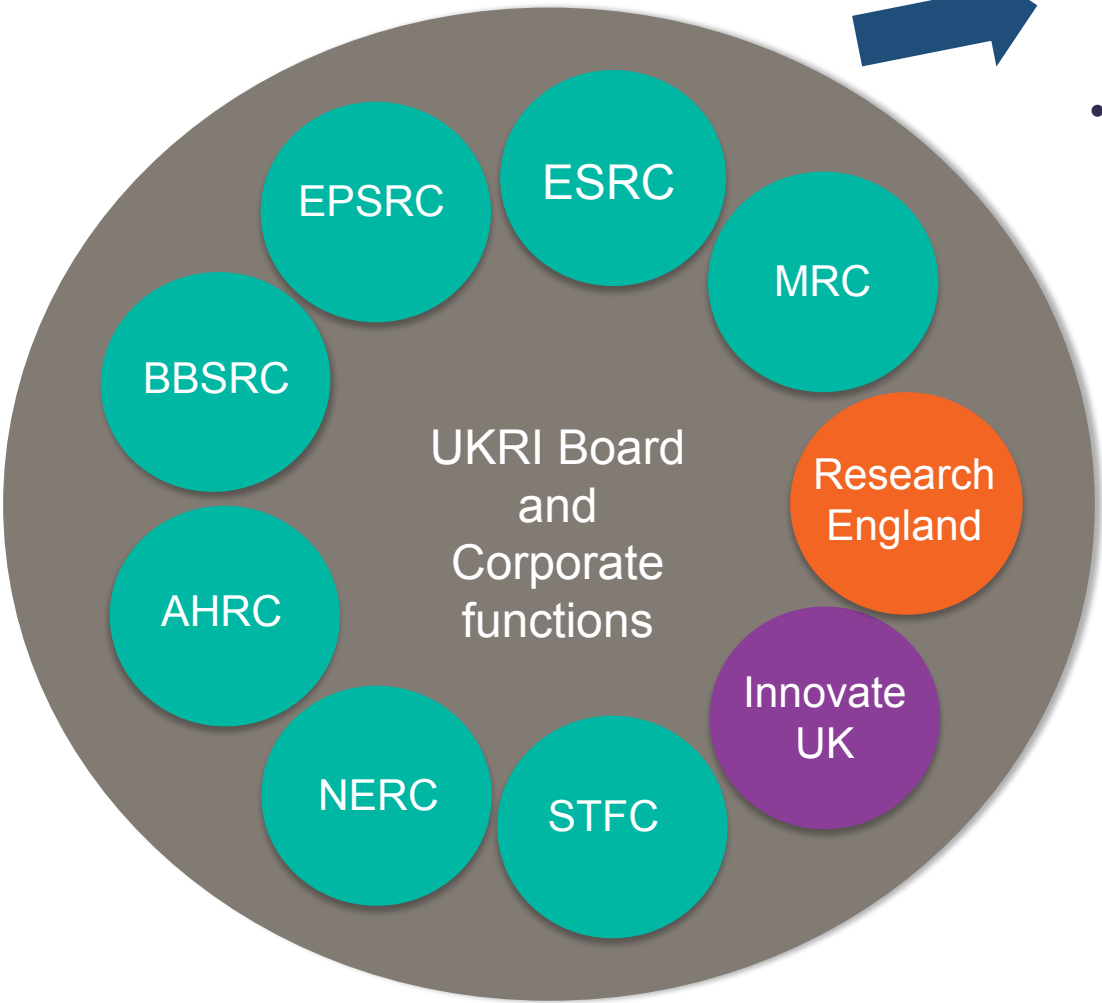


Strategic engagement with funders

Nick Bassett: Associate Director – Innovation; BBSRC: UKRI

Melanie Knetsch: Deputy Director – Innovation & Impact; ESRC: UKRI
@Mel_Knetsch

About UKRI

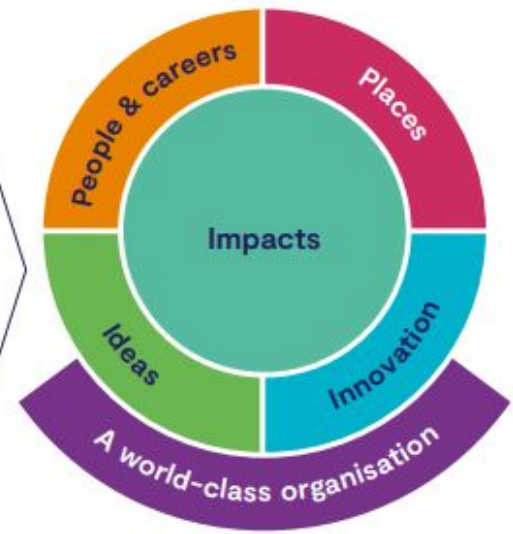


- UKRI is the primary funding organisation for research and innovation in the UK (dual support system + business)
- It includes the seven UK research councils, Innovate UK and Research England

Our budgets 2022-23 – 2024-25

Delivering the UKRI Strategy: total funding allocations, 2022-23 – 2024-25

Arts and Humanities Research Council £207m	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council £944m	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council £1,929m
Economic and Social Research Council £362m	Medical Research Council £1,750m	Natural Environment Research Council £925m
Science and Technology Facilities Council £1,651m	Research England £6,227m	Innovate UK £2,438m
Infrastructure £3,053m	Existing time limited commitments and Centrally Managed Funding* £3,674m	Collective Talent Funding and new cross-UKRI Strategic Programmes £2,805m



*includes existing cross-UKRI Strategic Programmes (and other time limited commitments such as COVID interventions), support for UKRI transformation, public engagement, and open access

What does a funder do?

Gives out grant funding

Our role is much more

Facilitate connections

DTPs, IAAs, Institutes and Campuses – eg to engage with users/researchers and vice versa with eg Catapults, KTN

Build capability

Create capacity

How we fund is just as important: Impact/mission led calls; bringing in the user voice; events to share insights

Understand the need and articulate the offer

