BBSRC SCORECARD: DELIVERABLES AND TARGETS, 2007-08

Note: financial figures have been amended where appropriate to reflect fEC uplift.

Delivery Plan section	Deliverable	2007-08 Target	Milestones	Progress over 2007-08
Healthy disciplines	To sustain the vibrant UK bioscience base	Increase responsive mode funding by 4% pa to £187.2M (adjusted following the 2007 Supplementary revisions).	• Annual target for commitment is: £187.2M for 2007-08 • Actual expenditure to be monitored following each grants round	
		Increase the proportion of responsive mode grants supporting larger and longer-term programmes: by 2007-08, support a rolling portfolio of 10-15 grants	• Finalise mechanism for ensuring 20% of budget can be allocated to longer, larger grants from 2008 (Dec 07) • Build portfolio of longer, larger grants to 10-15 (Mar 08) • Progress to be monitored by Strategy Board (May and November)	
		Work with universities and others to make the introduction of FEC on grants work effectively	• Participate in visits to HEIs (Mar 08) • Monitor the impact and funding trends post fEC (with other RCs) (on-going) • Lead RCUK project to improve assurance of TRAC methodology at HEIs	
		Embed evaluation strategy with programme of formal evaluations of the responsive mode research portfolio and research initiatives	• Respond to outcome of reviews of Biochemistry and Cell Biology and Genes and Developmental Biology (Sept 07) • Complete evaluations of Agri-Food (Sept 07) and Engineering and Biological Systems (Mar 08) • Initiate evaluation of Plant and Microbial Sciences (Mar 08)	

Delivery Plan section	Deliverable	2007-08 Target	Milestones	Progress over 2007-08

Healthy disciplines (ctd)	To sustain the vibrant UK bioscience base (ctd)	Embed evaluation strategy with programme of formal evaluations of the responsive mode research portfolio and research initiatives (ctd)	• Complete evaluations of initiatives as required:
			  • Biology of Spongiform Encephalopathies (Sept 07)
			  • Science of Ageing and Experimental Research into Ageing (Dec 07)	

		Establish a portfolio of large multidisciplinary programmes	• Further develop initiative on integrative systems biology centres (see below) • Other programmes to be developed in line with Strategic Plan	
		Increase research at the interface of the biosciences with the physical sciences, mathematics and engineering	• Complete allocation of £5M to Selective Chemical Intervention In Biological Systems initiative (Jun 07) • Develop and promote interactions between BBSRC-sponsored staff and physical science and engineering staff at the new Science and Technology Facilities Council (Mar 08) • Stimulate ideas for cross-disciplinary research and collaborations, eg through: major international workshops, and networks (on-going) • Work with other Research Councils to develop multidisciplinary programmes in Energy, Living with Environmental Change, Lifelong Health & Wellbeing, Global Threats to Security, and Nanotechnology & Nanoscience (Mar 08)	

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Healthy disciplines (ctd)	Deliver the BBSRC's share of the RCUK Gershon Efficiency Programme	Demonstrate cumulative efficiency saving of £39.2M	• Cumulative target for 2007-08: £39.2M, including:
			  • Reprioritisation of programmes including training: £16M
			  • Reduction of administration costs: £1.2M
			  • Increased efficiency of RC Institutes including better use of capital infrastructure: £19M
			  • Greater co-funding: £3M
			• Work with other RCs to develop Shared Service Centre business case and implementation plans	

Integrative systems biology	To build capacity and promote cooperative and multidisciplinary working	Commit an additional £36.25M over three years to integrative systems biology	• Annual targets for commitment and staffing levels are:
			  • 2007-08: additional £10.9M, 90 research staff
			  • Establish collaborative research with European partners in systems biology research (Mar 08)
			  • Complete allocation of funds through initiatives in Systems Approaches to Biological Research (Sept 07) and Mathematical Tools for Systems Biology (Dec 07)
			• Progress to be monitored by the Integrative Systems Biology Strategy Panel and reporting to Strategy Board	

