

BBSRC ANNUAL DELIVERY REPORT 2006/07

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recent successes: UK bioscience continues to thrive, with increasing numbers of researchers and students, and excellent and improving bibliometric indicators. However, this success places significant pressure on bioscience funding and there is a challenge going forward to maintain the UK's world-leading position. Notable scientific achievements in BBSRC-funded areas have included advances in the understanding of nitrogen fixation by crops, the role of calcium signalling in controlling the response of immune cells, and in the evolutionary relationships of genes.

Progress in management: BBSRC is moving to increase efficiency by consolidating the number and remit of committees assessing responsive mode grant proposals. The introduction of electronic documents and records management has produced efficiencies in office operations.

Progress to date against targets and milestones: BBSRC met or exceeded almost all of the targets set for 2006/07. Achievements include:

- launched further initiatives in systems biology
- significant investment in tools and resources for the biosciences
- substantial funding in priority areas such as animal health and crop science (including major co-funding from DFID)
- exceeded funding target for collaborative research with industry and enhanced funding to promote economic impact, including support for the Follow-on Fund and the establishment of a research club for the bioprocessing industry
- launched two new Institute Fellowship schemes to help strengthen the research base in the BBSRC-sponsored institutes
- reviewed the governance of the BBSRC-sponsored institutes and began steps to revise governance arrangements.

Future targets/milestones on Objective 1 and Objective 2: BBSRC will build on investments in a number of key areas. We will:

- continue major investment in systems biology
- maintain support for priority topics of animal health and welfare, crop science, tools and resources, and ageing research
- continue with an ambitious programme of evaluation of responsive mode funding
- with RCUK, launch the new UKGrad programme, and develop a new Code of Practice for Management of Researchers
- continue to ensure that research relevant to industry is funded through various mechanisms including industry clubs
- expand activities to enhance economic and social impact of research funded by the Council
- develop greater understanding of the socioeconomic impact of BBSRC-funded research

Gershon efficiency programme: BBSRC exceeded its target for efficiency savings in 2006/07 and remains committed to future targets for further savings achieved through reduced administration costs, more co-funding and reprioritisation of existing programmes. The Council is closely involved with the cross-Council Shared Services Centre project.

Science and Society: During 2006/07 BBSRC-led initiatives contributed to the implementation of the RCUK Science in Society Strategy, as well as meeting the Council's own targets. BBSRC also supported a number of activities coordinated by the RCUK Science in Society Unit.

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INTRODUCTION

This Report outlines BBSRC's progress against its objectives as defined in the BBSRC Delivery Plan 2005/08 (published in May 2005), and the Outputs 1 and 2 of the Office of Science and Innovation (OSI) Performance Management System. The structure and content are in accordance with the reporting requirements for all Research Councils as specified by the OSI. Further detail is available in the BBSRC Annual Report and Accounts 2006/07 (www.bbsrc.ac.uk/about/pub/policy/annrep.html).

RECENT SUCCESSES

A healthy UK science base

The UK bioscience base leads the world, as indicated by bibliometric indicators published in 2007 (Evidence Ltd; www.dti.gov.uk/files/file38817.pdf) and the number of researchers has continued to increase.

BBSRC funds high quality basic and strategic research that adds significantly to the knowledge base that underpins the agri-food, pharmaceutical, healthcare and other bioindustry sectors. The time taken for a scientific discovery to become exploitable in commercial terms is often protracted in the life sciences. Examples of high quality science that may ultimately lead to practical applications as well as being exciting scientific discoveries include (with links to BBSRC press releases):

- Scientists at Cambridge and Oxford have shown how SARS and Human Immunodeficiency Viruses can produce different proteins from the same region of DNA which help the viruses to survive and multiply ([Nature 11 May 2006](#)).
- Plants have been induced to form the nodules required to fix nitrogen from the air, but in the absence of the normal symbiotic bacteria. This collaborative work, between the John Innes Centre and Washington State University, may be an early step in reducing the need for nitrogen fertilisers, which can contribute to pollution and to greenhouse gas production ([Nature 29 June 2006](#)).
- Calcium is used as a signal within cells and controls such essential processes as heartbeat and fertilisation of the ovum, yet it has a very specific effect in individual cells in response to specific signals. How it does this has been a puzzle. Scientists at Cambridge have shown just 2-3 channels that allow calcium to cross a cell membrane control the responses of immune cells. This knowledge may help in targeting drugs to the correct location ([Science 14 July 2006](#)).
- Fundamental studies of the evolutionary relationships of genes by scientists at Bath and Lausanne have shown that better results may be obtained for applications such as gene therapy by altering gene sequences encoding proteins ([PLoS Biology Feb 2007](#)).
- Gene comparisons in the bacterium that can cause stomach ulcers, *Helicobacter pylori*, have shown that the bacterium migrated with man from Africa over 60,000 years ago. Researchers at Cambridge, Berlin and Hannover have been using computer simulation based on the bacterial gene sequences to model early human migration patterns ([Nature online 7 Feb 2007](#)).

