

ESRC DELIVERY PLAN 2005

ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS

SUCCEEDING IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE CAPACITY

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

DELIVERING WORLD-CLASS SOCIAL SCIENCE

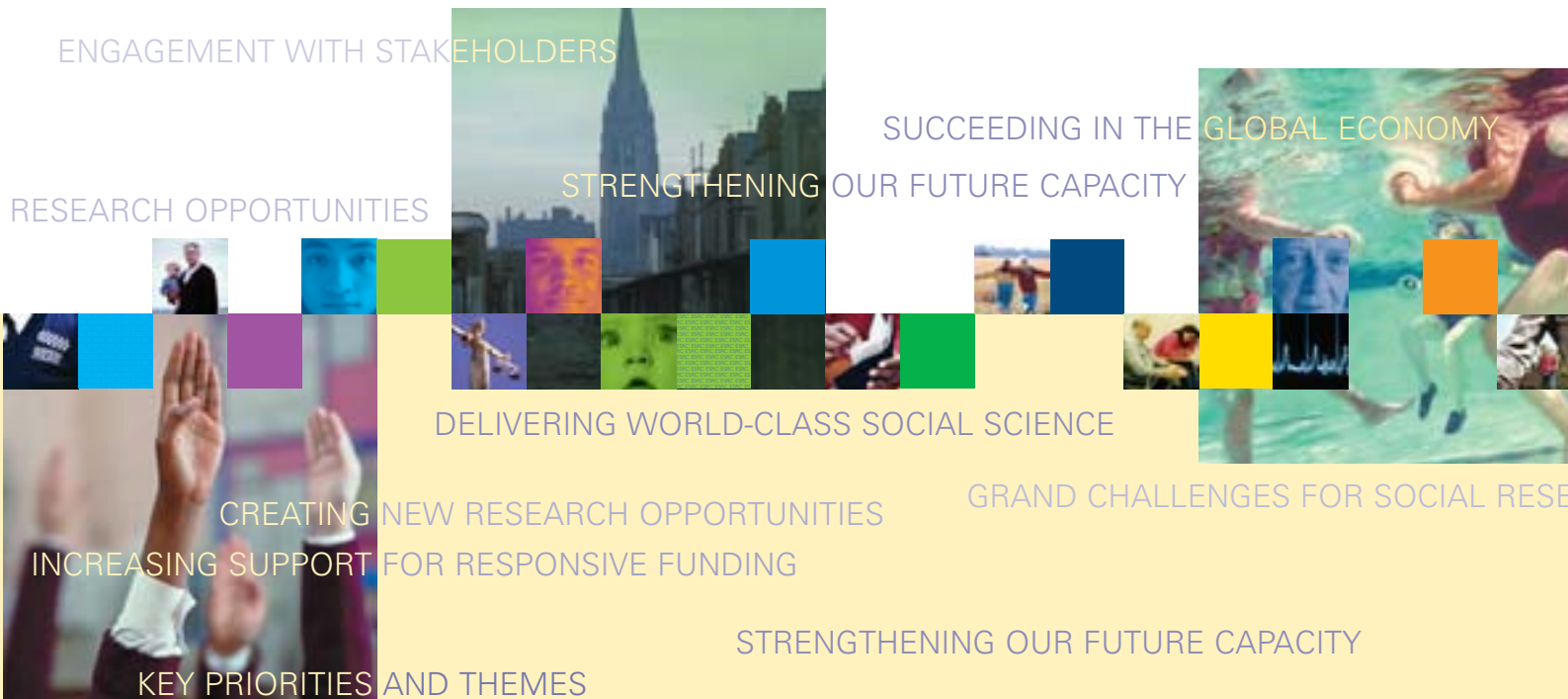
CREATING NEW RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

