Section A: Official Development Assistance (ODA) and GCRF strategy

The strategy

1. Summarise the key aspects of your three year **strategy for development related and GCRF research activity**, including:

   a. Your institution's strategy and priority objectives for all development related research activity funded through all sources for three years from 2018-19.

   b. Summary of the key aspects of your three year strategic plan for QR GCRF in light of the criteria and objectives for the GCRF outlined in the guidance.

   c. How activity funded through QR GCRF fits into your broader strategy and priorities for all development related research activity.

   d. How activity funded through QR GCRF relates to the UK strategy for the GCRF.[1]

   e. How your development-related and GCRF strategies relate to your wider institutional strategy for using QR.

   f. Likely key barriers and enablers to implementing your strategy.

   g. The key activities by which you will realise your objectives, such as capacity and capability building; mono-disciplinary interdisciplinary and collaborative research; generating impact from research; meeting the full economic cost of GCRF activity funded through other sources; rapid response to emergencies with an urgent research need; and pump priming.

   h. The main Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list developing countries you intend to collaborate with.

Maximum 3,000 words

A. LJMU's history has shown that visionary thinking can drive intellectual, social and economic change. LJMU's vision is to be a pioneering, modern, civic University that delivers solutions to the challenges of the 21st century. Our strategy and priority objectives for all development-related research activity is captured within our ambitious 2017-22 Strategic Plan where two of the four central pillars of the university strategy comprise 'impactful, research and scholarship' and 'civic and global engagement'; these ensure the ethos that wherever appropriate our research should have an impact beyond academia and deliver economic, cultural and social benefit. This overarching ambition, articulated further within our specific Research and Scholarship Strategy, our Internationalisation Strategy and our Knowledge Exchange Strategy, underpins our goals to develop existing partnerships and support emerging opportunities. Development-related research activity is captured in all of these areas.

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[1] UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund, http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/challenges/

Specifically, our **Research Strategy** acknowledges that LJMU has areas of research that are independently acknowledged as world-leading. Our goal is to maintain and enhance these whilst encouraging the development of additional areas where there is high potential to create new avenues for international-quality research and scholarship. There is a specific focus on international collaboration with the objectives of being:

•A university that supports and develops targeted areas of world-leading research excellence and which encourages emerging areas of excellence with potential for international impact.

• A university that invests in development of a vibrant and sustainable research and scholarship environment, firmly linked to learning and teaching.

• A university where scholarship is central to the personal development of every member of academic staff.

• A university that disseminates the knowledge gained from its research and enterprise activities into the wider community.

Our objectives will be realised through our three core research themes of:

□ Health and Well-being

□ New Technology Innovation

□ Culture and Society

Our **KE Strategy** draws upon our ambition as a modern, entrepreneurial University to increase its impact upon society. Our goals demand an enhanced collaborative approach with demonstrable impact on economic and societal growth.

Our **Internationalisation Strategy** supports the institution's vision to be a pioneering, modern, civic university and deliver wide ranging, long-term impact with a specific focus on 'promoting international research collaboration and scholarship and producing outputs of international impact and significance'.

Since these strategic plans cover the period of 2017-22, we are at the beginning of the journey of realising our ambitions. These ambitions are already being supported through institutional investment, including strategic investment of QR funding into such ventures as institutionally-support PhD Scholarships, and external grant funding that has been awarded for specific projects and collaborations through GCRF and Newton Fund Schemes administered by the research councils. This three-year GCRF funding period complements and expands on existing activity and allows us to focus our longer-term plans in relevant areas that will allow tangible and measurable outcomes and impact from our activities.

B. HEFCE's Global Challenge Research Funding provides opportunities to consolidate existing activity and invest in new avenues of research and partnership. The three-year time scale enables a longer-term plan and a flexible approach to achieving the desired outcomes. It will further bolster our ambition to be a university that supports and develops targeted areas of world-leading research excellence, through investment and capacity-building in areas of actual or potential distinction and reflects the core values of excellence, transformation, innovation and partnership. It will also align with our broader Internationalisation Strategy, where this involves ODA countries. In summary, the GCRF will allow us to plan and achieve more in pursuit of our ambitions.