BBSRC exceeded its 2006/07 target for investment in collaborative research. For further detail of achievements in support of industrial collaboration, knowledge transfer and commercialisation, see **Progress to date** (below).

PROGRESS IN MANAGEMENT

BBSRC continues to manage its administration very tightly and has again operated at a level below the overall Research Council target for proportion of science budget funds spent on administration.

A major change now being implemented, following wide consultation with the BBSRC research community, is to reduce the number of committees considering responsive mode grant applications. This move is in response to the changing nature and proportion of grant proposals submitted across the areas of science that we fund. On the administrative systems side, the introduction of SharePoint along with a formal electronic file plan has enabled BBSRC to manage documents electronically throughout the organisation. This has produced operational efficiencies and also reduced the amount of hard copy storage required.

PROGRESS TO DATE AGAINST 2006/07 TARGETS AND MILESTONES

BBSRC successfully met or exceeded almost all the targets and milestones for 2006/07, as shown in the [2006/07 Scorecard](#) (see page 7 for the few not met). Particular highlights include the following.

Healthy Disciplines

BBSRC continued to invest in the leading priority of **Systems Biology**. Following the establishment (co-funded with EPSRC) of the six university-based Centres for Integrative and Systems Biology, coordination activities across the Centres have been put in place. Further funds to support Systems Biology research across BBSRC's remit are being committed through the [Systems Approaches to Biological Research](#) initiative, which will establish large grants with multiple staff posts. The call attracted 76 initial proposals of which 23 were invited as full submissions. The [Exploiting Systems Biology LINK](#) initiative will support collaborative research with industry, based on the Centres established in the earlier funding rounds.

Biological research at the highest international level increasingly requires a **multidisciplinary** approach, with teams of researchers from different disciplines working together. Such work also requires access to the latest **tools and resources** generated by the biosciences community.

- The [longer-larger grants scheme](#) (established in 2005/06 to encourage grant applications of over £2M from multidisciplinary teams of researchers or for projects that are anticipated to require a longer time to achieve outputs) attracted 46 outline applications, of which 8 were invited for full submission.
- The [Technology Development Research Initiative](#) was launched in 2005/06 to fund specifically the development of new tools for bioscience research. During 2006/07, nineteen grants (17 projects) at a cost of £9.6M (including £3M from EPSRC) were awarded in the first round of the initiative and applications for the second round were received in March 2007.
- The [Tools and Resources Development Fund](#) has proved to be highly successful in supporting small or short-duration pump-priming technology-oriented approaches across BBSRC's remit. To end of 2006/07, 39 projects totalling £3.4M have been funded.
- As a third funding stream for tools and resources, to provide support for community-wide resources such as databanks and seed collections, BBSRC launched a pilot call against the £6M [Bioinformatics and Biological Resources Fund](#), which attracted 69 expressions of interest.
- Investment in large equipment for the biosciences continued through the [Research Equipment Initiative](#) (£6.5M in 2006/07).

Activities to encourage research and collaboration at the **interface of the biological sciences with the physical sciences**, mathematics and engineering have included £5.8M investment through the second round of the [Selective Chemical Intervention in Biological Systems initiative](#) (including £0.8M from EPSRC). Nine of the 10 projects awarded involved a chemistry department.

Investment in **crop science** research continued with the award of 18 projects (totalling over £13M) through the initiative in [Innovation in crop science - exploitation of genetics for sustainability](#). Four of the projects included significant co-funding from industry. In addition the joint BBSRC/DFID initiative in [Sustainable Agriculture Research for International Development](#) was launched. From 185 eligible outline proposals, requesting total funding of over £100M (more than 17 times the £6M available), 31 full applications were invited.

BBSRC continued significant investment in the field of **animal health and welfare**. A total of £4.6M was awarded to four projects in the [Combating avian influenza](#) initiative. An initiative in [Combating endemic diseases of farmed animals for sustainability](#) was launched, attracting 49 applications. In addition a joint call was launched with the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (N3CRs) for [tissue engineering solutions for replacing animal experiments](#).