GRAND CHALLENGES FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

INCREASING SUPPORT FOR RESPONSIVE FUNDING

STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE CAPACITY

KEY PRIORITIES AND THEMES





ESRC DELIVERY PLAN 2005

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 ESRC IN CONTEXT

Social science is the scientific study of economies and societies. For the UK science base to contribute fully to economic development, quality of life and public services social science research is critical. This is because human progress depends not only on natural science, engineering and technology but on the social and economic conditions that shape them and their subsequent implementation. Interaction and collaboration between social science and other areas of research is essential for the impact of such research to be optimally utilised for the good of society. The Research Councils UK (RCUK) framework has enabled the mobilisation of scientific excellence across all areas of knowledge through Research Councils working together. The interaction is impressive and this delivery plan includes joint initiatives between ESRC and five of the other Research Councils.

The ESRC is the largest Research Council in terms of the community it serves, accounting for over 25 per cent of those staff returned in the last Research Assessment Exercise across a wide range of disciplines. As such, the work supported by the ESRC contributes in many ways to the social, political, economic and intellectual life of the UK and beyond. It directly informs public policy and professional practice across all sectors of the economy. It strengthens our knowledge of and our ability to address a wide range of complex issues central to our development as an advanced and civilised society. It contributes to the teaching of large numbers of undergraduate and postgraduate students. And, it enhances the wider public's understanding of the world in which we all live.

On almost all of the available indicators, the strength of the UK social science research base globally is highly impressive. It is second only to the US in most areas and in some areas ahead of it. The maintenance of international standards of excellence will require continued investment in areas of the highest level of performance, whilst also addressing those areas in which there is scope for further improvement.

2.2 BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

In 2004-5 ESRC implemented a new strategic framework. This divided our work into the following areas: Research, Capacity, Engagement, and Performance. It was then necessary to identify what Council's priorities should be within that framework. To assist with this, a major consultation exercise was held in the spring and summer of 2004. This involved universities, learned societies, government departments, organisations in the business, public and voluntary sectors, and other key stakeholders. At its October 2004 meeting Council discussed the outcome of the national consultation and the issues identified by its Boards and Committees in their emerging plans. Following that meeting, the Boards and Committees each produced a Strategic Plan containing specific proposals for funding between 2005-8. In April 2005, Council decided on its future priorities and specific spending plans from the 2004 Spending Review allocation. The broad priorities for 2005-10 and the longer-term impacts of these will be set out in the ESRC's new Strategic Plan.

The ESRC's final allocation from the Spending Review 2004 was: 2005-6 £123.265 million; 2006-7 £142.268 million; 2007-8 £150.136 million. This includes the allocations made for the introduction of full economic costing (FEC) as set out in Appendix I.

This Delivery Plan sets out the key priorities for 2005-8, although the main focus is on 2005-6 as an updated plan will be produced in 2006. They can be summarised in terms of seven strategic objectives:

- Seizing opportunities in research
- Creating opportunities in research
- Strengthening our capacity – people and disciplines

- Providing capacity in data and ensuring methods development
- Engagement with stakeholders and the public
- International benchmarking of performance
- Maximising international presence and opportunities.

Each of these relate to at least one of the broad objectives set out in the Office of Science and Technology's (OST) strategy for delivering the science budget.

The plan has been divided into the four areas of Research, Capacity, Engagement and Performance. The objective of maximising international presence and opportunities cuts across all these areas. For instance, applications through the European Collaborative Research Projects scheme will be considered via the responsive mode. As part of Capacity, the Research Resources Board is commissioning a review of international data resources and is developing work on comparative methodologies. The scheme which is being developed with the Department for International Development will help to increase the global scope of UK social science. In addition, the Research Evaluation Committee will be assessing the quality of UK social science in a global context through a series of international benchmarking reviews.

Appendix 2 sets out the performance management outputs framework and scorecard, with specific aims for the year, together with the milestones by which we will be able to judge progress. Appendix 3 lists our current strategic research and infrastructure investments.

