

Meeting Note of RCUK Digital Economy Programme Advisory Board 27 2nd November 2016, University of Surrey

Attendees

Chair: Hazel Hall, Edinburgh Napier University
Alan Brown, University of Surrey
Mike Chantler, Heriot-Watt University
Andrew Hudson-Smith, University College London
Siân John, Symantec Corporation
Paul Nightingale, University of Sussex
Mark Plumbley, University of Surrey
m.c. schraefel, University of Southampton
Gabriel Straub, Tesco

RCUK/Innovate UK Staff:

John Baird, EPSRC, lead for the RCUK Digital Economy Theme
Claire Tansley, EPSRC
Tracy Keys, EPSRC
Jason Morgan, EPSRC
Heather Williams, AHRC

Apologies:

Stephen Browning, InnovateUK
Natalia Davie, BIS
Ian Hargreaves, Cardiff University
Bruce Jackson, ESRC
Matt Jones, Swansea University
Wendy Mars, CISCO
Clare Reddington, Watershed
Ruth Slade, EPSRC
Chris Speed, University of Edinburgh
Thomas Trehella, AHRC

Introduction

At this 1-day meeting in Guildford, the Digital Economy (DE) Programme Advisory Board (PAB) discussed DE Theme plans, ESRC's Ways of Being in a Digital Age scoping study, Fellowship priority areas and stakeholder engagement. The meeting was held at the University of Surrey and was hosted by Mark Plumbley and Alan Brown, who provided a tour of the 5G Innovation Centre, the Centre for Vision, Speech and Signal Processing and lastly the Centre for the Digital Economy.

1. Welcome to the meeting

Hazel Hall (Chair of the Digital Economy [DE] Programme Advisory Board [PAB]) welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those present to introduce themselves. It was the first meeting for Jason Morgan, who has just joined the Digital Economy Team as a new portfolio manager, taking over from Jerome Ma.

2. Matters Arising, Theme Update

PAB members were invited to raise any points or ask any questions prompted by the minutes. PAB were updated on the progress against the action log. A brief summary was provided for each item in the update paper. PAB members were invited to raise any points or ask any questions prompted by these items. Discussion focussed on the Distributed Ledgers call, the National Cybersecurity Strategy, diversity in applications to the Programme Advisory Board, the EPSRC College, the 'New Approaches to Data Science' call and the 'Tackling Global Challenges through Engineering and Digital Technology Research' call.

3. Digital Economy Theme Plans

The purpose of this session was to ensure that the meeting participants were updated on upcoming activities in the Digital Economy Theme. The shift in balance between strategic interventions and community-led activities was explained. Discussion revolved around standard mode grant funding as well as potential Network+ activities.

4. ESRC Ways of Being in a Digital Age

The PAB had previously suggested that the ESRC "Ways of Being in a Digital Age" scoping team be invited to talk to the PAB about this study. We invited Simeon Yates to attend this meeting accordingly, allowing him an opportunity to present the progress made so far and to seek input from the PAB. PAB members were keen to offer Simeon and his team their support for this activity.

5. Fellowship Priority Areas

The PAB were asked to discuss proposed changes to the Digital Economy Fellowship priority areas and advise on their suitability. The changes were approved and PAB members offered to assist in the wording of a new priority area.

6. Stakeholder Engagement

This item was designed to update the PAB on the Digital Economy Team's progress since the previous PAB meeting in June 2016. The PAB had left the DE Team with the following 'exam question': **"What would successful user interaction look like?"** The DE team presented some ideas on this topic and asked for input. PAB members advised on how a stakeholder engagement review might be conducted.

7. Any Other Business and Thank You to Demitting Members

Mike Chantler led a brief discussion on data he had provided to RCUK regarding the effects of Brexit on research funding. The meeting was then closed by thanking the PAB members for their input. This would be the last meeting for Mike Chantler, Matt Jones, Paul Nightingale, Ian Hargreaves and Wendy Mars, and they were thanked for all their help and input over the previous years.

It was stated that the next PAB meeting would be a one-day meeting at the Research Councils in February. This will be the first meeting for our new PAB members.

Final meeting Agenda

2nd November

	Time	Agenda item	
1	10:00	<u>Welcome</u>	Hazel Hall
2	10:10	<u>Matters arising, Theme Update</u>	John Baird
3	11:10	<u>Theme Plans</u>	John Baird
	11:40	<u>Coffee/tea</u>	
4	12:00	<u>ESRC Ways of Being in a Digital Age</u>	Simeon Yates
	13:00	<u>Lunch and tour</u>	
5	14:30	<u>Fellowship Priority Areas</u>	Claire Tansley
	15:30	<u>Coffee/tea</u>	
6	15:45	<u>Stakeholder engagement</u>	John Baird
7	16:45	<u>Any other business and thank you to demitting members</u>	John Baird
	17:00	<u>Close</u>	

Meeting Papers

Paper	Title	Agenda Item
PAB 26 Minutes	Minutes from PAB 26	2
PAB 27-1	Update on Digital Economy Activities	2
PAB 27-2	Theme plans	3
PAB 27-3	Fellowship Priority Areas	5
PAB 27-4	Stakeholder engagement	6

Supporting Papers

Paper	Title
Actions Log	On-going actions log for DE PAB
PAB ToR	Terms of Reference for DE PAB
PAB Bios	Biographies of PAB members