		A total of at least six centres will be established in research-intensive universities by 2007-08	• Finalise establishment of 3 new centres announced in 06-07 (Jun 07) • Monitor performance of all centres (on-going)	

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Tools & resources	To equip researchers for 21st century bioscience	Invest £23.2M over 2006-07 to 2008-09 in tools and resources (eg equipment, databases, culture collections, genetic resources)	• Annual target for commitment in 2007-08: £12.0M, including:
			  • £6M to Technology Development Research Initiative
			  • £6M to Bioinformatics and Biological Resources Fund
			• Expenditure monitored by the Tools & Resources Strategy Panel reporting to Strategy Board in May and September	

		Invest £16M over the SR2004 spending period in the on-going Research Equipment Initiative (REI)	• Remaining annual commitment target for REI in 2007-08: £5.0M	
		Build on previous Spending Review investment in e-science, with new activities promoting informatics and computational methods in biology	• Funding to be committed (from 2006) via Systems Biology investment	
Crop Sciences	To meet the need for more targeted research on crop science, as distinct from basic plant science	Invest £11.6M over the Spending Review period	• Expenditure committed during 2006-07 to be monitored by Sustainable Agriculture Strategy Panel reporting to Strategy Board (May, November each year) • Continue to develop Cross-institute Programme MONOGRAM (IGER, RRes and JIC) to create added value and critical mass, monitored by Sustainable Agriculture Strategy Panel reporting to Strategy Board (May, Nov 07) • Finalise allocation of funding through joint programme with DfID in crop and plant science relevant to developing countries (Sept 07)	

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Animal health & welfare	To seize opportunities presented by advances in genomics to take forward research in animal health and welfare	Over the planning period, commit £13.2M to animal health and associated animal welfare research, with expenditure to include:
		• work with MRC to support and increase funding for the National Centre for the 3Rs
			• Finalise allocation of funding (£8.7M + £1.45M for industrial partnerships) via 'Combating endemic disease' initiative (Jun 07)
			
			• BBSRC total investment over SR2004 period to be c£820K:
			• Demonstrate joint commitment to 3Rs in non-human primate research
			  • 07-08: allocate £453K (Mar 08)
			  • Complete assessment of proposals in response to joint call with NC3Rs for tissue engineering solutions for replacing animal experiments (Sept 07)
			  • Work with NC3Rs to develop cross-funder guidelines for animal research (Mar 08)	

		Promote BBSRC research in animal welfare	• Continue to monitor, coordinate and develop welfare research via Steering Group	

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Other developing research areas	To achieve agility in funding and focus research and training in key and emerging areas crucial to the delivery of BBSRC's vision over the next decade	Ensure BBSRC is on track to meet scientific objectives in the Strategic Plan	• Complete review of Institute of Food Research science and governance (Apr 07)
			• Finalise input to CSR2007:
			  • Complete input for OSI bid to HMT (May 07)
			  • Finalise BBSRC input for decisions on RC-specific allocations (Nov 07)
			• Instigate strategic science reviews as required (Mar 08)	

			• With other UK funders, complete review of provision of land-based research facilities (Dec 07)	
			• Commit £1M via joint-Council programme New Dynamics of Ageing (Mar 08) • Contribute up to £2M to a call (with MRC, EPSRC and ESRC) for research centres on lifelong health and wellbeing (Mar 08)	
			• Provide the secretariat for the National Stem Cell Network set up in response to the UKSCI (Pattison) report (Mar 08) • Assess outline (Jul 07) and shortlisted (Mar 08) applications to Bioenergy initiative, to build UK capacity; funding to commence in 2008-09	

Delivery Plan section	Deliverable	2007-08 Target	Milestones	Progress over 2007-08

