

Meeting
04/07/14

Agenda Item
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Reference No
HEFCW/14/57

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper alerts the Council to the development, by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), of a new Science and Innovation Strategy.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 We are presenting this paper to the Council in order to ensure that members are aware of this significant UK policy development, and in order to provide an opportunity for members to contribute suggestions and steers for HEFCW's submission, if they wish to do so.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Council is invited to:
- i. Note that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is developing a new Science and Innovation Strategy.
 - ii. Contribute, via email, any suggestions or steers for HEFCW's submission, based on the questions at Annex A.
 - iii. Note that HEFCW's draft submission will be circulated for advice and comment to those members of Council who are also members of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee, and to the Chair of Council.

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 Interested parties, including HEFCW, have an opportunity to submit views and evidence to BIS to help inform the development of the strategy. BIS intends to publish the new Strategy in autumn 2014, and we will therefore need to make our submission over the summer.

5 Council members' interests

- 5.1 No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

6 Further information

Contact Linda Tiller (Tel 029 2068 2228; E-mail: linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk)

7 Background

- 7.1 In autumn 2013, the UK Government announced that it would produce a new Science and Innovation Strategy for the 2014 Autumn statement. The overarching purpose of the strategy will be to define the scale and scope of the UK science and innovation system by 2020 and beyond. In making this announcement, the UK Government indicated that it wishes to ensure that the UK's capacity remains world-leading, while playing a key role in economic growth and scientific excellence.
- 7.2 Work on the development of the strategy is currently underway, led by the Department for Business, Industry and Skills (BIS). Whilst the Welsh Government has, of course, drawn up its own strategies for research ([Science for Wales](#) in 2012) and innovation ([Innovation Wales](#) in 2013), the wider UK strategy for Science and Innovation is also significant for us, as this will set the wider strategic framework within which we all operate.
- 7.3 BIS is not issuing a specific consultation document on the development of the Science and Innovation strategy. Instead, it will draw on a number of avenues for gathering contributions. These are principally:
- a UK-wide consultation on requirements for long-term capital investment in science and research. This is described in more detail in paragraphs 8.6 to 8.9 below.
 - the outcomes of a number of reviews which have recently been completed (e.g the Witty review on [Universities and Growth](#)) or which are currently underway (e.g. the Hauser review of the Catapult strategy)
 - engagement with stakeholders across business, higher education, innovation and research.

8 Development of the Strategy

- 8.1 In order to help support the process, the four UK higher education funding bodies and Research Councils UK issued a joint letter to UK universities last month, inviting them to provide views and evidence on issues relevant to the development of the strategy. The list of issues on which views were sought was drawn up by HEFCE in consultation with BIS. A copy of that list is attached at **Annex A**.
- 8.2 Universities have been asked to respond by the end of June. We will use the responses from universities in Wales to inform a submission which HEFCW intends to make to BIS on the development of the strategy.
- 8.3 We would welcome any suggestions or steers which members may wish to provide for HEFCW's submission, based on the issues set out at Annex A. Members are invited to send these, by email, to Linda Tiller (linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk).
- 8.4 Once we have prepared our draft submission, we intend to circulate it for advice and comment to those members of Council who are also members of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee, and to the Chair of Council. We anticipate doing this in late July.

8.5 In addition to providing a written submission, HEFCW also has an opportunity to contribute to the development of the strategy through our membership of a Ministerial Advisory Group which BIS has established to help advise on this exercise. This Group, which is chaired by Sir John O'Reilly, consists of senior representatives of the Research Councils, charities, industry and all four of the UK HE funding bodies. The Group has already met on one occasion, and expects to hold two further meetings.

The Council is invited:

- ***to note the development by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of a new Science and Innovation Strategy***
- ***to contribute, via email, any suggestions or steers for HEFCW's submission, based on the questions at Annex A***
- ***to note that the draft submission will be circulated for advice and comment to those members of Council who are also members of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee, and to the Chair of Council.***

Consultation on Priorities for Capital Investment

8.6 At the same time as developing the Science and Innovation Strategy, BIS is also consulting separately on the UK's long-term priorities for capital investment in science and research infrastructure. This consultation is distinct from the Science and Innovation Strategy, but it is one of the elements which will feed into that wider strategy.

8.7 The consultation paper – [Creating the Future: a 2020 vision for science and research – a consultation on proposals for long-term investment in science and research](#) – was published on the BIS website in April, with responses due by 4 July. It poses two key questions:

- What balance should BIS strike between meeting capital requirements at the individual research project and institution level, relative to the need for large-scale investments at national and international levels?
- What should be the UK's priorities for large-scale capital investments in the national interest including, where appropriate, collaborating in international projects?

8.8 At BIS' request, we hosted a roundtable event on the consultation at HEFCW in early June. It was led by BIS officials and was attended by PVCs Research/senior research managers, Welsh Government and the Chair of our Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee. The event provided a helpful forum for a two-way exchange of information.

8.9 We intend to make a written response to this consultation, and have encouraged our institutions to do so as well.

9 Financial implications

9.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this paper.

10 Communications implications

- 10.1 Together with the other UK HE funding bodies and Research Councils UK, we have issued a joint letter to universities inviting them to contribute views to inform the development of the Science and Innovation Strategy. There are no other communications implications, as the publication and launch of the strategy will be handled by BIS.

11 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

- 11.1 This paper has no implications for age, disability, marital/civil partnership, maternity/pregnancy, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, any other protected characteristic or Welsh Language.

12 Risk Assessment

Risk	Action to address risk
There is a risk that the strategy may not be consistent with developments and priorities in Wales.	We recognise that this is a high-level strategy for the UK as a whole. However, we do have the opportunity to feed in any points of particular importance to Wales, both through our written submission, and through HEFCW's membership of the Ministerial Advisory Group. We have sought views from our sector on issues relevant to the strategy in order to inform our written submission.