Incentivising and evidencing: an area/theme; successes; value of the community

Understanding user evidence gaps; helping researchers shape actionable insights

Reward and recognition

Celebrating impact prize; Sparking Innovation

Set priorities

ESRC Research and Innovation Priorities – 22/25

Delivery Plan

Our purpose

To create a more prosperous, healthy, sustainable and secure society.

Our principles for change – we will embed the principles of diversity, resilience, connectivity and engagement across all our work, to drive change and create the conditions for an outstanding research and innovation system

Our strategic objectives provide the framework for how we will achieve our vision and realise our principles, through world-class:

People and careers

Sustaining a world-class, diverse and inclusive social science research base that supports talent across the entire research career through:

- talent, skills and leadership.
- equality, diversity and inclusion.

Places

Enabling social science to flourish in all places across and beyond the UK, delivering research, data and partnerships through:

- research institutes and centres.
- data infrastructure.
- international collaboration.
- impact and engagement.
- place-based initiatives.

Ideas

Capturing and catalysing diverse and excellent ideas across all disciplines, schemes and research career stages, creating new scientific knowledge and real-world impact through:

- research grants.
- research methods.
- horizon scanning.

Innovation

Providing a powerful evidence base which drives innovation across different organisations, sectors and regions to achieve UK-wide growth and prosperity through:

- innovation research and evidence.
- commercialisation.
- knowledge exchange.

