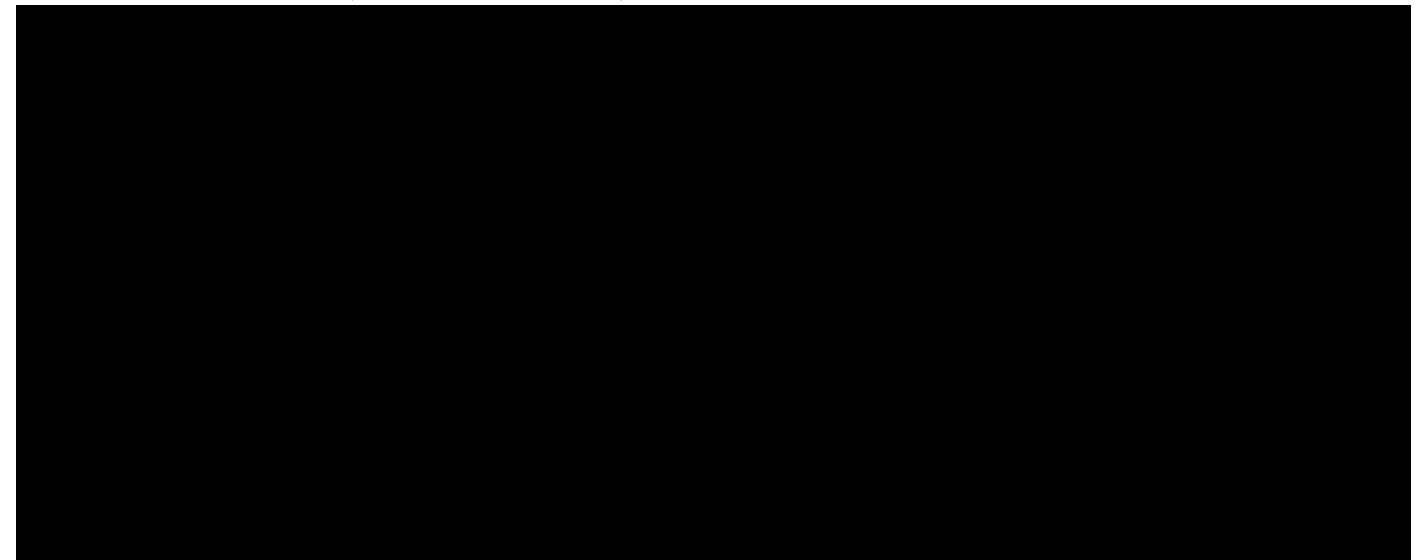






8. Infrastructure Fund Portfolio Options

- 8.1. CD outlined the assumed Infrastructure Fund budget and the assumed financial headroom for the next four years, noting that all figures are yet to be approved and are being shared confidentially. CD continued by outlining the need for significant readjustment of the portfolio to ensure affordability and of maintain agility for future Waves and future government priorities within the Infrastructure Fund.
- 8.2. Following assessment of individual projects and their impacts, in assembling portfolio options, the Committee considered how the scenarios delivered to UKRI's mission, the spread of projects across UKRI's priority areas, and Research Council rankings and project risks as provided in writing by submitting councils prior to the meeting. In discussing portfolio options, it was emphasised by the Committee that inclusion of [REDACTED] constitutes a major decision point due to a need for rapid project initiation and a high annual cost over a short period of time.



9. Review of Feedback for Proposal Leads

9.1. AH summarised the Committee's discussion and recommendations regarding all reviewed proposals. The Chair requested the Committee refrain from discussing the outcomes of the meeting with others, including councils, until after a decision on the IAC's recommendations was made by UKRI Executive Committee in December 2025.

Action 2511-02: UKRI Infrastructure Team to communicate outcome of the December 2025 UKRI ExCo meeting with the IAC.

9.2. The Committee was unanimous in reaching consensus regarding the wording of the feedback for each project.

Action 2511-03: UKRI Infrastructure Team to provide feedback to relevant councils regarding each proposal.

10. Update from Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT)

[illegible]

11. Infrastructure Fund Quarterly reporting

11.1 The Chair welcomed [REDACTED], who outlined the approach to Infrastructure Fund portfolio reporting to ensure transparency, assurance, accountability and appropriate management. [REDACTED] continued by providing an overview of the current Infrastructure Portfolio, noting the recent reintroduction of active portfolio management following a pause across UKRI, and described the main portfolio risks and the mitigations that are in place for each of them.

12. Infrastructure Fund Project completions

- 12.1 ■ summarised Infrastructure Fund projects which have completed and provided the Committee with an overview of the approach to reporting project outcomes and impacts, seeking feedback from the Committee on the proposed project completion form template and process.
- 12.2 The Committee supported the use of project completion reports and raised the following points in discussion:
- The importance of case studies in demonstrating the benefits and impacts of projects.
 - Monitoring beyond the lifetime of the Infrastructure Fund project would be needed to demonstrate the primary benefits of Infrastructure Fund-enabled infrastructures.
 - The importance of clarity of purpose for monitoring and evaluation to avoid unnecessary burden on infrastructures and superfluous data collection.
 - Consideration should be given for how reporting from preliminary activities could be used to inform assessment of associated full proposals and support project teams

13. AOB

- 13.1 In the interests of time, the Chair invited the UKRI Infrastructure Team to follow up after the meeting to update the Committee on progress of the Infrastructure Roadmap Refresh programme.
Action 2511-04: UKRI Infrastructure Team to share slides covering the Infrastructure Roadmap Refresh update.
- 13.2 ■ and CD updated the Committee on the live recruitment campaign for new IAC Members.
Action 2511-05: UKRI Infrastructure Team to circulate recruitment advert to Members.
- 13.3 The Chair thanked the Committee for their valuable contributions over the course of the meeting and throughout the summer assessment exercise.

Meeting close

Date of next meeting: **17 March 2026**
Venue TBC