BBSRC has built on its previous investment in **stem cell** research by taking the leading role in coordination of the cross-funder [UK National Stem Cell Network](#) (hosted by BBSRC but operating independently of all the sponsor bodies). BBSRC is also working with other Councils to provide fellowships in stem cell research.

BBSRC also agreed to commit £2M to the major cross-Council programme [New Dynamics of Ageing](#) to support a multidisciplinary programme in ageing research.

Activities in **Training and Career Development** included that BBSRC chaired the RCUK Research Careers and Diversity Group in 2006/07, and played an active role in developing RCUK activities in this area, leading to the publication of the [RCUK Research Careers and Diversity Strategy](#) in January 2007. BBSRC took part in the re-tendering of the prestigious UKGrad programme, and its development into a broader programme of support for both PhD and postdoctoral researchers. BBSRC also participated in the first conference for the RCUK Academic Fellows in January 2007, with the event being hosted by Professor Mary Bownes FRSE, the chair of the BBSRC's Studentships and Fellowships Panel.

Professor Goodfellow gave the keynote speech in September 2006 to the national conference of the new UK Higher Education Researcher Development (UKHERD) network, emphasising the importance of the postdoctoral career phase for attracting and retaining the best scientists in research careers. BBSRC has also introduced a new competitiveness appraisal factor in its grant assessment process, to reflect the important long-term training potential of postdoctoral research posts on grants.

BBSRC undertook a review of its 'New Investigator' scheme and made a number of changes in order to assist newly appointed lecturers in gaining their first research funding. BBSRC led a cross-Council group harmonising the terms and conditions for early-career fellowships. BBSRC also launched two new institute fellowship schemes in September 2006: a new Institute Career Path Fellowship to ensure that institutes can strengthen their long-term sustainability by attracting high-calibre early-career researchers; and the Institute Development Fellowship, enabling existing institute researchers to spend periods working with world-class scientists in other institutions, and bringing back new skills to their institute.

Building on the success of the [Vacation Bursaries](#) scheme (to give undergraduates an experience in a research laboratory during the summer vacation), it was expanded to provide 80 awards per year. BBSRC also launched a pilot scheme for Vacation Bursaries in Mathematical Biology in 2006 to tackle the challenge of ensuring that graduates in the

biological sciences are equipped with relevant and necessary skills for the current research environment.

BBSRC has sought to enhance the efficiency of its interactions with research organisations in regard to studentships, with the increased use of Doctoral Training Grants, and the introduction in February 2007 of a Je-S based system for the collection of student data. In the 2006 Masters studentship competition, BBSRC also sought to rely wherever possible on existing quality assurance documentation in order to reduce the administrative burden of applying, in line with the principles of the Higher Education Regulation Review Group (HERRG).

Examples of developments in training relevant to the exploitation of research are given below (under **Industrial collaboration, knowledge transfer and commercialisation**).

BBSRC continued the rolling programme of evaluations of its responsive mode research portfolio. In 2006/07 this included completion of the [Biochemistry and Cell Biology](#) and the Genes and Developmental Biology areas. The plan to initiate the evaluation of the Engineering and Biological Systems portfolio was revised for strategic reasons to cover the Agri-Food area, for which the report has been drafted. In addition, evaluations were instigated of previous BBSRC initiatives in transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and in ageing research.

Strategic planning activities have been taken forward to ensure that BBSRC continues to support research and training to deliver the Council's Ten-Year Vision. In 2006/07 BBSRC published reviews of [Bioenergy](#) and of [Microbial Sciences](#), the results of which have been used to inform the Council's strategic planning. BBSRC also published a [Food Research Strategy](#) for consultation. BBSRC's input to CSR2007 was developed through extensive consultation with BBSRC Strategy Panels and other bodies, and in liaison with other Research Councils.

Sustainable institute base

BBSRC published and consulted upon a review of [governance of the BBSRC-sponsored institutes](#), chaired by Sir Brian Follett. Following this review the institute Directors and Governing Bodies developed proposals for modernising governance in line with the review's recommendations, and these were presented to Council during the year. Preferred options are being taken forward for each institute, and will lead to some institutes moving to direct BBSRC control, while others will move to form closer partnerships with universities.

