

Approved by AHRC Council:

Author: Amy Smith

Minutes of the AHRC Council meeting of 10 June 2025

Date: Tuesday 10 June 2025

Time: 09:00 – 13:10

Location: Birmingham City University and via Zoom

Council Members and Observers	
Ms Emma Kane (Chair)	Professor Ambreena Manji
Professor Christopher Smith (Executive Chair, AHRC)	Dr Bridget McConnell
Ms Zeinab Badawi	Professor Adrienne Scullion
Ms Anita Bhalla	Professor Steven Spier
Mr Tim Gardam	Professor Russell Viner
Ms Seetha Kumar	
Attendees	
Dr Jaideep Gupte (Director of Research, Strategy and Innovation, AHRC)	Professor Nick Gebhardt (Professor of Jazz and Popular Music Studies, Birmingham City University) - item 12
Dr Allan Sudlow (Director of Partnerships and Engagement, AHRC)	Professor Becky Shaw (Professor in Fine Art Practice, Birmingham City University) - item 12
Ms Stella Power (Chief Operating Officer, AHRC)	Professor John Mercer (Professor of Gender and Sexuality, Director of Researcher Education and Development, Birmingham City University) - item 12
Mr Matt McCallum (Associate Director, AHRC) - items 10 & 11	
Secretariat	
Mrs Amy Smith (Senior Governance Manager, AHRC)	Mrs Katie Nandhra (Senior Governance Manager, AHRC)
Apologies	
Professor Sue Rigby	

Introductory Items	
1.	Welcome
The Chair welcomed Council members to the meeting.	
	Professor David MBA (Vice Chancellor, Birmingham City University) joined and also welcomed Council to Birmingham City University and gave an introduction and overview of the University.
2. Apologies, and Declarations of Interest	
The Chair noted no apologies were received prior to the meeting.	
Council confirmed no new conflicts of interest needed to be declared.	

3.	Minutes, Actions, and Matters Arising
Council approved the minutes of 5 th March 2025.	
The Chair provided an update on actions.	
Updates and Operations	
4.	Refresh of Council member's ToR's and Expectations
Council discussed their TOR's noting that these are mostly set by HERA.	
AHRC's relationship with the other Councils was discussed and it was agreed that the links and opportunities here should be explored more.	
ACTION: AS to invite Council chairs to come to Council – add to forward plan where appropriate.	
Council agreed that moving forward it would be beneficial to have longer meetings to allow them more time to feed into priority areas.	
ACTION: AS to facilitate/amend forward plan.	
5.	Executive Chair's Report
Professor Smith noted his report and updated Council on the SR, Missions and Industrial Strategy.	
AHRC are thrilled to confirm that the DiSSCo OBC has been approved by DSIT outline committee without conditions, Professor Smith thanked the team for all their work.	
6.	Executive Chair's forward look
Professor Smith noted his priorities moving forward.	
7.	Strategic Delivery Plan (SDP) & Director's Updates
Council discussed the draft SDP and provided suggestions to incorporate. Council approved the document in principle subject to the suggestions they had made.	
ACTION: Use final SDP to create one pagers on investments and AHRC.	
Dr Sudlow updated Council on RiCHeS, CI PEC, responsible AI, and programmes and partnerships within the GLAM sector.	
Dr Gupte updated Council on QR and reposone mode, international and the gambling levy.	
8.	Chief Operating Officer Update
Ms Stella Power noted the AHRC dashboard and updated Council on system implementation, staffing, opex and future workstreams. Ms Power also noted AHRC's involvement in the 10k black interns scheme and the recent AHRC all staff event which focused on improvement and business planning.	

ACTION: AS to invite a new Council member to the November all staff event.

Council discussed Design Council and the upcoming World Design Congress.

9. Advisory Group reports

Professor Scullion updated Council on the last Advisory Board meeting which was the last meeting for many of the members. The new Advisory Board members have taken part in a AHRC induction and their first meeting will take place in October.

Professor Smith updated Council on the last CIAG meeting.

Items for Discussion

10. Deep Dive on Risk

Council discussed AHRC's evolving approach to risk and assurance, suggested areas for future discussion and noted how risk can also inform the SDP.

11. EDI Update

Council were updated on EDI and discussed how they can best support AHRC in this area.

ACTION: AS to add risk deep dive to forward plan for September meeting.

12. Showcase from Birmingham City University

Birmingham City University shared some of their AHRC funded projects with Council and were available for questions.

13. AOB

There was no AOB.

The next meeting will take place on 9th September 2025.