SEIZING NEW RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES SUCCEEDING IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY
 MEASURING AND IMPROVING OUR PERFORMANCE GRAND CHALLENGES FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
 KEY PRIORITIES AND THEMES SEIZING NEW RESEARCH
 STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE CAPACITY DELIVERING WORLD-CLASS SOCIAL SCIENCE
 SUCCEEDING IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

2 DELIVERING WORLD-CLASS SOCIAL SCIENCE

2.1 SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES IN RESEARCH

Increase the proportion of research in responsive mode and start to raise success rates.

Responsive mode funding is vital to support the best research ideas emerging from our community. This is not restricted to basic or theoretical research. Much of the work supported by our Research Grants Board is directly relevant to policy and practice. The overriding criterion for funding is academic excellence and within this significant work is supported across the social sciences.

Demand for ESRC funding is high and there has been a significant increase in grant and fellowship applications in recent years. The number of alpha (i.e. fundable) rated applications has also increased. The significant increase in demand for grants and fellowships, together with the outcome of the recent national consultation, has led the Council to increase funding for standard awards, as well as introduce new schemes to broaden the responsive mode portfolio. These include a new first grants scheme. Within the standard grants scheme, it is also intended that one or two 'highlight notices' per year will be issued, welcoming applications in emerging trans-disciplinary, cross-Council areas. Further rounds of the Professorial Fellowships and seminar schemes will be held in 2005-6. The development of the former will be critical in helping to support major theoretical advances within the social sciences and to ensure that high quality empirical work is linked to theoretical development.

The ESRC has individually promoted bi-lateral research agreements with a number of countries which will be signed in the early months of 2005-6. These include Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, Ireland, Iceland, Finland and Sweden, and, possibly, the United States. These will permit collaborative applications between researchers in these countries, overcoming the current bureaucratic hurdles. Applications arising from these, as with the European Collaborative Research Projects applications, will be considered by the Research Grants Board alongside standard applications, ensuring that the highest quality in research is maintained.

The need has been identified for a new 'mid-range' funding scheme. There has been a gap in our provision between the current large grant maximum level of £750,000 and research centres (typically £0.5 - £1 million annually). It has been agreed that this scheme should be developed and a first competition held during 2005-6. It will be an open responsive scheme, with no restriction on the type of format (e.g. groups, networks, large-scale surveys) or focus of the research.

The Strategic Research Board will institute and publicise widely a regular cycle of open centres competitions, in which proposals will be invited in any area of social science. This will commence with an open centres competition in 2005-6, with a highlight in the area of the environment and sustainability. From the 2004-5 open centres competition, it was agreed to fund a new research centre in 'Deafness, Cognition and Language' at University College London.

2.2 CREATING OPPORTUNITIES IN RESEARCH

Fund research that addresses Council's key research challenges.

ESRC's research portfolio falls into seven broad areas based on cognate disciplines. Current and future activities (including responsive mode support) within these areas are described below and a list of all current centres and programmes is provided at Appendix 3.

Following the consultation process described on page one, Council identified seven key research challenges and a number of possible mechanisms for taking each of these forward in the spending review period. In summary, these are

- a) **Succeeding in the global economy**
- b) **Individual behaviour and its relationship to biological and social determinants**
- c) **Education for life**
- d) **Environmental change**
- e) **Security and international relations**
- f) **Religion and society**
- g) **Population change.**

Some of these challenges will be addressed by partnerships supported through the Ventures Fund, a new mechanism introduced by the Council last year to facilitate collaborative research funding. This is described in more detail in the section on knowledge transfer.

OUR CURRENT PORTFOLIO AND NEW PRIORITY AREAS

ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Current Activities

ESRC's major investments in this area include the internationally renowned centres on economic performance, fiscal policy and economic learning. The ESRC has also initiated new centres in recent years on competition policy and public organisation economics, and alongside these is a major new research programme on world economy and finance. More than £3 million is spent annually on responsive mode support through grants and fellowships.