Research training and careers	To provide integrated support to equip researchers with the skills and expertise needed to deliver BBSRC strategic priorities, and to sustain the competitiveness of UK bioindustries	Develop training strategy to provide integrated support to equip researchers with the skills and expertise needed to deliver the BBSRC strategic priorities	• Award new PhD studentships as flexible 4-year packages (Oct 07)
			• Hold call for proposals (May 07) for:
			  • BBSRC Quota Doctoral Training Grants (2009 start), promoting quality, broad-based training
			  • Targeted Priority Studentships in ageing, bioprocessing, and food research
			  • Industrial CASE Partnership studentships (quotas to major UK industrial partners)
			  • Industrial CASE studentships, aimed particularly at SMEs
			• Hold call for proposals for BBSRC fellowship competition, including second round of Institute Fellowship schemes (Sept 07)
			• Launch (with RCUK) new UKGrad programme, providing skills training for postdocs and postgraduates (Jan 08)
			• With RCUK develop new Code of Practice for Management of Researchers (Oct 07)
			• Hold biennial BBSRC Research Fellows conference (Sept 07)
			• Adopt JeS system for submission of studentship proposals (May 07) and of annual and final reports from fellows (Jun 07)
			• Award new flexible Masters Training Grants in priority training areas (Oct 07)	

Delivery Plan section	Deliverable	2007-08 Target	Milestones	Progress over 2007-08

Research training and careers (ctd)	To provide integrated support to equip researchers with the skills and expertise needed to deliver BBSRC strategic priorities, and to sustain the competitiveness of UK bioindustries (ctd)	Increase investment in training and fellowship awards, and provide enhanced stipends for postdoctoral salaries to promote and protect recruitment and retention in key areas	• Commitment targets for 2007-08:
			  • studentships: £39.0M
			  • fellowships: £5.3M
			• Increase Vacation Bursaries to £200 per week, and continue scheme for Vacation Bursaries in Mathematical Biology (Jul 07)	

		Further develop good opportunities for training and personal development for researchers wishing to pursue careers within the BBSRC institutes	• Review first round of institute fellowship scheme and agree revisions as needed (Jul 07) • Role out Management Development project (Mar 08) • Review merit promotion schemes for institute scientists (Mar 08)	

Sustainable institute base	A sustainable institute base to undertake longer-term strategic and multi-disciplinary research, and provide a diverse range of KT activity	Implement changes in response to reviews of the quality and strategic relevance of institute research (2005 Institute Assessment Exercise)	• A programme board coordinates a range of changes which include:
			  • Transition from Roslin-Neuropathogenesis Unit to new institute embedded in Edinburgh University (Mar 08)
			  • Agreed changes in governance (see below)
			  • Implement Council decisions on transfer of IGER to UWA
			  • Implementing Council decisions following review of IFR (Mar 08)
			  • Reviewing institute funding and assessment mechanisms (Dec 07)
			• Ensure implementation of recommendations from the 2006 review of provision of mathematical biology across BBSRC sponsored institutes (Mar 08)	

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Sustainable institute base (ctd)	A sustainable institute base to undertake longer-term strategic and multi-disciplinary research, and provide a diverse range of KT activity (ctd)	Implement changes in response to reviews of the quality and strategic relevance of institute research (2005 Institute Assessment Exercise) (ctd)	• Run institute fellowship scheme and award new fellowships (Mar 08) (see p. 7) • With other UK funders, complete review of provision of land-based research facilities (Dec 07; see p.6) • See also milestones in research training and careers (p. 7)	

		Increase core funding by an average of 3% pa, and seek to establish sustainable funding strategies in keeping with the RIPSS review	• Continue implementation of governance changes following Follett review:
			  • **BI**: further analysis of options (Apr 09)
			  • **IAH**: move to direct BBSRC control, but investigate controlled charity model (Apr 09)
			  • **IFR**: decisions delayed pending current review reporting in Apr 07
			  • **IGER**: IGER to become part of UW Aberystwyth (Apr 08)
			  • **JIC**: further analysis of options (Apr 09)
			  • **RI**: become part of EBRC with University of Edinburgh; to include IAH TSEs work (Apr 08)
			  • **RRes**: move to direct BBSRC control but investigate controlled charity model; take over management responsibility for North Wyke from IGER (Apr 08)	