- A new Centre is being established in Edinburgh, bringing Roslin Institute and the Neuropathogenesis Unit (NPU, formerly part of the Institute for Animal Health) together with the University of Edinburgh veterinary school and the Scottish Agricultural College. The Centre will focus on using genome science to understand the shared biology of humans and other animals. A Programme Board has been established and a Director appointed for the new Centre.
- Plans were developed for IGER (Aberystwyth) to move to a new partnership with the University of Wales.
- The John Innes Centre and the Institute of Food Research improved the efficiency of their operations by merging their support services to form a new combined Operations Centre.
- Good progress has been made with implementation of the long-term estates strategy. In particular the redevelopment of the Pirbright site of the Institute for Animal Health reached the advanced design stage. The £121M project, which remains on budget, is being funded by BBSRC, DEFRA and the OSI Large Facilities Fund.

A review of the science and future governance of the [Institute of Food Research](#) took place; its recommendations will be addressed as part of the Council's revision of governance

arrangements. A review of [mathematical biology](#) across the BBSRC-sponsored institutes was completed, and its recommendations are being implemented through action plans developed by each institute.

New Institute Fellowship schemes have been established – see **Training and Career Development**, above.

In response to the recent [report on Research Council institutes](#) from the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, the limit on the amount of responsive mode funding for which the BBSRC-sponsored institutes may apply has been removed. This change has been introduced for a pilot year initially and will be reviewed before considering an extension.

International collaboration

It is essential that UK bioscientists are able to collaborate internationally with the best groups world-wide. BBSRC refreshed its international strategy through Council and continued to support several schemes to fund workshops, fellowships and overseas visits, to provide a range of opportunities for UK bioscientists. BBSRC participated in Ministerial bilaterals with China, Japan and India, and funded 20 [Partnering Awards](#) for collaborations with these nations. BBSRC co-funded three transnational research programmes: the [ERA-Net in Plant Genomics](#) (£5.2M), [Systems Biology in Microorganisms](#) (SysMo, £7.4M) and the [RNAQuality Eurocores](#) (through ESF, £1M). Further collaborative funding initiatives were launched with the French National Research Agency (ANR, for [systems biology](#)) and with DFID (for crop science of relevance to international development – see also **Healthy Disciplines**, above).

Within the EU, BBSRC worked closely with UK government departments and counterpart agencies in France and the Netherlands to ensure the Seventh Framework Programme ([FP7](#)) was launched on time, and that its first calls for proposals, including the new [European Research Council](#), provided opportunities appropriate for the UK. BBSRC continues to manage the [UK Research Office](#) (UKRO) on behalf of the Research Councils to promote effective UK participation in EU higher education and research programmes.

BBSRC provided input to the [Global Science and Innovation Forum](#) (GSIF) and its strategy, published in October 2006, and played a full role in RCUK international activities, including scoping RCUK Offices overseas.

Industrial collaboration, knowledge transfer and commercialisation

Examples of where BBSRC is enhancing the economic impact of its funding through research and training relevant to industrial needs include:

- BBSRC exceeded its 2006/07 target for investment in collaborative research.
- BBSRC continues to develop and implement a [Technology Strategy](#) through increased investment in priority areas of relevance to industry. This has included awarding grants totalling £5M through the [Bioprocessing Research Industry Club](#) and establishing, with HEFCE, industry and other funders, four centres in [Integrative Mammalian Biology](#).
- BBSRC has committed £2.6M to co-funding, with DTI and EPSRC, collaborative research projects through the national Technology Programme in the areas of regenerative medicine and biocatalysis/biotransformations.
- BBSRC recruited two new members of staff to enhance capacity to interact with bio-based industries.
- BBSRC maintained commitment to collaborative training and career development with industry through awarding 111 new Industrial CASE studentships and investing £182k in [modular training](#).

BBSRC continued to deliver a portfolio of activities to enable researchers to take forward research outputs with commercial potential. Examples include:

- BBSRC made a further 15 awards totalling £1.3M through the [Follow-on Fund](#).
- BBSRC supported 7 exchanges through the new [Industry Interchange Scheme](#) to enable the movement of people between the science base and industry.

Missed or delayed targets

Missed targets:

- The annual target for overall commitment was not met, as the budget for the third and fourth of the four annual grant rounds was reduced to meet DTI's Spring Supplementary Revisions.
- The timetable for numbers of researchers in systems biology centres in 2006-07 has slipped due to staff recruitment issues at universities.
- A milestone to agree with Defra on funding arrangements for the BBSRC-sponsored institutes has not been achieved, as Defra was not prepared to agree to a long-term funding strategy.