The sound management of the UK economy over recent years has been underpinned by economics research conducted in past decades. There are now ever greater challenges both for the UK's position in an increasingly global economy and, more broadly, for those managing the economies of the world.

Relevant Priority Research Challenges:

Succeeding in the global economy (a1)

This has three important components to add value to the Council's current portfolio through new investments: the future success of the UK in the global economy with regard to technologies and new business models (which are addressed at (a2) in the next section on management and innovation) and the needs of developing countries, which are addressed here.

Priority research questions on development include: why are some developing countries succeeding in an increasingly global economy and others are not? What feasible policy options are there for escape from poverty for relevant countries?

The UK's social science base in this area, not just within economics but also in political science and development studies, is recognised internationally to be of the first rank. The ESRC is already supporting two research groups in this area but we are now establishing a major strategic collaboration with the Department for International Development (DFID) to enhance the global impact of social science research on development through new work on these issues.

MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS STUDIES AND INNOVATION

Current Activities

Major commitments here include the Advanced Institute of Management research (AIM), which is supporting research to enhance the UK's international competitiveness as well as raising both the quality and capacity of the UK's research base in management. There are also programmes on the evolution of business knowledge and the delivery of public services and a number of centres focusing on innovation, knowledge, skills and business relationships. £800,000 is spent annually on responsive mode support through grants and fellowships.

Relevant Priority Research Challenges:

Succeeding in the global economy – Technologies and new business models (a2)

The Council currently has three innovation research centres, and 'Sustaining Innovation to Achieve Competitive Advantage' is a theme within AIM. Given that innovation remains a high priority for key ESRC stakeholders, notably the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and RCUK partners, the most appropriate way forward is to develop AIM further. This has the advantage of building on AIM's existing collaboration with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and connectivity with DTI. Specific technologies for further work include long duration information systems (where a Ventures collaboration with EPSRC has just been agreed), nanotechnologies (the EPSRC has already indicated it could make £350,000 available for a partnership with ESRC) and systems biology (where there is potential for collaboration with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council).

Priority research questions include, generally and for particular technologies: what will determine the future global distribution of high value added, highly innovative activities? what will replace the familiar but increasingly dated concept of national systems of innovation with global sourcing of technologies? what are the generic and specific factors in the successful development of particular new technologies such as nanotechnologies and systems biology?

Specific actions in 2005-6 will therefore include the commissioning of AIM early career fellowships, Ventures partnerships with RCUK partners and preparation with the Strategic Research Board of a proposal for expansion of the AIM Fellowships.

ESRC funded research in the AIM programme has revealed how outsourcing and offshoring are already contributing a positive trade balance of some £12 billion to the UK economy. However, with China becoming the world's second largest economy, India and Brazil growing rapidly, and the City of London's current pivotal role in the global financial system no longer taken for granted, the future role of UK businesses in the emerging value chains of a global economic system is far from clear.

Priority research questions include: what kinds of organisation will drive economic activity in the future? how far can new forms of organisation take outsourcing both locally and globally? how do UK companies nurture and sustain high value-added activity? is the traditional joint stock company now too risk averse to be fit for purpose in a dynamic, global economy, and if so, what alternatives might replace it?

The ESRC currently supports work in this area through a Centre on Risk and Regulation and has plans in 2005-6 for partnerships with DTI on corporate governance and with EPSRC on a financial risk research unit. However, there is potentially scope to add value through a further investment - a focussed programme that draws on political science and international relations as well as management studies - and a proposal will be developed for further consideration by the Strategic Research Board in February 2006.

EDUCATION, PSYCHOLOGY, COGNITION, AND LINGUISTICS

Current Activities

ESRC's major investments include the programmes on Teaching and Learning (TLRP), Innovative Health Technologies and People at the Centre of Communication and Information Technologies. The TLRP is making significant contributions to the development of research-based practice in teaching and learning across all ages and at all stages of the learning process. The new centre on deafness research at UCL will also enhance our portfolio in this area. £10 million is spent annually on responsive mode support through grants and fellowships and psychology received the largest number of research grant awards by discipline in 2003-4.