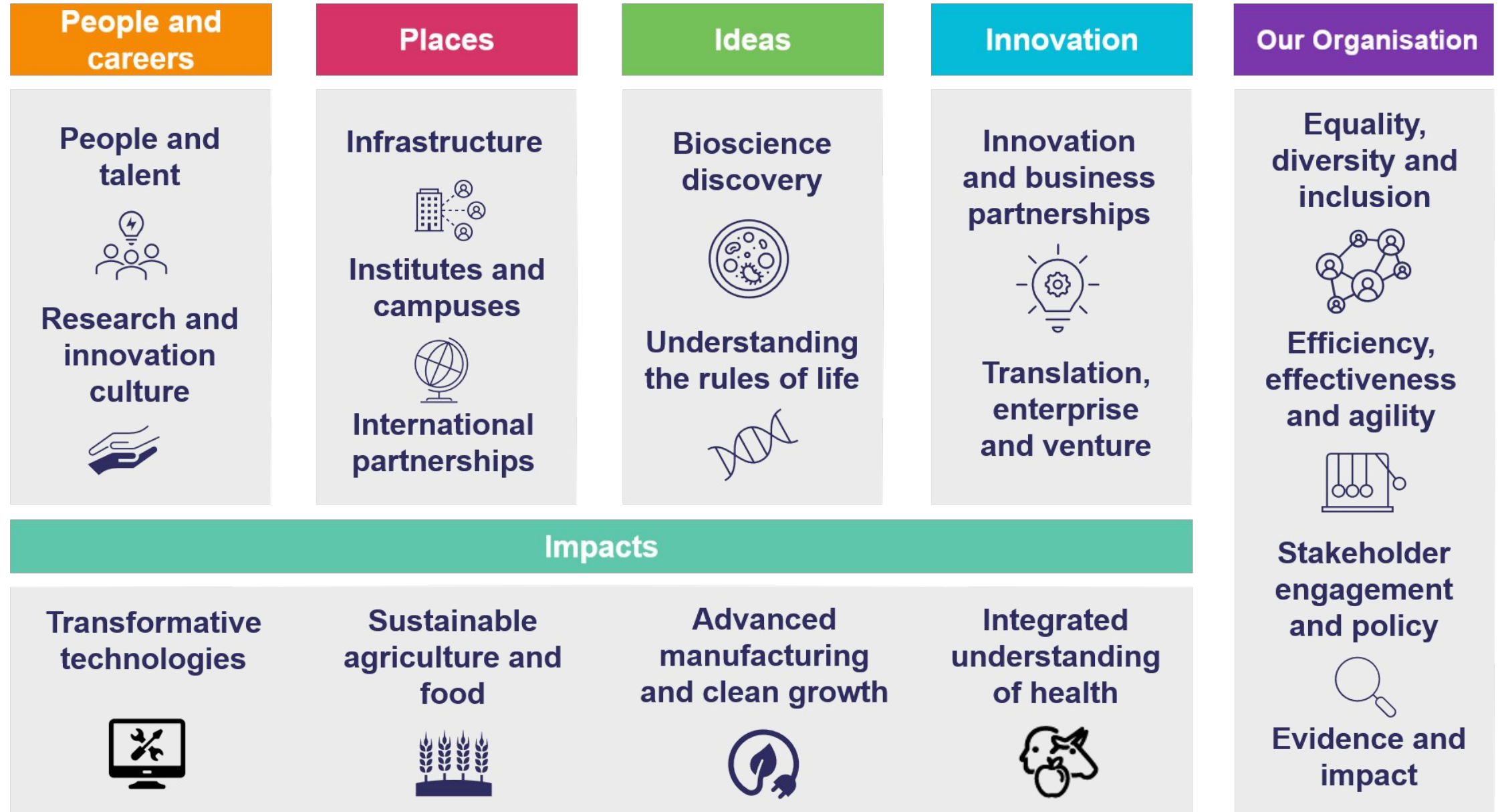
Impacts

Ensuring that the full power of UK social science is brought to bear in tackling the most pressing global, national and local challenges through new strategic priorities in:

- Net Zero, environment, biodiversity and climate change.
- digital society.
- health and social care.
- security, risk and resilience.
- understanding behaviour.

Supported by a **world-class organisation**: building an inclusive and diverse workforce empowered to deliver sector-wide leadership by catalysing new ways of working and bringing people together.