Delayed target:

- A milestone to contribute to RCUK public engagement on energy research has been delayed and is being taken forward through RCUK to new specification.

FUTURE TARGETS/MILESTONES ON OBJECTIVE 1 AND OBJECTIVE 2

Full details of targets and milestones for the 2007/08 period can be found in the [2007/08 Scorecard](#). Examples of future targets and milestones include:

- BBSRC will sustain the **healthy state of UK bioscience** by maintaining responsive mode grant funding, including expansion of the portfolio of longer and larger grants, and increasing research at the interface of the biosciences with the physical sciences, mathematics and engineering. A risk to overall commitment would be further Supplementary Revisions by DTI.
- **Priority areas:** Investment will continue in the leading priority of **systems biology**, through the six centres as well as further grants to be awarded through the Systems Approaches to Biological Research initiative. The annual commitment target for 2007/08 is an additional £10.9M, but this target may not be met in view of ongoing recruitment issues in this specialist field in universities. Investment will also continue for tools and resources (target for 2007/08 is an additional £12M). Support for **crop science** will continue through finalising the funding allocation in the joint initiative with DFID, and by continuing to develop the cross-institute programme MONOGRAM. In **animal health and welfare**, funding allocations will be finalised for the Combating Endemic Diseases initiative, and joint working with the N3CRs will continue. BBSRC will continue to support cross-Council activities in ageing research, mainly through support for the MRC-led call for [Centres in Lifelong Health and Wellbeing](#), but also where appropriate through priorities in responsive mode.
- Activity in other developing research areas will include the completion (with other funders) of a review of land-based research facilities, and commitment of £1M through a joint programme on New Dynamics of Ageing. Applications will be assessed for the Bioenergy initiative.
- A number of activities will be undertaken to support **research training and careers** and to equip researchers to deliver BBSRC's Strategic Objectives. As well as continuing to award studentship and fellowships (including the first institute fellowships), BBSRC will launch (with RCUK) the new UKGrad programme, and develop (also with RCUK) a new Code of Practice for Management of Researchers. The development of a single code

that has the agreement of all major UK research funders as well as the HEI sector will be a significant achievement, with the risk that this will not be attained; strong RCUK leadership will help mitigate this risk.

- BBSRC will continue to implement a rolling **programme of evaluations** of the responsive mode research portfolio. In 2007/08 this will include completion of the Agri-Food and Engineering and Biological Systems areas, initiation of the evaluation of the Plant and Microbial Sciences portfolio and evaluation of initiatives as required.
- BBSRC will continue to implement changes to modernise **governance of the sponsored institutes**, including the transition of Roslin-NPU to a new centre embedded within the University of Edinburgh, transfer of IGER (Aberystwyth) to the University of Wales, and consideration of options for closer integration of IFR with the university sector.
- Support for **international collaboration** will continue, including working with DFID and others through the Collaborative for Development Science.

Activities in **Knowledge Transfer and Exploitation** will include:

- To encourage research relevant to industrial needs BBSRC will continue to develop and deliver its Technology Strategy, expanding activities to provide co-funding alongside industrial and other partners. This will include, for example, increased working with the new Technology Strategy Board. BBSRC will also initiate new industry/academic interaction in food research for diet and health and explore the potential to enhance such interaction relating to biorefineries.
- The Council will continue to expand the existing portfolio of activities to take forward research outputs with commercial potential and will review with other Councils the scope for coordination and joint branding of KT activities. This will include, for example, increasing Biotechnology YES participants to over 250 and involving two RDAs, together with further expansion to the Follow-on Fund, Enterprise Fellowships and Industry Interchange scheme.
- Council will implement the recommendations of the Warry Report and develop a greater understanding of the socioeconomic impact of BBSRC-funded research, working with RCUK as appropriate. This will include participating in a User Survey, an Economic Impact Study and providing an analysis of the interactions and impact of the ten leading university bioscience departments. In addition, BBSRC institutes will provide reports on the economic and social impact of their activities.

THE GERSHON EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME

This year BBSRC delivered efficiency savings worth £22.5M against a target of £22.2M. This was done by reducing the proportion spent on administration, by reprioritising programme spend, by more co-funding of research with industrial and other partners, and by increasing efficiency at BBSRC-sponsored institutes. BBSRC's cumulative savings target for 2007-08 is £38.2M¹. This will be delivered through:

- Re-prioritisation of programmes, including training (£16M)
- Proportional reduction of administration costs (£1.2M)
- Increased efficiency of our sponsored institutes, including better use of capital infrastructure (£18M¹)
- More co-funding (£3M)

¹ Figure revised from 2007/08 Scorecard

BBSRC is planning for savings in these areas to continue into the CSR 2007 period beginning in 2008-09.

