

**Melanie Lythgo**

**Head of Cost Accounting**

**University of Manchester**

**Pricing and Charging**

# Process

- Establish a framework for the pricing and charging for access to equipment under the N8 Equipment Sharing agenda
- Academic and Administrative membership from all N8 partners
- WG Meetings held during 2013 - excellent attendance and input
- Further Consultation
- Lots of issues identified and worked through
- Approach through adoption of Key Principles

# Key Principles

- Simple and Transparent
- Approved by Funders
- Non-Bureaucratic
  
- Initiative is based on Efficiency
- Need to find a solution without creating whole new bureaucracy
- Needs to be practical and manageable

# Simple - Band Approach



## Band 1 – New Infrastructure Framework Applies

- Strategic Facilities as defined by N8 Universities that are part of the competitive award winning process and research growth of the 8 universities

## Band 2 – New Infrastructure Framework Optional

- Larger pieces of equipment where formal/informal sharing may already exist as a result of collaborative working. Equipment with the capacity and capability to be shared. For this equipment uptake of the model is optional

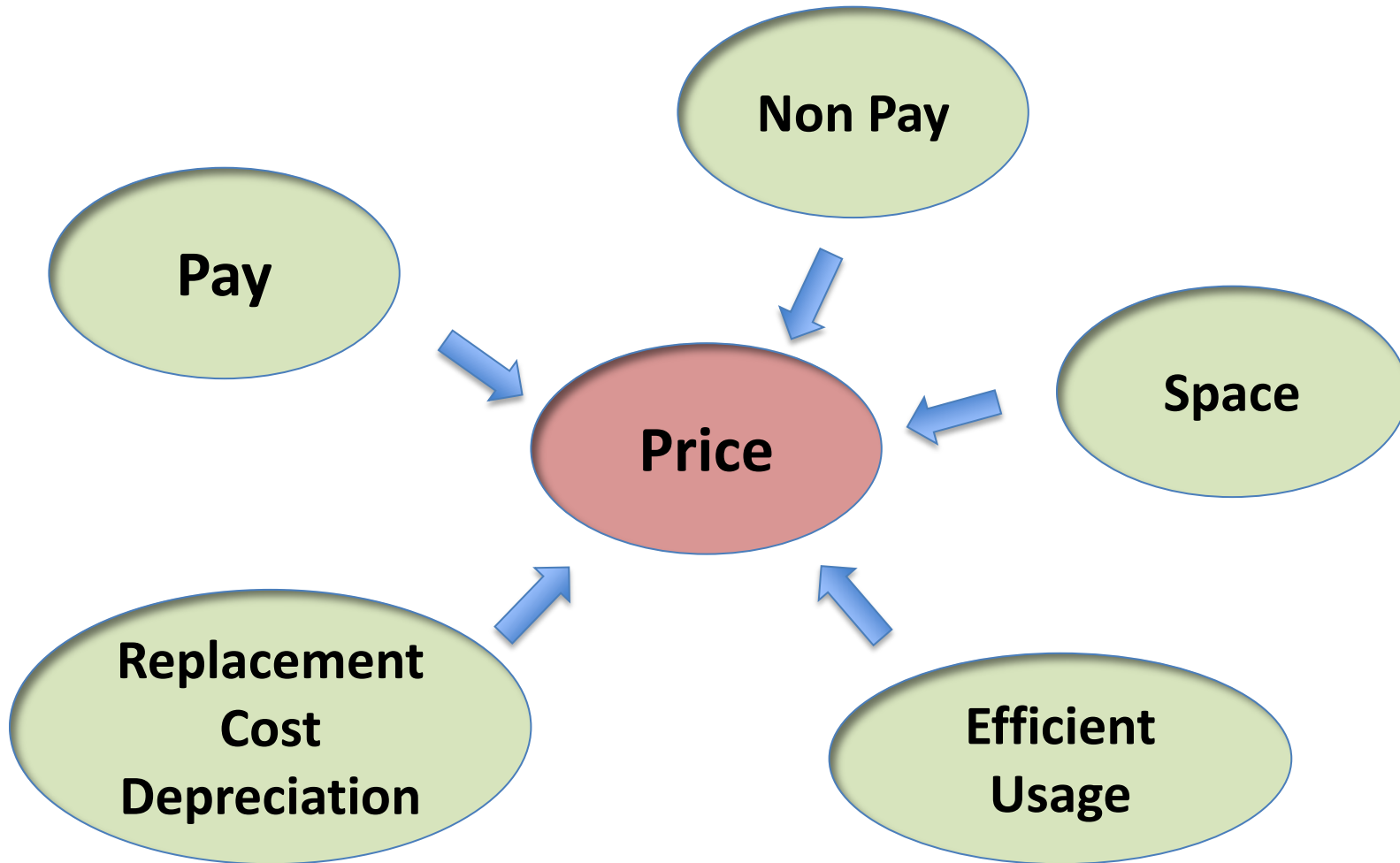
## Band 3 – New Infrastructure Framework Unlikely to apply

- Smaller equipment that does not lend itself to sharing and identified via the new N8 database

# Transparent - Cost Model

- **Transparent** Approach to Costing (TRAC)
- TRAC Research Facility Model
  - Established costing tool for the sector
  - Approved by Funders
  - Cost models built up over time
  - Agreement on principles
- Involvement of TRAC Support Desk
- TRAC Practitioners Guide to Equipment Sharing
- Full TRAC guidance review will look at facilities

