

Those attending:

Steve Bagshaw
Professor Ewan Birney
John Bloomer
Professor Anne Ferguson-Smith
Professor Gideon Henderson
Professor Martin Humphries (Chair of the meeting)
Professor Andrew Millar
Professor Christine Orengo
Professor Jo Price
Professor Nigel Scrutton
Professor Malcolm Skingle
Professor Steven Spoel
Professor Ijeoma Uchegbu
Professor Melanie Welham (UKRI-BBSRC Executive Chair)

Also attending:

Dr Amanda Collis
Dr Karen Lewis
Dr Sarah Perkins
Bill Poll
Professor Guy Poppy
Dr Paul Reeves (item 6 only)
Michelle Snowden (item 8 only)
Julie Venis (item 9 only)
Dr David McAllister (item 10 only)
Dr Rob Hardwick (item 10 only)
Sarah Cresswell
Ksymena Grzybowska (Secretary)
Evelyn Murrell (shadowing Defra's CSA)

ITEM 1. OPENING REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting held via Zoom (due to the rail industrial action), in particular he welcomed Evelyn Murrell, International Science Engagement Plan Development Officer from Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser's Office, who attended the meeting to shadow the CSA.
2. Apologies were received from Rosie Cornelius, UKRI.
3. Members were reminded to check their details currently being held on the conflicts register, circulated by email before the meeting, update as necessary and send any changes to Council Secretariat. Members were asked to raise any conflicts arising during the course of the meeting.

ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2022 (UKRI BBSRC 21/2022)

4. The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

ITEM 3. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING (ORAL)

5. The Chair went through the actions and they were all either in hand or completed.

ITEM 4. EXECUTIVE CHAIR'S REPORT (UKRI BBSRC 22/2022)

6. Council noted a performance summary highlighting key achievements, future plans and a scorecard summarising progress against the Near-Term Actions (NTAs) set out in BBSRC's Delivery Plan as at the end of Quarter 2.
7. Council welcomed the BBSRC and Innovate UK partnership and was interested to hear more about its impact to date and approaches. Information on this and existing examples of collaboration would be shared with Council.

Action UKRI-BBSRC 80/2023: Provide information about BBSRC and Innovate UK partnership, its impact to date and existing examples of collaboration. (Karen Lewis, completed).

8. Council discussed the importance of embedding Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) across UKRI and its communities and was looking forward to seeing action plans in place. Council noted that diversity data for all Research Councils was published on 1 December 2022 and the first edition of the UKRI EDI Strategy was being finalised and following approval would be published in the next few months.
9. Council asked about the National Engineering Biology Programme and noted that the Gateway Review had been helpful and that there were a number of ongoing activities, such as preparing competition scopes, that would be launched in the next quarter.
10. Council was pleased to see international developments set out in the report and was interested to hear more about prioritisation approaches and engagement strategies with different countries (bilateral vs multilateral). Council emphasised the importance of research-led engagements.

Action UKRI-BBSRC 81/2023: Provide information on international prioritisation approaches and engagement strategies with different countries (bilateral vs multilateral), (Amanda Collis, ongoing).

11. Council was pleased to see joint discussions with Genome Canada about data infrastructure challenges, including dataset management and sharing and 'Artificial Intelligence ready' big data. Council also commented positively about bringing computer scientists and mathematicians to recent BBSRC calls.
12. Council asked for more detailed Data Intensive Bioscience reporting within the Executive Chair's report.

Action UKRI-BBSRC 82/2023: Council asked for more detailed Data Intensive Bioscience reporting within the Executive Chair's report (Jas Kular, ongoing).

13. Council noted the UKRI Strategic Themes paper provided via the CouncilNET and commented that it was very helpful. Council noted that UKRI Strategic Themes and cross-Council working was received well by the community and that there was steady progress in developing governance across UKRI.

ITEM 5. UPDATES FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE WIDER CSA NETWORK (ORAL)

14. Gideon Henderson (DEFRA CSA) shared his updates with Council. The government updates related to the Autumn Statement and its positive outcomes for science, inflationary pressures on the budget and continued commitment from the government to meet NetZero goals. Defra specific updates related to the Farm Innovation Programme, Genetic Technologies Bill, avian influenza and COP15.

ITEM 6. 2022 INSTITUTE ASSESSMENT EXERCISE (IAE) OUTCOMES (UKRI BBSRC 23/2022)

This discussion item was deemed business sensitive and was, therefore, recorded separately.

ITEM 7. COMMON THEMES EMERGING FROM SESSIONS WITH INSTITUTE DIRECTORS IN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER 2022 (ORAL)

15. The Chair invited Sarah Perkins to introduce her slides outlining the SWOT analysis of BBSRC strategically funded Institutes. Council discussed easing the impact of Horizon Europe on recruiting scientists and leaders from EU, including global talent visas, covering medical costs and other policy changes.
16. Another point related to Institutes' common voice and joint approaches, particularly in areas of new technologies, to ensure engagement with the public to gain social acceptance.
17. Council commented on utilising Institutes links with universities, e.g., via Doctoral Training Partnerships, to embrace research culture. This would also help stimulate connectivity across the Institute family.

ITEM 8. REFRESHED BBSRC COMMUNICATION PLAN (UKRI BBSRC 25/2022)

18. The Chair welcomed Michelle Snowden to the meeting to present BBSRC's refreshed Communications Plan.
19. Council discussed the refreshed communications objectives, reflecting priorities identified within the BBSRC Strategic Delivery Plan 2022 - 2027 and BBSRC's refreshed key messages, reflecting BBSRC's role supporting UK bioscience.
20. Council suggested emphasising multidisciplinary and growth of future prosperity in the objectives. Council was keen to see how the objectives would connect with the wider UKRI communication plan and demonstrate wider additional value. Council discussed the importance of KPIs for monitoring and reporting on annual basis.