BBSRC's administration costs represented 2.67% of the Science Budget Income (resource and capital - including non-cash) for 2006-07. This continues the downward trend previously achieved (2.78% in 2005-06, 2.95% in 2004-05), and provides confidence that the 2007/08 BBSRC target of 2.64% will be met.

BBSRC strongly supports the continuing moves to increase harmonisation and thus achieve further savings that can be channelled into the funding of science. This will be accomplished on two fronts, by hosting a range of joint units that provide services across the Swindon-based Research Councils and contributing to a number of cross-Council projects to identify and deliver additional harmonisation, above all the back office, transactional Shared Services Centre project. The joint units that BBSRC host include: building services, funding assurance, internal audit and pensions.

BBSRC has played a leading role in the key Shared Services Centre project. The project will deliver shared transactional services in the areas of finance, grants, HR, IT/IS and procurement to all Research Councils. The project is planned to reach full implementation by the end of 2009 and in the run up to the project BBSRC has deployed 40+ people to work across the BBSRC on the project. In addition BBSRC has seconded a number of staff to the central team responsible for delivering the project.

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

BBSRC has increased collaborative working with other Councils through RCUK and has contributed to the implementation of the [RCUK Science in Society Strategy](#).

In support of the RCUK strategy and BBSRC plans:

- BBSRC, with MRC, commissioned a study on public attitudes to ageing research, and is planning to implement the outputs by developing a small travelling exhibition and stakeholder meetings. BBSRC is contributing to an RCUK public engagement study on energy research. BBSRC has also worked with EPSRC on a public dialogue experiment led by DEMOS about nanotechnology, the outputs of which have been considered by BBSRC's Bioscience for Society Panel (BSS) in conjunction with other public engagement activities about nanotechnology. With advice from the BSS Panel, BBSRC has also embedded strengthened procedures for monitoring and addressing potential social and ethical issues arising from BBSRC-funded research into its grant funding mechanisms.
- BBSRC has supported a range of schools-based activities in HEIs and BBSRC-sponsored institutes, including Science Day visits for school students and support for 22 local coordinators who link scientists with schools. BBSRC has also launched a grant award scheme for sponsored institutes for science in society activities aimed at enthusing young people and school students about science.
- BBSRC has provided media and communications training focusing on specialist topic areas such as nanotechnology and stem cells. BBSRC has increased the output of media releases on BBSRC science, and ran a press briefing on crop science research in partnership with the BBC which resulted in significant media coverage. The Council continues to support the Coalition for Medical Progress, which coordinates public communication about the use of animals in research, and the Science Media Centre.
- BBSRC launched a touring exhibition on stem cell research (with MRC) with associated public discussion events. The two Councils have been awarded a grant from OSI through the Sciencewise project to coordinate a national public dialogue programme

about stem cell research that will build on other engagement work. The BBSRC/NERC Biodiversity exhibit continues to tour major venues around the UK.

Interactions with the RCUK Science in Society Unit

BBSRC supports and funds the following activities coordinated through the RCUK Unit:

- Researchers in Residence (scientist placements in schools)
- BA CREST Awards (schools research projects)
- Nuffield Science Bursary Scheme (school placements in research laboratories)
- CPD for teachers in Science Learning Centres
- BA Perspectives (public presentations by postgraduates)
- Presentation at the Association for Science Education AGM, and ASE school science website
- Public engagement on energy research
- Awards for National Science Week
- Presentation of exhibitions including BBSRC exhibit on ageing research during National Science Week
- Beacons for Public Engagement scheme

SUMMARY FINANCIAL TABLE

| 2006-07 £M | Outturn* | Allocation | Difference |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Near Cash | 304.3 | 303.7 | (0.7) |
| Non Cash | 20.6 | 14.6 | (6.0) |
| Capital Grants | 50.3 | 54.2 | 3.9 |
| Capital | 4.8 | 5.5 | 0.7 |
| Total DEL | 380.0 | 377.9 | (2.1) |

* Provisional June 2007, figures rounded

BBSRC agreed with OSI that BBSRC would overspend by £2M compared to original allocation, and came close to meeting this revised target.