		Implement institutes estates strategy	• Invest £5.8M in Pirbright redevelopment (Mar 08) • Design facilities for EBRC (Mar 08) • Reduce backlog as part of approved 10 year maintenance plan	

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Inter-national collab-oration	To strengthen the UK science base through interactions and collaborations with the best research groups overseas	Over the SR period build on existing activities to help ensure that UK researchers remain well-positioned to exploit international research initiatives and opportunities	• Implement BBSRC International Strategy including measures to promote closer collaboration with USA (Mar 08) • Play a full role in negotiating the EU Seventh Framework Programme (Mar 08) • Continue BBSRC membership of the European Science Foundation and with MRC provide the UK subscriptions to HFSP and EMBC, and ensure programmes are of benefit to the life sciences community (Mar 08) • Ensure UK interests protected in HFSP Intergovernmental Conference (Jun 07) • Work with DfID and other partners to deliver BBSRC research to meet development agenda, through UK Collaborative for Development Science and other means (Mar 08) • Explore strategic bilateral relations, especially with EU Member States, USA, Canada, Japan, China, India, Brazil and GSIF Strategy priorities (Mar 08) • Raise awareness of international research initiatives and opportunities (Mar 08) • Fund visits, workshops and partnering awards (Mar 08)	

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Inter-national collab-oration (ctd)	To strengthen the UK science base through interactions and collaborations with the best research groups overseas (ctd)	Over the SR period build on existing activities to help ensure that UK researchers remain well-positioned to exploit international research initiatives and opportunities (ctd)	• Work with Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) to deliver coordinated programme of research in systems biology (Mar 08) • As managing sponsor of UK Research Office, Brussels ensure UKRO continues to meet needs of subscribed sponsors (on-going)	
Exploitation and economic impact of research	To encourage research relevant to industrial needs	Develop and implement Technology Strategy through increased investment in priority areas such as bioprocessing, integrative mammalian physiology, biocatalysis/biotransformation, liaising with DTI and other partners wherever appropriate	• Award at least £4M of new grants in research relevant to industrial needs under the Bioprocessing Research Industry Club (Sept 07) • Develop further call for proposals under BRIC meeting industrial needs (Mar 08) • Continue to improve mechanisms for joint working with TSB participating in joint calls where appropriate (Mar 08) • Establish Steering Group to coordinate new centres to build capacity in integrative mammalian biology set up via Integrative Mammalian Physiology initiative, funded by BBSRC, HEFCE, MRC, DTI and industry (Jun 07) Monitor progress (on-going) • Maximise use of PSRE funding to enhance capacity to interact with bio-based industries (Mar 08) • Initiate new industry/academe interaction in food research for diet and health (Mar 08) • Explore potential to enhance industry/academe interaction relating to biorefineries (Mar 08)	