The institution's approach to development-related research activity and specifically the investment of QR GCRF in 2019-21 will be an extension of our approach in previous years. The three-year window provides greater freedom to develop longer-term plans and incorporate strategic rather than reactive decision-making.
The GCRF will be focused on addressing the problems faced by developing countries, whilst both further supporting and leveraging our cutting-edge research. We intend to reflect our three core research themes of our research strategy of Health and Wellbeing, New Technology Innovation and Culture and Society.
Delivery against these three broad project areas will be achieved by added investment in existing projects, investment in strategic initiatives and support for emerging opportunities. We expect to support a diverse range of activities including capacity building, collaborative research activity, impact generation and pump-priming. The delivery will involve a variety of mechanisms, described fully below, which will provide the flexibility for us to respond to emerging opportunities. In all cases, mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, collaborative and consortia-based research activity will be encouraged. It is important that we do not intend to displace activity served by existing funding mechanisms; it is intended that the GCRF allocation will be used to enhance and progress our strategy. Recipients of internal funding will be encouraged to consider additional external funding sources where appropriate.
The three-year approach also enables us to flex our investment by greater support for early stage activities in the first year, coupled with enhanced emphasis on follow-on support and high-level output generation in later years.
While there will be a diverse range of activities that which may change as partnerships mature, each project will be designed to deliver against key impact targets related to UN Sustainability Development Goals.

C. Strategic investment of GCRF will enable us to accelerate the progress of some well-established projects and collaborations while investing in early stages of other less-proven areas of focus. We will establish a set of funding mechanisms that provide the flexibility to respond to emerging opportunities whilst also progressing mature relationships. GCRF will complement existing external sources of funding to grow and strengthen activity. GCRF will be invested against our three core project theme areas (below) with activities, where possible, designed to build critical mass that will enable wider impact:

Health and Well-being

In addition to individual collaborations and partnerships, our Public Health Institute is a founding member of the Global Consortium for Public Health. This grouping consolidates our global research strategy in public health, particularly as it pertains to South East Asia. The work of the Consortium provides a foundation for establishing productive research relationships with other geographies including Brazil and India, and the GCRF will be used to support additional activities in this area.
Work in Africa is focused on HIV prevention strategies and prevention of tropical disease. We hope to utilise our GCRF to expand these activities.

GCRF will enable Global Active City Accreditation of further DAC counties through the Active Well-being Initiative. This programme, supported by the International Olympic Committee, involves engaging countries and cities, including many on the DAC register, to promote the uptake of sustainable physical activity and the concept of sport for all. It is a focussed and coordinated approach to two major global issues/challenges of the 21st century:

(1) urbanisation; 66% of human population will live in cities by 2050

(2) an epidemic of physical inactivity in all sectors of society that will have huge consequences for non-communicable diseases (CV, Cancer, diabetes, etc.), obesity rates, social and health inequalities and the reduction in "wellness" and "happiness".

There is also considerable potential to engage in pharmaceutical candidate molecule development in partnership with DAC countries through upskilling partner organisations and/or working with local flora to discover new avenues for drug development. Our links with Nigeria hold promise in this area.

New Technology Innovation

LJMU has well-recognised strengths within our engineering faculty. Current RCUK funded and GCRF compliant projects include: using drone technology for endangered animal surveillance to halt the current catastrophic rate of global biodiversity loss and land management; and development of sensor technologies to support the monitoring of tropical disease.

Additional activities in DAC countries include a funded 'Health and Well-being through Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality' (China, British Council) workshop to investigate the latest developments in these areas to achieve sustainable healthcare development and reduce healthcare cost in China. GCRF could pump-prime projects resulting from these early discussions.

