

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DTZ REPORT 'BBSRC INSTITUTES: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER REVIEW' – DRAFT BBSRC RESPONSE

	RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONSE
	<p>1. BBSRC should provide a long term, (possibly ring fenced) funding stream for technology transfer operations in its institutes.</p>	<p>Accepted: BBSRC will explore the feasibility of establishing a separate funding stream to support technology transfer operations at its institutes. It is envisaged that this funding stream will cover support for Institute-wide infrastructure for Knowledge Exchange (KE) and technology transfer, but not Knowledge Exchange activities associated with specific science programmes, which will continue to be covered by the Institute Strategic Programme Grants. This funding stream is not intended to support wider Public Engagement activities of the Institute.</p>
	<p>2. BBSRC's goal is to maximise the economic and social impact of its research. The commercialisation of research is one way in which this can be achieved. However, wider knowledge transfer activities are also crucial to achieving this goal. We have highlighted the rationale for wider KT but it has not been within the scope of this review to consider wider KT in detail.</p>	<p>Accepted: BBSRC's aim is to maximise the public benefit and impact of the research it funds. BBSRC recognises the wide variety of ways through which this might be achieved. Whilst commercialisation is one mechanism to achieve impact, Council accepts the importance of wider Knowledge Transfer (or Knowledge Exchange) activities. BBSRC will consider the wider rationale as a component of ongoing activities and development of Strategy and Policy in this area.</p>
	<p>3. DTZ believes there is little justification in maintaining the status quo in terms of current arrangements for funding / managing TT in BBSRC institutes. DTZ suggests institutes are funded to develop their own KT / TT programmes but within a strict commissioning process as outlined in the report</p>	<p>Accepted: BBSRC accepts the basis of this analysis and recommendations. BBSRC will explore options to enable institutes to develop their own KE/TT programmes as part of a separate funding stream.</p>

	<p>4. BBSRC should encourage partnership working in its widest sense so that technology transfer can occur in related science areas not just at institute level. This will require protection of the benefits through appropriate mechanisms.</p>	<p>Accepted: BBSRC recognises that there are many routes and mechanisms to the effective application of the intellectual assets of BBSRC institutes. The Council accepts that effective partnerships are vital to the successful management, protection and application of these assets in order to deliver maximum benefit to the UK.</p>
	<p>5. BBSRC could have a smaller set of more relevant performance indicators for monitoring and evaluating what is being achieved through technology transfer activities in its institutes. Suggestions for metrics have been made for adding to the conventional range of TT metrics. In particular, institutes may wish to suggest their own metrics as part of funding bids</p>	<p>Accepted: BBSRC will review KE and Technology Transfer performance indicators within the context of Institute Assessment.</p>
	<p>6. The commercialisation of research is seen to be constrained by a lack of ‘development gap’ funding (after proof of concept stage). This can limit TT to a small number of projects sufficiently advanced to attract commercial interest. The implication for BBSRC is that more could possibly be achieved in terms of commercialisation of research, if more resources / funding for translational research were available alongside strengthening linkages with other funders (such as venture capital).</p>	<p>Partially Accepted: BBSRC notes the perception that commercialisation is currently restrained by a lack of ‘development gap’ funding but considers more evidence is required to understand the nature and scale of this gap and identify where Council can intervene.</p>
	<p>7. BBSRC could review its relationship with its current TTOs to ensure there would be no conflict of interest in assessing institute TT plans/performance and in being represented on the boards of organisations that may be undertaking TT operations for the institutes</p>	<p>Accepted: BBSRC will review its relationship with current TTOs after Council has addressed the key recommendations of this study that relate to establishing a separate funding stream for technology transfer operations in BBSRC Institutes.</p>