Relevant Priority Research Challenges:

Individual behaviour and its relationship to biological and social determinants (b)

Many of the major challenges facing UK society depend on improving understanding of how to maximise the effectiveness with which individuals can take control of their own lives. These include understanding the interaction between genetic endowment, early childhood development, adolescent and adult brain functioning, individual emotions, interactions with others and the role of institutions and culture.

This will be a major, long term challenge, which will require interdisciplinary work across the science base and especially between social science and medical science. A start to such interdisciplinary collaborations has already been made in partnership with the Medical Research Council (MRC), and ten other organisations in the National Prevention Research Initiative, with the ESRC contribution funded through Ventures. This is focussed on the primary prevention of cancer, coronary heart disease and diabetes through understanding health behaviours. The MRC has already indicated that it would like to follow this up with further joint research with the ESRC.

The next step in tackling this ambitious agenda is a need for interdisciplinary work with medical scientists in social neuroscience. Functional neuro-magnetic imaging and other technologies are now for the first time mapping what happens inside the brain when social and economic stimuli are applied and human beings respond. The UK already has a well developed infrastructure of brain imaging machines in place and a strong community in psychology and other relevant disciplines. We will hold an international workshop to explore the leading edge research agenda both for social science and the possibilities for collaborative research with partners such as the MRC.

Education for life (c)

Research on pedagogy and educational performance has often focussed on the impacts upon learning outcomes at particular key stages in childhood and the lifecourse and the Teaching and Learning Research Programme addresses many of these issues. However, it is clear from a number of longitudinal studies, including those funded by ESRC, that skills acquired and choices made in school have a profound and persistent effect on later life. Interventions through traditional welfare policies may thus be quite limited in their effectiveness. New policies to achieve real improvements in long run wellbeing and reduced welfare costs through educational intervention might be extremely powerful.

However, to investigate these interventions through short run randomised control trials is ethically and practically very difficult. New methods to simulate the impact of educational interventions are needed and this will require a radically different research agenda for consideration in 2006. This would bring together education and social policy, research areas that, with some exceptions, have proceeded separately as well as drawing on the work of some of our existing economics investments. Priority research questions include: what is the effect of formal and informal education on children's long term well-being and the development of capabilities in their families and communities? how can initial education sustain a commitment to lifelong learning for economic and social advantage? what changes would be needed for education to be the main policy instrument for intervention to overcome social exclusion?

Consideration will be given to making this a priority highlight area within the 2006 centres competition. In addition, during 2005 a new phase of the Teaching and Learning Research Programme, focused on widening participation in Higher Education, will be commissioned.

GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, URBAN/RURAL AND TRANSPORT STUDIES, AREA STUDIES

Current Activities

Current funding includes the major cross-Council programmes on energy and the rural economy and land use, the joint Council Tyndall Centre on climate change research, a programme on sustainable technologies and the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment. Over £4 million is spent annually on responsive mode support through grants and fellowships. Opportunities for research on environment and sustainability will also be highlighted in the 2005/05 open research centres competition.

Relevant Priority Research Challenges

Environmental change (d)

Towards a Sustainable Energy Economy (TSEC)

In order to achieve secure, competitively priced, low carbon, energy supply and efficient, sustainable future consumption of that energy, there is a need for social science research that identifies the key levers that can help bring this about. The ESRC has worked with the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) on this major cross-Council commitment. As well as contributing over £3 million to the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC), the ESRC is also funding a new research group on Transitions to a Sustainable Energy Economy.

As a part of cross-Council activities under the Spending Review 2004 ESRC will lead in the establishment of two new inter-disciplinary research groups which will provide a focus for UK research on energy consumption and energy markets as well as a collaborative network exploring attitudes to renewable energy developments.

