

## **HEFCW's RESEARCH POLICY OBJECTIVES**

### **Desired Characteristics of the Research Base in Wales include:**

- A dynamic and innovative research base of a quality which compares favourably with the rest of the UK and internationally
- Sufficiently broadly based to respond flexibly to new and emerging challenges
- Research groupings of a size and disciplinary range to be effective and sustainable
- A research culture which encourages staff to perform to their full potential and facilitates the recruitment and development of leading researchers
- Is sustainable in the longer term, both financially and in terms of training and developing the next generation of researchers
- Generates high quality and original research which advances knowledge and practice and, where appropriate, provides a basis for application and knowledge transfer
- Supports the economy, society and culture of Wales
- Maximises opportunities to lever research income from external funders, including Research Councils, charities, business and the EU.

### **HEFCW will enable the sector to achieve the above by:**

- Continuing to allocate research funding selectively on the basis of research excellence to recognise and reinforce high quality research
- Seeking to ensure that levels of research funding in Wales compare favourably with other parts of the UK, giving priority to ensuring that funding for top-rated research remains competitive
- Seeking to strengthen the research base by promoting genuine and effective collaborations which result in credible research groupings in terms of size, disciplinary reach and institutional support
- Funding a sufficiently broad research base to enable the sector to respond to emerging research opportunities
- Encouraging best practice in the management of institutional research strategies, in terms both of grant-seeking and ensuring (FEC) sustainability
- Monitoring institutional performance and impact, including providing analysis and feedback
- Seeking to ensure that the sector is well-placed to respond to the priorities of the Welsh Assembly Government, including the science policy, and to the priorities of the UK government and the EU, and to emerging global challenges.

The purpose of the funding which HEFCW provides through its main quality-driven research grant is: to give institutions the flexibility to determine the strategic direction of their research; to support emerging areas of research which are not yet sufficiently developed to attract external funding; to support high quality research for which other external funding is either not required or not available; to help meet the balance of costs for those categories of research funding which do not currently pay full economic costs.

Other research or knowledge transfer funds may also be deployed from time to time in order to build capacity or promote the application of research.