

Open Source Governance

Summary of Research into Open Source Governance & Options for #RevBens

1st June 2022





Open Source &
Licensing

Governance Models & Team Structure Costs & Funding Next Steps



Open Source & Licensing



Software with source code that anyone can inspect, modify, and enhance.

https://opensource.com/resources/what-open-source



Open Source Software is...

Not necessarily free.

Users must accept the terms of license to use open source software.

Licenses affect how people can use, study, modify and distribute the software.

Copyleft - A type of license that stipulates that anyone who releases a modifies an open source program, must also release the source code of that program alongside it.

Promotes collaboration & sharing.



Roles

Maintainer

- Responsible for the overall project
- Sets strategic direction of project
- Prioritises project backlog
- Sets guidelines for contributors
- Reviews and accepts changes
- Licensor

User

- Utilises the software
- Suggests new features
- Reports bugs

Contributor

- Can be users, developers, volunteers
- Develops changes, following guidelines

Service Providers

• Deploys software on behalf of Users



Feature Process

Maintainer



Contributor



Code Change Process

Maintainer



Contributor



Governance Models & Team Structure



Models

These are 4 examples of open source governance models. Others are available.

Single Vendor	Founder-Leader	Foundation-Backed	Do-ocracy
Owned by a single firm	Founder controls and administers project	Co-operative model, no single-organisation with	Individual stakeholders
Faster go-to-market		overall control	Members who make
	Clean line of responsibility		contributions gain authority
Contributions not accepted		Processes needed for joining foundation	
	Possible sense of	Ioundation	Difficult to join as
Lack of community involvement	unbalanced power		newcomers
More control			More collaboration
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Steering Group

Under the foundation-backed model, we recommend the creation of a steering group.

This group will take on the role of Maintainer, setting the strategic direction of the project and guidelines for contributors to follow.

The group will also be responsible for promoting the project and growing the community.



Core Team Options

Part-time support team

Responsibilities:

- Organisation and facilitation of Steering Group meetings
- Review/Approval of pull requests
- Small amount of time for strategic development

Roles:

- Project Manager (1 month per year)
- Engineer (6 months per year)

Full-time Development Team

Responsibilities:

- As per part-time support
- Maintenance
- On-going development

Roles:

- Project Manager
- Solutions Architect (1 month per year)
- 2 x Engineers
- Business Analyst



Costs & Funding



Cost Options

Core Team	Council Team	Cloud Hosting	
Organisation & facilitation of Steering Group meetings. Review & Approval of pull	Configure and deploy service according to council needs.	How the code is deployed, varies according to usage	
requests On-going or strategic development			

£50k - £700k

£10k - £280k

£1k - £2k



Funding models

Co-operative council model

- Fixed base fee
- Population fee
- Budget fee

Larger councils pay more.

Fixed fee

• Costs split evenly between members

May appear expensive to smaller councils



Next steps