Working with the other Councils the ESRC will seek to build social science research capacity in energy research and ensure that the social sciences make a central contribution to other parts of the TSEC Programme, including work on Keeping the Nuclear Option Open, enhancing the international dimensions to the Programme's work, energy security issues and networking with business and industry. Working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), DTI and National Energy Action, the ESRC will also develop proposals for bringing greater co-ordination and renewed impetus for research on fuel poverty and explore the role of trust in securing a sustainable energy future.

Climate Change

The EPSRC/ESRC/NERC Tyndall Centre focuses attention on effective responses to the challenges posed by climate change and what this might mean for management of the environment and economy. Following on from the positive international evaluation of the Centre's first period of funding, which noted that the social sciences have been especially prominent in the high quality work of the Centre, we will consider proposals for a second term of funding to build on the success to date.

Rural Economy and Land Use

The cross-Council Rural Economy and Land Use Programme is led by the ESRC with NERC, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), DEFRA and the Scottish Executive. The Programme is already addressing key challenges in sustainable rural development around the themes of the integration of land and water use; the environmental basis of rural development; sustainable food chains; and economic and social interactions with the rural environment. A third phase will be commissioned which will provide opportunities to build on the capacity built under the first phase of the Programme as well as for undertaking novel inter-disciplinary research on plant and animal disease management. The third call for applications under the Programme will be made in Summer 2005.

Sustainable Water Management

Sustainable water management is a global challenge and has been identified by the Environmental Research Funders Forum as a key area for UK investment. Inter-disciplinary research involving social and natural scientists and engineers is required to model and understand changing water systems and their interactions with human activities. Two key potential areas for cross-Council research are: sustainable catchment systems and sustainable water supply and use. In order to take this forward we will seek partnership funding from industry.

Environment and Health

Both natural and anthropogenic environments provide a range of challenges for society and can affect human well-being both positively and negatively. The environmental changes wrought by the rising scale and diversity of human activities stiffen those challenges. Social and economic factors such as inequalities in health, differential exposure to the environment and differences in human understanding and behaviour all influence the ways in which the environment affects human health. Research is needed on the organisational and individual responses to these that can have beneficial effects at a global and national level. ESRC will work with sister councils and other funding partners to develop a series of capacity-building activities and a multi-agency programme.

Transport Policy

Joint studentships with the Department for Transport will be offered. This year approximately five awards will be available for research into improving transport and, in particular, tackling congestion and protecting the environment. We will also be evaluating the work of our Transport Studies Unit this year and this will inform the development of a future research agenda for this area.

GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND LAW

Current Activities

Current and continuing activity includes the 2005 British Election Study and major investments in evidence based policy, risk, devolution, new security challenges and the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR). CSGR is also leading an EU Framework 6 network of excellence on *Global Governance, Regionalisation and Regulation*. £1.6 million is spent annually on responsive mode support through grants and fellowships.

Relevant Priority Research Challenges

Security and international relations (e)

It should be noted that issues of global security and relations between communities and nations across the globe cross almost all of the research areas described here. Specific opportunities arise in: technologies to enhance security (with EPSRC, MRC and BBSRC) and population change and security. During 2005-6 the scope for taking these forward in collaboration with funding partners will be explored thoroughly.

In addition, these discipline areas will contribute to the full range of research challenges described in this plan, for example: Succeeding in the global economy - governance in developing countries, regulation and the emergence of new business models and technologies; individual behaviour and political choice; public policy on education and welfare; effective and sustainable regulation of the environment; causes and consequences of population change; interactions between religion, ethnicity and identity.

SOCIOLOGY, SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Current Activities

This area of work currently includes programmes on cultures of consumption (in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)), the e-society, non-governmental organisations, stem cells, science in society and social identities. We also have centres and groups at the forefront of the UK's work on, genomics, micro-social change, families, social exclusion and socio-cultural change. £4.7 million is spent annually on responsive mode support through grants and fellowships.