BBSRC Research and Innovation Priorities – 22/25 Delivery Plan



Key Input Points

Influencing Policy



Shaping Strategy

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
Funding opportunities



Evaluating Evidence



Driving Delivery

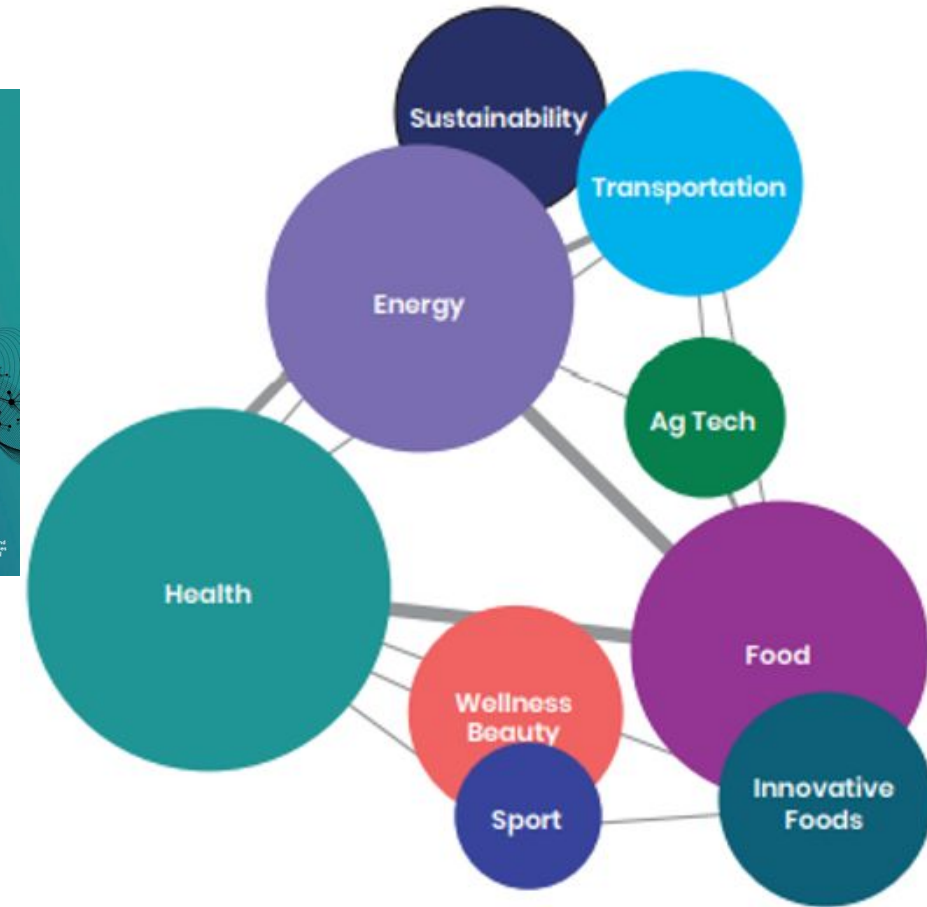


Keep on Testing

Why is bio innovation always the “poor cousin”?

What supply chains does bio innovation integrate with?

How can we stimulate high quality bio innovation?



- Power of bioscience is potentially lost, diminished by its **lack of visibility**
- Bioscience is **not consistently understood** among different stakeholder groups
- A **very diverse range** of market supply chains
- A **skills gap in commercialising bio innovation** across the wide range of market areas
- Potential of bio innovation is **obscured by structural factors** in policy, research, investment, and routes to market
- For UK bioscience to achieve its full potential it **needs to be understood in its entirety**

Before engaging

- Who needs to know?
- What is our need?
- Have you read our Delivery Plans? UKRI strategy?
- What is your actionable insight?
- Why do we need to know – what should we do with this knowledge?
- What format will be most accessible?
- How much detail do we need?
- Have opportunities to engage already been published?

Ways to engage with us

Events: Town Hall meetings; events we are speaking at; call development workshops; regional meetings

UKRI/Council governance structures: Advisory Groups, Panels, Networks, Business forums (CBI; Industry Associations; KTN)

Comms activities: Joining Caucus mailing lists; following on Twitter, UKRI newsletters

Your RO/institution: Connecting with UKRI/Council liaison people

Via our strategic investments, institutes and campuses (eg IAAs)

Calls for evidence (UKRI or councils); Government and Parliament calls for evidence

Why to engage: closing the loop

Our role is much more

Facilitate connections

Build capability

Create capacity

Understand the need and articulate the offer

Incentivising and evidencing: an area/theme;
successes; value of the community

Reward and recognition

Set priorities

Gives out grant
funding

Thank you

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