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Paper Reference:	TABASC_48_2111_14
Action:	For Decision

TABASC Principles for Assessing Modification Proposals

1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) with an updated copy of the 'TABASC Principles for Assessing Modification Proposals' document. This can be found in Appendix A.

The TABASC is requested to agree the approach to using the principles set out in this document when assessing Modification Proposals.

2. Review of the document

Action TABASC47/08 was recorded in October 2019 for SECAS to re-evaluate the 'TABASC Principles for Assessing Modification Proposals' document.

We believe that the principles in this document remain appropriate for the TABASC's review of Modification Proposals and are not recommending any contextual changes to these.

As part of this review, we have amended the document to align with the current SEC version 6.20 wording and include minor clarification changes.

3. Approach to assessing proposals

We intend to continue to notify the TABASC of the new Draft Proposals and the Draft Proposals that have been converted to Modification Proposals each month as usual. This is for the TABASC to agree which proposals it will want to provide further input on as they progress.

The TABASC will determine this by identifying which Draft Proposals and Modification Proposals affect or are likely to require change to the Technical Code Specifications, the Technical Architecture or the Business Architecture.

Following such agreement, SECAS will continue to seek the TABASC's support and input on the specific Modification Proposals at the appropriate time(s) throughout the Refinement Process in order to feed into discussions. It is at this point the TABASC should refer to the principles for assessing Modification Proposals.

4. Recommendations

The TABASC is requested to:

- **CONSIDER** any further amendments to Appendix A;
- **AGREE** the TABASC Principles for Assessing Modification Proposals are fit for purpose; and
- **AGREE** the approach for using the Principles set out in Section 3.

Harry Jones

SECAS Team

14 November 2019

Attachments

- **Appendix A:** TABASC Principles for Assessing Modification Proposals v1.2

Appendix A

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TABASC Principles for Assessing Modification Proposals

v.1.2

November 2019

1. Purpose

The Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) have a duty to provide support and advice in respect of Draft Proposals and Modification Proposals that affect or are likely to require change to the Technical Code Specifications, End-to-end Technical Architecture and/or the Business Architecture.

The TABASC have approved a set of principles to facilitate the assessment of Modification Proposals going through the Refinement Process and provide input to the Panel, the Change Sub-Committee, the Change Board and Modification Working Groups (WGs) as required. This document lists and describes those principles.

2. Scope

The principles described in the following section are intended to aid the TABASC in the assessment of Modification Proposals on a case-by-case basis. The principles are not limiting and are envisaged to evolve over time.

The principles will also be made available to WGs to advise on the nature of the TABASC's assessment. These principles do not take precedence over the SEC, which requires that Modification Proposals will be assessed against SEC Objectives, as part of the Modifications Process.

3. TABASC Principles to assess Modification Proposals

Each principle consists of five sections: Name, Statements, Rationale, and Implications as follows:

Principle 1	
Name	User Simplicity
Statements	Any solution should minimise operational complexity for Service Users with consideration of viability.
Rationale	The intent behind this principle is to prevent, as much as possible, each individual User being burdened with the design, development and management of additional systems and process complexity where it can be carried out by DCC. Both economic and technical viability shall be taken into consideration, depending on the Modification Proposal.
Outcomes	- Users will not be burdened with having to build in complexity to every system where DCC can do it once.

Principle 2	
Name	Efficiency of Implementation

Statements	Efficiencies in implementation should be ensured where possible.
Rationale	The intent behind this principle is to ensure that, where possible, multiple changes made to the same area are implemented as a single change in a coordinated manner.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be efficiency of costs when implementing two or more relevant changes in a coordinated manner. - There will be efficiency of processes when implementing two or more relevant changes in a coordinated manner.

Principle 3

Name	Design Integrity
Statements	Impact to the Technical/Business Architecture should be limited, unless significant benefit is identified.
Rationale	The intent behind this principle is to ensure stability of operating design.
Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical/ Business Architecture will remain stable. - Stability of Technical/ Business Architecture will provide Smart stakeholders with certainty and confidence in business continuity.

Principle 4

Name	Change Relevance
Statements	Change should not replicate existing business systems, processes and other industry code provisions or requirements, unless significant benefit is identified.
Rationale	The intent behind this principle is to assess the appropriateness and relevance of a specific change, so to ensure that the Smart Metering System does not take on industry functions outside its remit without specific consideration of the benefits.
Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smart resources will be allocated to Smart solutions only. - Work developed by Working Groups will not duplicate work developed elsewhere.

Principle 5

Name	Use of the latest Protocol Standards
Statements	The Technical Architecture should consider keeping alignment with developments in the relevant open protocol standards used, as and when opportunities allow.
Rationale	The intent is to ensure developments in relevant open protocol standards used within the Technical Specifications remain fit for purpose. Opportunities include when a SEC modification requires functionality from a later version of the protocol specification, or when the review of the effectiveness of the End-to-End Technical

	Architecture identifies constraints or reduced benefit realisation due to the use of older versions of the protocol specifications.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GB Smart Metering infrastructure will keep pace of developments in relevant open protocol standards and, as a result, allow improvements in service quality and capability to be exercised. - Certification of Devices can remain fit for purpose with developments in the relevant open protocol standards. - An upgrade to the latest version of the relevant open protocol standard may impact the cost of a modification and therefore require additional justification. - If the efficiency and effectiveness review identifies benefit in moving to the latest version of the specification, then a modification will need to be raised by industry and justified on its own merits.