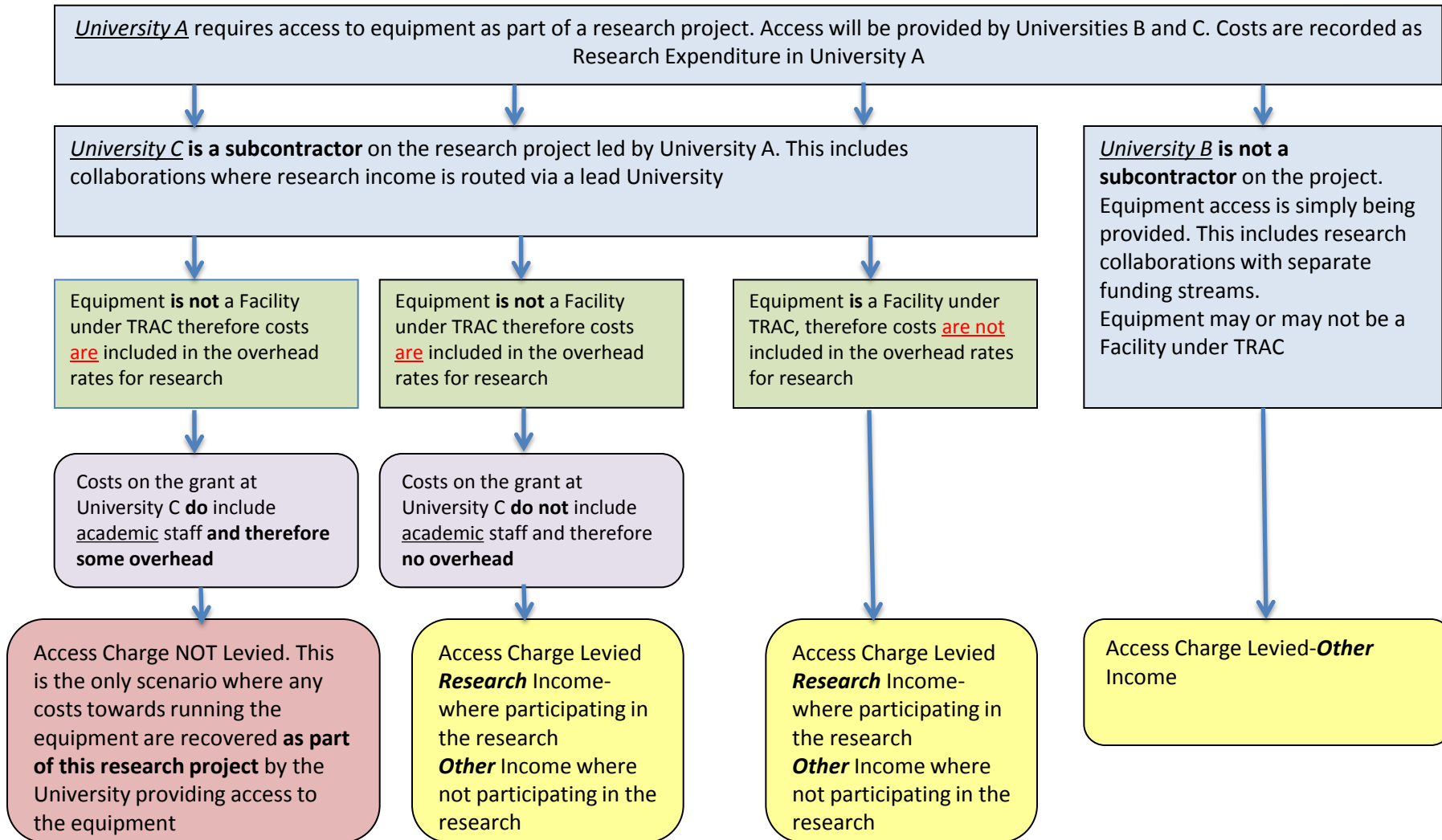
# Elements of Cost Model



# Approved by Funders

- Established cost model for sector
- Involvement of TRAC Support Unit throughout process
- Liaison with RCUK representatives through TRAC Development Group route
- Check other funder T & Cs

# Charging Pathways





# Toolkit

- Band Approach
- Charging Pathways Flowchart
- Cost Elements and Key Points to Note
- Cost Model Example
  - Notes
  - Main Costing Summary
  - Staff Analysis
  - Replacement Cost Depreciation
  - Space
  - Efficient Usage
- Leeds / MRC asset lives
- Frequently Asked Questions

# Key Messages

- No requirement for TRAC facility status to charge
- No rush to change basis for costing and TRAC facility status-assess whether this works for that area as before
- Toolkit is there to help not to impose
- FAQs really help - so raise questions so that we can include them and others might benefit!

# Next Steps

- TRAC Development Group guide on progress with Equipment Sharing
  - TRAC Support Unit liaising with RCUK on principle of including depreciation
  - Consultation on revised TRAC guidance
- Identify new sharing possibilities
- Promote toolkit
- Ongoing update FAQ resource

# Contacts



Melanie Lythgo

Pricing and Charging Work stream Lead  
Head of Cost Accounting  
University of Manchester

[melanie.lythgo@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:melanie.lythgo@manchester.ac.uk)

Tel: 0161 275 7673