Delivery Plan section	Deliverable	2007-08 Target	Milestones	Progress over 2007-08
Exploitation and economic impact of research (ctd)	To help maintain the UK's position as European leader in bioindustry enterprise	Double current research grants support for collaborative research to £8M new awards in that year, increasing four-fold the number of Industrial Partnership Awards	Meet or exceed KT targets by: • Committing at least £8M to new collaborative research awards (Mar 08) • Exceeding four-fold increase in IPAs, aiming to award £4M of new grants (Mar 08)	
		Develop existing portfolio of mechanisms to identify the exploitation potential of research outputs, including: • Increase support for Follow-on Fund to £1.45M pa • Award 10 Enterprise Fellowships (cumulative)	Meet or exceed KT targets by: • Increasing YES to over 250 participants involving at least two RDAs (Dec 07) • Awarding £1.45M of new Follow-on Fund awards (Mar 08) • Having awarded 6 Enterprise Fellowship awards to date, endeavouring to support a further 4 high quality proposals, recognising that this is a stretch target (Mar 08)	
	To encourage industrially-relevant training	Maintain high commitment to collaborative training and career development with industry, through: • Increase modular training scheme support by 40% • Increase new-start industrial CASE studentships to 120 pa	Meet or exceed KT targets by: • Working with RDAs to identify appropriate SMEs and MEs as Industrial CASE partners (Mar 08) • Awarding 120 new Industrial CASE studentships (Mar 08); • Awarding funding to at least 10 new industrial training modules (Mar 08)	
	To encourage people and knowledge flows between science and industry	Enhance support for the flow of relevant people and knowledge to industry, by increasing annual spend on interchange activities to £0.5M	Meet or exceed KT targets by: • Awarding at least 10 new interchanges between industry and academe through the new Industry Interchange Programme (Mar 08) • Spending (£0.5M) on interchange activities (Industry Interchange Programme, Industry Fellowships and KTP) (Mar 08)	

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Exploitation and economic impact of research (ctd)	To promote the socioeconomic impact of BBSRC-funded research	Develop understanding of socioeconomic impact of BBSRC-funded research	• Working with RCUK develop BBSRC case studies on economic impact, contribute to User survey and review scope for coordination of KT activities (Sep 07) • Provide analysis impact and interactions of 10 leading university bioscience departments (Sep 07) • BBSRC institutes to reports on economic and social impact of their activities (Mar 08)	
Science & Society	To ensure that there is mutual understanding between the research community and other stakeholders, including the public	Embed the science and society agenda in BBSRC decision making, promote dialogue and consultation, and increase the Council's openness and transparency	• With MRC and under the auspices of RCUK, conduct Sciencewise-funded programme of public dialogue about science and societal issues raised by stem cell research (Mar 08) • With MRC and under auspices of RCUK, continue to support a public exhibition and associated discussion meetings on stem cells research (Mar 08) • Investigate societal issues around synthetic biology research, to inform BBSRC's policy making and communications activities (Mar 08) • Use evidence from public attitudes ageing research, to develop a travelling exhibition with MRC about research outcomes for parliamentarians, health care professionals and the public (Mar 08) • Contribute to RCUK public engage-ment on energy research (Mar 08) • Continue to publish position statements and reports of BBSRC's research contribution to areas of high public interest (Mar 08)	

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Science & Society (ctd)	To ensure that there is mutual understanding between the research community and other stakeholders, including the public (ctd)	Embed the science and society agenda in BBSRC decision making, promote dialogue and consultation, and increase the Council's openness and transparency (ctd)	• Continue to develop BBSRC website to support BBSRC science communication and Science in Society objectives (Mar 08) • Ensure science in society issues are addressed in redevelopment of BBSRC's website • Continue to contribute to delivery of aims of RCUK Science in Society Strategy, particularly for examples in activities to celebrate the bicentenary of Darwin's birth, Olympics 2012 etc (on-going) • Contribute to public event on "National Falls Day" to illustrate research that contributes to improving mobility of elderly people and discuss how communities might benefit (Jun 07)	
		Plan and launch programme of core strategic Science in Society activities across BBSRC Institutes	• Work with BBSRC institutes to develop core programmes of public engagement and dialogue aimed at engaging and enthusing school students at Key Stages 4 and 5, and review in the light of RCUK Education Review (Mar 08)	
		Align BBSRC activities with RCUK Science in Society Strategy and OSI Ten Year Framework: Next Steps	• Continue to work with RCUK Science in Society Unit and, where appropriate, the new Beacons for Public Engagement on public engagement, dialogue and schools activities (Mar 08)	