Action UKRI-BBSRC 84/2023: Add annual communication reporting on future Council agendas. (Michelle Snowden, Ksymena Grzybowska, noted for future meetings.)

ITEM 9. BBSRC STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY (UKRI BBSRC 26/2022)

21. The Chair welcomed Julie Venis to the meeting, and invited her to introduce the paper, which presented the insights from the BBSRC Stakeholder Engagement Research carried out in 2022 and a draft strategy for stakeholder engagement. Council welcomed the stakeholder strategy and communications plan coming together to the same meeting.
22. Council commented on the balance of responses to the BBSRC Stakeholder Engagement Research 2022, which was predominantly from academics, and discussed ways of improving the engagement from the industry. In a broader sense, Council also touched on innovation forums and interfaces and the best ways for BBSRC to engage with the industry.
23. Other points that Council raised in discussion related to using appropriate language to seek expertise from stakeholders, ensuring that influential stakeholders were reached, and meaningful feedback received, using strategies for engagement at a greater scale and utilising roundtables as one of the engagement tools.
24. Another aspect of the discussion related to engaging with the public. Council noted that UKRI leads on development of public engagement strategy and Sarah Perkins is a member of the newly formed Public Engagement Leadership Group. BBSRC was considering areas where we would like to have an impact.
25. Council was interested to hear more about who stakeholders were and whether science students took part in the survey. Council was assured that there was an opportunity for these type of conversations within the talent pipeline.

26. Council highlighted the importance of two-way engagement and ways in which BBSRC could encourage porosity and build a wide network of connections. BBSRC confirmed that secondments were a route that we can and do use.

27. The Chair thanked Julie for the paper and attending the meeting.

ITEM 10. TALENT AND SKILLS: UKRI COLLECTIVE TALENT AND BBSRC PRIORITIES (UKRI BBSRC 27/2022)

28. The Chair welcomed Rob Hardwick and David McAllister to the meeting and invited David to introduce the paper, which provided an update on the collective approach to talent strategy across UKRI.

29. In discussion, Council asked questions about international aspects and talked about the importance of reducing barriers for international students. Council emphasised mobility and international research as key. Interdisciplinarity and the possibility of having cross-Council Doctoral Training Partnerships was discussed.

30. Council commented that there was good alignment in the approach and urged UKRI to discuss university fee waivers. It would be helpful if Research England could explore options with Research Organisations.

31. Council reflected on leadership capability in the context of entrepreneurial skills and whether the fellowship model was the right one. Council considered ways of developing entrepreneurial-related career pathways and how to encourage future leaders to work in a different way.

32. There were a couple of gaps that Council considered, namely public and policy engagement and data skills, analysis and stewardship. Another lens to look at talent was through strategic themes and identifying research capabilities/skills (e.g. soil scientists) that were needed.

Council Secretariat

January 2023

ANNEX 2

Agenda Item	Action Description	Owner	Delivery Date	Status
	<i>Actions from 7 December 2021 meeting</i>			
4.	<i>Action UKRI-BBSRC 65/2021: Karen Lewis would share key learning once the Impact Acceleration Account process was completed.</i>	<i>Karen Lewis</i>	<i>Available via CouncilNET</i>	<i>Completed</i>
4.	<i>Action UKRI-BBSRC 66/2021: Council would be updated on the outcomes of the Innovation to Commercialisation pilot.</i>	<i>Karen Lewis</i>	<i>Available via CouncilNET</i>	<i>Completed</i>
	<i>Actions from 15 June 2022 meeting</i>			
8.	<i>Action UKRI-BBSRC 75/2022: Future EDI data publication will be flagged to Council and there may be some BBSRC specific data highlights that BBSRC may bring to Council's attention (David McAllister, when available).</i>	<i>David McAllister</i>	<i>February 2023</i>	<i>EDI data was published at Diversity data – UKRI. There is access to self-service Tableau tables where the data for individual councils can be found. For any questions/ comments, contact David McAllister.</i>

	Actions from 29 September 2022 meeting			
4.	Action UKRI-BBSRC 79/2022: The Terms of Reference for Councils' Councils were still under review and when finalised would be shared with Council. (Ksymena Grzybowska, when available).	Ksymena Grzybowska	When available	Ongoing
	Actions from 14 December 2023			
4.	Action UKRI-BBSRC 80/2023: Provide information about BBSRC and Innovate UK partnership, its impact to date and existing examples of collaboration. (Karen Lewis, June 2023)	Karen Lewis	Available via CouncilINET	Completed
4.	Action UKRI-BBSRC 81/2023: Provide information on international prioritisation approaches and engagement strategies with different countries (bilateral vs multilateral).	Amanda Collis	Tbc	Ongoing
4.	Action UKRI-BBSRC 82/2023: Council asked for more detailed Data Intensive Bioscience reporting within the Executive Chair's report (Jas Kular, ongoing).	Jas Kular	March 2023	Ongoing

6.	Action UKRI-BBSRC 83/2023: BBSRC would be initiating landscape review and a paper on that would be on the agenda for Council meeting in March 2023. (Ksymena Grzybowska, on agenda)	Sarah Perkins Ksymena Grzybowska	On agenda	Completed
7.	Action UKRI-BBSRC 84/2023: Add annual communication reporting on future Council agenda. (Michelle Snowden, Ksymena Grzybowska, noted for future meetings.)	Michelle Snowden Ksymena Grzybowska	Noted for future meetings	Completed

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