Work in Thailand includes software and hardware development towards a new telescope control system for current and new UK and Thai telescopes which holds great potential as a new growth area for the Thai economy.

In Malaysia we are working to develop a novel solder, contributing to sustainable and green electronic products and fulfilling the government regulations of RoHS, WEEE, the eleventh Malaysian Plan (11MP). The project is of significant importance to the electronics industry, offering long term benefits and impact.

GCRF will be further invested in these established activities to strengthen and accelerate impact.

Culture and Society

We are current involved in a number of projects in Nepal to tackle health and gender inequality. One project is addressing stigma regarding menstruation and is particularly focussed on access to reusable sanitary towels. This project is in its early stages and has potential for wider reach and impact. The legacy of this project will be an increase in conversations about menstruation across society and a reduction in exclusionary practices surrounding women and girls.

Work in schools is focussed on increased access to education by girls. Girls will benefit from changed attitudes in society as a result of the social media campaign and better learning resources for schools.

D. *How activity funded through QR GCRF relates to the UK strategy for the GCRF.*
Our ambitions directly align to the GCRF aims to support excellent research that directly contributes to the development and welfare of people in developing countries. We share the vision to create new knowledge and drive innovation that helps everyone across the globe. Our health and wellbeing projects specifically align with the ambitions for 'Sustainable health and wellbeing'. Our Technology and Innovation work will assist with several focus areas including 'Equitable Access to Sustainable Development' and in particular the need to understand and address the local and global challenges of population growth and pressure on the environment and climate, as well as new socio-economic models based on enabling technologies such as digital technologies.
Our Culture and Society theme will deliver against the ambition for 'Reduced poverty and inequality', including gender inequalities.

E. All our QR funding is directed towards supporting research excellence that underpins our research ambitions. The main distribution of the QR funds is based on current research activities in proportion to quality. Specifically, funds are devolved to Faculties based on the share of the institutional QR and RDP funding awarded by HEFCE following REF2014. The apportionment of the awarded income is based on UoA performance and monies are invested to strengthen research capacity, including some staff appointments, according to each Faculty's own strategies. Activities supported vary from pump-priming of discrete research projects through to support of studentships and fellowships through internal competitions and review. The QR GCRF will further reinforce the institutional research ambitions; however, it will not be prioritised according to current QR allocations but will instead be focused on achieving ODA outputs and impacts over academic outputs. Funds will be administered centrally to allow the support of cross-disciplinary working and to enable effective monitoring and reporting. In a similar vein to main QR spend, monies will support a breadth of activities under specific project themes from networking and project initiation through to strategic investment.

F. A barrier to effective investment of GCRF has been the inherent short-term spending and reporting requirements of prior allocations that have prevented the university from taking a longer-term view. The current approach of designing a three-year strategy will itself be an enabler in building enduring and equitable relationships and support projects that have time to deliver tangible benefits to DAC countries.
Compliance. Although the academic community is now very aware of the importance of considering the impact of their research for REF purposes, fewer are familiar with GCRF requirements, the nature of ODA outputs and how these relate to UN sustainability goals. Although we have a critical mass of our community who are considering how their research can directly benefit the problems of developing countries, this institutional investment will prompt more to view their research through the ODA lens and we expect new opportunities to emerge as a result. To address the barrier of awareness in terms of understanding ODA compliance and the purpose of GCRF, in addition to the wider importance of stakeholder engagement to realise tangible impact and outputs, our central professional services team (Research Innovation Services) will deliver bespoke workshops and attendance will be a requirement to submitting an application to the

various GCRF funding schemes. We hope this approach will ensure impact and outputs and embedded in initial project design.
The three-year plan, led by PVC and Chair of the Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Transfer Committee, will provide a clear mechanism to lead activity across the institution and the reporting of impacts and outcomes gives an important focus for investment decisions.

