



IT PROGRAMME STRATEGY REVIEW TASK FORCE PHASE 2: SUMMARY OF MEETING ON APRIL 13, 2021

Background

The purpose of the IT Programme Strategy Review is to analyse the current IT situation; fully assess the associated capabilities and risks of the IT programme; and provide recommendations to the BE Board for next steps, including a short-, medium- and long-term strategy for the direction and level of further investment.

Having completed the “assessment” work in Phase 1, and having presented a report with its recommendations to the BE Board for next steps, the Task Force is now completing the “solution” work of Phase 2. This has three stages: defining the future IT vision; fact-finding to determine availability in the marketplace of potential applications and services to support the vision; and developing the roadmap, using the output from the first two stages and the priorities agreed in Phase 1.

Stage 1 has been completed, and a summary of the key points developed in the Vision workshops was published on February 26. Most of the Stage 2 work to identify potential third-party suppliers has been completed, with presentations by third party systems already available in the market. The Stage 3 work to develop a roadmap informed by the Vision defined in Stage 1 and the availability of third-party suppliers is now underway

The next two weeks will be focused on completing the Task Force’s final report to the Board, aiming to present this to the Board by the end of April. At its meeting on April 13, the Task Force considered a draft of the report’s Executive Summary, covering the Vision, third-party suppliers, and the roadmap.

The following is a summary of that meeting.

Discussion

The Chair explained that the Vision and the roadmap are living documents, and after submission of the Task Force report to the Board there should be an ongoing quarterly review against developments in sport, technology, members’ thinking and the evolving BE strategy. The Vision and the roadmap must remain aligned as BE sport and overall strategy comes together.

Key Principle

The key principle put forward in the draft report is that BE should be world-leading in defining what we want from technology, but it should not seek to be world-leading in supplying the technology.

Any alterations to the current model will continue to ensure BE protects its valuable data.

Third-Party Suppliers

The executive summary will list and briefly describe the applications and services already available in the market to support the Vision, as identified by the Task Force, with fuller descriptions in the body of the report.

The Roadmap

This has been developed using the insights gleaned from defining the Vision. The roadmap presented in the report covers the short-, medium- and long-term timeframes and includes diagrams of the target architecture for entries and safety/course analysis. It has been informed by our assessment of third-party alternatives, including the developments in the use of Eventing Scores which have taken place since 2020, and by the issues we have observed with the current bespoke, in-house model, including the critical issues identified by Phase 1 of the Task Force.

Proposed Recommendations

Subject to further discussion and consideration, the recommendations will build on the Key Principle in focusing on the development of a strategy premised on ensuring that BE continues to provide clear, consistent, well-informed and innovative leadership to serve the best interests of the sport, with BE affiliation remaining a hallmark of quality; but at the same time permitting BE to focus on governing the sport, rather than on developing and maintaining software to support it.