Council Meeting
Thursday, 3 February 2022
MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions	
1.	The Chair welcomed Cat Ball, Assistant Director of Research and Innovation from the Scottish Funding Council, attending on behalf of Stuart Fancey; and Professor Paul Monks, joining the meeting to discuss CSA Engagement.
Engagement with Chief Scientific Advisers (CSAs)	
2.	Professor Monks' presentation to Council included the following main points: - CSAs work within government to deliver robust and relevant science and engineering evidence and advice. - The CSA network is trying to regularise its engagement with UKRI and with UKRI councils. - The network aims to provide councils with a cross-government perspective. - A different mechanism for engagement may be required for RE given its nature and structure. - The CSA team is seeking agreement on a process for CSA appointments: the process will be presented to the UKRI Board in March/April for endorsement.
UKRI Strategy and Spending Review Update	
3.	Dan Shah provided an un update on the UKRI strategy and SR21 to include the following: - The points raised by RE Council have been reflected in the discussion of the UKRI Strategy at UKRI Board level and have been incorporated into revised drafts of the Strategy. - The UKRI Chief Executive and Chair have discussed the Strategy with the Secretary of State, with a programme of engagement planned following publication. - Strategic Delivery Plans will be discussed by the UKRI Board in May. - The detail of allocations is still being worked through.
Executive Chair's Report	
4.	DS highlighted a few aspects of his report to include the following: - Open Access: RE continues to play a significant role in the UKRI Open Access approach, including representing UKRI in discussions with cOAlition S, the international group of funders progressing full and immediate open access. - Expanding Excellence in England (E3): Council approved the delivery mechanism of E3 funding to address impacts of the pandemic and to enable E3 units to meet their sustainability goals. - KE Concordat: There has been a high level of sector engagement with the KE Concordat and universities have been very receptive to feedback in the pilot year. Reports summarising the process and evaluation activity will feed into government thinking on policy approach, particularly in terms of commercialisation. - Connecting Capability Fund (CCF): Preparatory work for the next round of CCF is underway contingent on SR outcomes.

- <u>University IP/Entrepreneurial Ecosystems</u>: RE has supported BEIS in a series of university-investor round tables focusing on interactions of universities with investors experienced in university spinouts.
- <u>The National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB)</u>: Council noted the benefit of NCUB's work for the sector, including analytical capability, particularly as demonstrated during the pandemic.
- <u>Trusted Research & Innovation (TR&I)</u>: There continues to be increased engagement across the TR&I agenda. Through the RE TR&I lead, RE is maintaining regular internal and external engagement with key stakeholders.

Review of KE Funding

5. The Director of Knowledge Exchange provided an overview of the proposed approach to the review of KE funding, noting the drivers as well as stakeholders that will need to be involved in the review. The objectives are to review the fundamentals of KE policy and funding approaches; to clarify the purpose and long-term direction of the KEF; to clarify commitment and approach to the KE Concordat; to confirm the long-term approach to the HEIF formula funding method; and to update the policy on HEIF eligibility.

Outcomes of the KEF Review

6. RE's Head of Data and Evidence, Knowledge Exchange provided an update on findings and reflections from the KEF Review. The KEF is a data driven framework developed to enable universities to be compared in a fair way. The aim of the review was to assess the approach and to determine if the framework fulfilled its objectives, and it has been shown that the framework has improved the status of KE, has incentivised internal discussions on KE, has improved data collection, and has enabled the diversity of KE to be represented.

Future Research Assessment Programme (FRAP) Consultation

7. RE's Associate Director for Research Environment outlined the role of the consultation in the context of wider FRAP activities. The outputs from the consultation will contribute to a wider body of evidence, the aim being to take a broad view from those working across the sector.

RE Strategic Delivery Plan Update

8. RE's Chief Operating Officer provided an update on progress on development of RE's Strategic Delivery Plan and refinement of RE's Performance Framework based on previous discussions at Council.

Risk, Assurance and Governance Report

9. Council members were provided with an update on risk, assurance and governance activity. Council was asked to note the GIAA audit report of RE's Governance Framework, which resulted in a 'moderate' opinion and five low priority actions for RE.

Date of Next meeting: **Thursday, 28 April 2022**