G. *The key activities by which we will realise our objectives.*
As outlined in Annex 2 and the table below, we have focused our activities on three theme areas. This not only allows us to build a critical mass of activities in these areas but will enable us to deliver clear impact and outputs while providing flexibility to respond to new opportunities.
We expect to support a mix of activities including capacity and capability building (particularly in the earlier years), interdisciplinary and collaborative research (this is already a current theme of established partnerships such as 1) taking astrophysics technology and applying this to biodiversity and land usage monitoring 2) using technology to assist in healthcare challenges). We also anticipate early focus on pump-priming of new projects with a view to establishing activities that will ultimately be sustained by more significant external funding in the longer term.
The delivery framework has been designed to be able to dynamically respond to emerging opportunities that may develop over the next few years.
Delivery/Funding Mechanisms
Three funding routes are planned to support the potential breadth and depth of partnerships that we envisage working with DAC countries.
A Fellowship Scheme will be established to enhance an existing or build new collaborations with scholars from DAC counties by hosting academics at LJMU for 3-6 months. The aim of this scheme is to open up new opportunities in the DAC through knowledge transfer and skill development as a catalyst for impact. Funding of up to £10k to support the subsistence and accommodation costs of a visiting fellow.
A Collaborative Travel Fund will enable researchers to travel to DAC countries to initiate, progress or strengthen collaborative relationships to enable the design and delivery of appropriate research activities.
A Project Call will facilitate emerging opportunities that require more detailed collaborative research funding. We will not be prescriptive about what constitutes a "project", but envisage that this could include strategic collaborations on specific topics, as well as more early-stage funding to establish future partnerships, for example via workshops to build capacity and capability.

In all cases, we will encourage applications that also include additional funding support that will provide enhanced value. Where appropriate, we will therefore utilise this GCRF funding to leverage external support. We will also encourage activity that leverages existing institutional links that LJMU has with educational partners in ODA countries, where research collaboration can build pre-existing educational frameworks and act as a catalyst for development.

H. The main Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list developing countries we anticipate collaborating with will include:
Least Developed Countries: Nepal, Mozambique
Lower Middles Income Countries: Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cabo Verde, Nigeria
Upper Middle Income Countries: China, Brazil, Thailand, Argentina, Namibia, South Africa, Malaysia

	HEALTH & WELLBEING	NEW TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION	CULTURE & SOCIETY
Project Type	1. Public Health Initiatives 2. Pharmaceutical Candidate Molecules	1. Ecosystem Sustainability (biodiversity monitoring, land usage). 2. Supporting Global Industry 4.0 (innovaton in Electronics, computing and sensors)	1. Addressing Inequality, Educational Inclusion
Funding Mechanisms	**Collaborative Travel Fund** : An open funding scheme to enable academics to take advantage of new opportunities to form partnership and undertake excellent impactful ODA research. Award will be based on potential for progression. £20k (anticipating funding 10 requests per annum)		
	Fellowship : Enhance or build new collaboration with scholars from DAC counties by hosting academics at LJMU for 3-6 months. Funding of up to £10k to support the subsistence and accommodation costs of a visiting fellow.		
	Project : Competition for investment in discrete ODA research projects to be undertaken in the UK or DAC country as appropriate. £5-10k /number?		

MEASURES OF SUCCESS (primary=DAC focused, secondary=benefit UK and/or other non-DAC country)
IMPACT : stakeholder engagement, jobs created, public engagement/outreach, improved metrics
OUTCOMES : policy, publications, patents, conference presentations, additional funding secured/leveraged
Monitored using Impact Tracker
Impacts and Outputs can be categorised according to the UN's Sustainability Development Goals (SDG).

2. Provide details of the main intended **outcomes and impacts** of your strategy.

Maximum 500 words

Our overarching outcomes and impacts of our GCRF strategy are to use our research excellence and international partnerships to support the economic development and welfare of developing countries.

We expect outcomes to include:

- Increase in both numbers of international partnerships and the level of project activities in DAC counties.
- Establishment of mature and equitable partnerships and consortia in DAC countries
- Increased stakeholder engagement to support ODA impact
- Greater number of applications to external GCRF and international funds
- Increased numbers of GCRF projects
- Increased SDG impacts
- Increase in secondary benefits including academic outputs of publications, books and conference presentations

We have designed our three-year strategy to include building on established research partnerships that hold potential for impact. Although we list anticipated projects and partnership activities below, we are mindful that these may change over time and are confident our framework will enable us to capture the required ODA compliance and impact to report back.

GCRF and project-specific outputs will include:

Our **Health & Wellbeing** theme aligns to **UN SDG 3** (to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) specifically Goal 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations, Goal 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

Activities will deliver

~Change in health policy in partner country

~Improved health information

~Increased access to healthcare

~New technology to support healthcare delivery

Our **New Technology & Innovation** theme includes overarching ambitions for innovations to positively contribute to improved economic growth (**SDG 8)** specifically **8.2** Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation and (**SDG 9**) Industry and Infrastructure including 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries.

Our drone technology project can lead to better land use (**Goal 2.4**: ensure sustainable food production systems that increase productivity and production, help maintain ecosystems, and that progressively improve land and soil quality); reduction in biodiversity loss (**Goal 15.5**: urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of

natural habitats), protection of tourism economy (**Goal 8.9**: devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products); halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species (**Goal 15.7**: urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna)
Our Culture and Society theme projects will design and deliver improved curriculum resources in Nepal and break down stigma relating to menstruation, positively contributing to Gender Equality (**SDG5**) specifically Goal 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere and Quality Education (**SDG4**) Goal 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes and Goal 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education.

Management of GCRF

3. How will your HEI **monitor** and **evaluate** its progress and compliance in ODA and GCRF activity, including assessing geographical distribution of activity, outputs, outcomes and economic and social impacts?

Please describe the policies, procedures and approach you have in place to measure progress, evaluate outcomes, identify lessons learned, and ensure ODA compliance.

Maximum 1,500 words
The PVC Research Scholarship and Knowledge Transfer will be responsible for spend and reporting of GCRF activity. Research Innovation Services (RIS), a central LJMU professional services department, will oversee funding allocation, monitoring and reporting on behalf of the PVC. RIS will support and monitor academic engagement using a database system ("Impact Tracker") and will provide bespoke training to all GCRF awardees to ensure outputs and impacts are captured throughout the project. RIS will also provide training sessions on 'ODA compliance and 'Stakeholder Engagement'.
All our proposed funding schemes are designed to ensure ODA compliance with a request for measures of impact and success at the outset and a clear mechanism or reporting measures of success via the online Impact Tracker platform.
Applications for funding will be via a competitive process overseen by the PVC with assessment and evaluation made by representatives of the University Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Transfer committee. ODA compliance, reporting and outcomes will form a central part of the evaluation.
After ensuring that all proposals meet GCRF criteria, the criteria for support will be: excellent research with anticipated impact; alignment with our strategic objectives; links to existing projects; value for money (including leverage of additional funding).
There will be a requirement for applicants to set up a project on Impact Tracker before monies are released and the submission of a final report upon project completion, with training on this software tool being provided where necessary. This will in turn, enable central reporting on project progress, outcomes and impact. Impact Tracker allows the

collection of rich and diverse data and links to Orchid, Symplectic and Research Online. Impact Tracker will enable monitoring of the required metrics of distribution of activity, outputs, outcomes and economic and social impacts. Impact Tracker not only supports the capture of specific metrics but also support uploading of diverse evidence including social media campaigns, radio interview and newspaper articles. The Storyboard feature will facilitate central monitoring of projects using the platform and enable the capture of information regarding Stakeholders, Activities and Impact Indicators. Indicators appropriate to projects will include changes in public health, land usage, changes in health & wellbeing, changes in industrial standards, sector participants or engagement of public bodies.
The University Research Committee, chaired by the PVC Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Transfer, will have oversight and will make funding investment decisions and this committee will provide the conduit for reporting of activities, spend and progress to the University Strategic Management Team and the Board of Governors. Associate Deans for Research from each Faculty attend this committee, which provides a mechanism to share lessons learned and to stimulate cross-disciplinary working and synergy in investment.

RIS, who will oversee the internal management and reporting of GCRF activities and spend, has representation on LJMU's Internationalisation Strategy Working Group. This will provide a mechanism to highlight synergy between the International and Research Strategies enabling emerging partnerships to be prioritised as appropriate in later years as well as enable GCRF project outcomes to be utilised for the widest possible benefits for research and education in our partner countries.

Section B: Use of QR GCRF 2018-19 allocation and future QR GCRF priorities

4. Please complete the table in Annex A2 detailing the expected spending and activities for QR GCRF in the academic year 2018-19. Note that the total QR GCRF spending must equal the indicative allocation (available in Annex C), and all activities must be ODA-compliant for strategies to be assessed as ODA-compliant overall.

5. Please add here any explanatory notes on how you have completed the table in Annex A2 that will help inform assessment of ODA compliance.

Maximum 200 words
The strategy for investment in 2018-2019 and subsequent has been designed to directly reflect the Institution's Research Strategy 2017-22 in that strategic investment will be made against three core themes of: 1) Health and Wellbeing; 2) New Technology Innovation; and 3) Culture & Society. This investment is in areas of recognised excellence to progress to outputs and impact.
We do not anticipate any major deviation from these project areas, but expect that the specific activities supported will develop over time. We will also expect partnering

countries and nature of engagement to change over the years. The 2018-19 strategy will include a number of early smaller investments in a larger number of less mature areas and will therefore have a greater emphasis on capacity building and pump-priming. In later years, more projects will move into established collaborative research with greater contribution from additional GCRF funding streams.
The level of funding in themed areas will reflect the costs of the research being undertaken with social science-type studies being less expensive than technology and laboratory investigations.
The listed outputs and impacts focus on established projects and we expect these to become more detailed and more refined as more projects mature.

6. How would your **priorities and activities** for 2018-19 QR GCRF change if the funding level differs from that outlined in indicative allocations? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Maximum 500 words
Our Strategy is designed in such a way to be able to readily respond to changes in the funding landscape including an increase or decrease in GCRF allocation. The three priority areas will remain regardless of funding however the nature and number of activities within the three project areas can be adapted to circumstance.
Our open call for GCRF monies in the 2017/2018 year to support new or existing projects has received considerable interest and the number of applications far exceeds the numbers we can support. This has informed our strategy and the importance of building flexibility to respond to emerging opportunities.
As mentioned previously we have designed our three-year strategy to include building from current research partnerships that hold potential for impact. Although we include anticipated projects and partnership activities, we are mindful that these may change over time and are confident our framework will enable us to capture the required ODA compliance and impact to report back.

7. Based on indicative funding allocations, what are your **priorities** for QR GCRF activity in 2019-20? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Maximum 1,000 words

Our priority project areas will remain throughout the three years. The projects, partners and activities will evolve over time as opportunities develop.

The activities within these projects will change according to progress and maturity of the projects. Our framework allows us to respond to any increase or decrease in available funding and invest in more activity in each of the project areas.
In year 2019-20 we expect the focus to be on established partnerships and less pump-priming activity. Further investment will allow planning of and realisation of early impacts and outputs. We expect a great proportion of funding to be used for fellowship and match funding reflecting greater knowledge transfer.
Our funding streams will provide a mechanism to invest available funds. An increase in funds may allow a greater number of ODA compliant projects or to increase the time or scale of outputs and impacts. Our **Health & Wellbeing** theme includes activities focused on improving healthy behaviour and health outcomes. For example, one activity involves building professional and political support for gender sensitive health and correctional services policy in Zimbabwe and Malawi to ensure that women have improved access to quality SRH/ HIV PTC&S services AND working with international agencies UNODC, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Health in Prisons Programme, and the African HIV in Prisons Partnership Network (AHPPN) to support implementation of findings and expansion of the collaboration across Africa. These partnerships are new and the outputs and impacts in the first years are anticipated to be the establishment of strong partnerships and stakeholder engagement (SDG17). The outputs and impacts of this work longer-term will include policy development, stakeholder engagement, numbers with awareness of HIV risk, (longer-term) reduction in HIV infection rates and contribute to SDG3, SDG4, SDG10 and SDG17.
The Global Active City activity is focussed on engaging countries and cities, including many on the DAC register, to promote the uptake of a sustainable physical activity and a sport for all management approach. It is a focussed and coordinated approach to two major global issues/challenges of the 21st century:
(1) urbanisation; 66% of human population will live in cities by 2050
(2) an epidemic of physical inactivity in all sectors of society that will have huge consequences for non-communicable diseases (CV, Cancer, diabetes etc.), obesity rates, social and health inequalities and increase in "wellness" and "happiness.
There is ambition to expand this initiative out to help countries on the DAC list and established partnerships in place to allow this to happen. These networks are currently being established (17/18) and we expect to invest in the early stages of building accreditation of countries and cities in 18/19 and 19/20.
Our **New Technology and Innovation** theme include activities focused on: ecosystem sustainability including biodiversity and land usage monitoring using drone technology; assessment of stability and usage of tropical peatlands as an important carbon reservoir; and development of green electronics. The impacts and outputs include reduced biodiversity loss (SDG15), increase in agriculture efficiency, potential reduction in harmful carbon release (SDG13) and new technology responsible electronic development avenues for job creation and direct economic development (SDG8, SDG12). In 19/20 we anticipate that the technology will be proven and we will be working with partners to roll-out the analysis to the widest possible geographies.

Our **Culture and Society** theme will build on important research in the area of gender inequality in Nepal and India. Current projects are working towards the impact of the use of reusable sanitary pads on improving women and girls' wellbeing in Nepal and working with NGOs in Nepal to develop links and provide training and resource packs to teachers in Nepal with outputs and impacts including numbers of girls in education (SDG4 & SDG5). These projects have so far been small-scale proof of principle initiatives and we expect wider reach and engagement in this year.
The priorities for projects within these three theme areas in 2018/19 will have a strong focus on capacity building and pump-priming, via our fellowship, and collaborative travel funding routes.

8. Based on indicative funding allocations, what are your **priorities** for QR GCRF activity in 2020-21? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Maximum 1,000 words
Year 20/21 will be our most active year in generating impacts. We do not rule out the possibility of investing in an emerging project area if there is a compelling or strategic reason to do so, however, we expect this year to be focused on achieving the maximum benefit from investment while planning for the future. Once again, our framework will allow us to respond to any increase or decrease in available funding and invest in more or less activity in each of the project areas.
By 20/21 we expect to be at a stage where projects have generated tangible benefits and that we will be working with partner countries to be influencing policy and wider change. For example, and as mentioned previously, a key project is Global Active Cities and by 20/21 we anticipate significant investment will be made to enable these programmes to roll-out across the chosen geographies to achieve the desired impacts.
In this academic year we expect to have a range of mature partnerships and proven research funding developed, which will enable larger grant applications from external funding sources, for which we will seek to gain leverage via strategic use of the GCRF funds where appropriate.
At all stages we will encourage project leaders to reach out beyond their own partnerships to develop consortia with other institutions to increase the power and potential of projects. In the final year we expect projects to focus once again on more networking activities to develop the next phase of these project to enable them to continue beyond the three years.