Relevant Priority Research Challenges

Religion and society (f)

The Council is currently developing a longitudinal data resource for research on ethnicity. We will work with the AHRC in 2005-6 to explore possibilities for developing capacity in this and related areas. The two Councils will work together in investigating the connectivity between research on religion, identities and ethnicities. We will also discuss priorities for funding. This activity will include an investigation of how existing and prospective research sources, including the proposed longitudinal study, can underpin effective research in these areas. The intended outcome would be a comprehensive and co-ordinated series of investments, building on existing investments such as those by ESRC in Identities and Social Action and the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) and by AHRC in Diasporas, Migration and Identities.

STATISTICS, COMPUTING, INFRASTRUCTURE, DEMOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Current Activities

The current commitments here include the majority of our large-scale and long-term investment in the infrastructure for data resources and longitudinal surveys. These are described in further detail in the section on resources. In addition, we fund a major research Centre on Migration, Policy and Society. A new cross-Council programme on ageing, funded by the ESRC, EPSRC, BBSRC and MRC, and building on ESRC's earlier Growing Older Programme will be commissioned in 2005. The ESRC is already supporting a modest, £300,000, collaboration through our Ventures Fund with the Scottish Executive on Scotland's population. £1 million is spent annually on responsive mode support through grants and fellowships.

Relevant Priority Research Challenges

Population change (g)

There are seismic changes occurring in the demography of much of the world including changing childbearing patterns and household structures, increased longevity and internal and external migration. Critical research questions requiring new work include:

Childbearing

Research questions include: what are the explanations for below population replacement fertility levels in much of Europe? what are the long run consequences of the contrast with continued high fertility in many parts of the less developed world and a US population sustained largely through migration? what are the best adaptation strategies to manage the enormous economic and social consequences in the absence of effective intervention?

The changing dynamics of the family

Past childbearing, reproductive technologies, education, migration, family formation and dissolution and longer life expectancy are rapidly transforming family relationships. These changes impact on critical areas such as productivity, labour supply and the persistence of disadvantage. These changes need to be mapped and causality distinguished from coincidence to underpin the development of effective policies. Research questions include: are fiscal policies from inheritance tax to child credit fit for purpose? who will care for older people?

Some of these questions will be addressed through the new ESRC/DFID scheme described earlier. In addition, proposals for a focussed programme on childbearing and on family dynamics will be developed for consideration by both the Strategic Research Board and Research Resources Board in February 2006. This is an area where exploitation of enhanced national and international datasets will require collaboration between both boards. International comparative research will be emphasised in the development of the focussed programmes.

3 STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE CAPACITY – PEOPLE AND DISCIPLINES

To contribute to the health of social science disciplines.

The continuing health of disciplines has been emphasised as a key priority by both Council and the Office of Science and Technology. The future health of the social science community rests upon:

- Maintaining research capacity where the UK is already a centre of excellence
- Strengthening the UK social science base where there is a shortage of high quality research capacity
- Fostering new capacity in areas which will address emerging research challenges.

Maintaining a healthy social science research base requires urgent action. There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, the UK social science workforce is ageing. In many disciplines this cohort will not be replaced by a new generation of researchers. Secondly, there are serious recruitment and retention problems in some key disciplines which are threatening to inhibit the regeneration of the academic workforce.

These trends threaten to undermine the UK's position as a world leader in social scientific research. It has therefore been decided to introduce a number of initiatives to arrest this threat and provide a structured career path for the next generation of researchers. These are:

- Studentships and fellowships in priority areas
- Postdoctoral fellowships in priority areas
- An innovation pool to encourage the development of innovative training provision
- A joint language initiative with AHRC and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
- A new first grants scheme
- Research grant linked studentships.

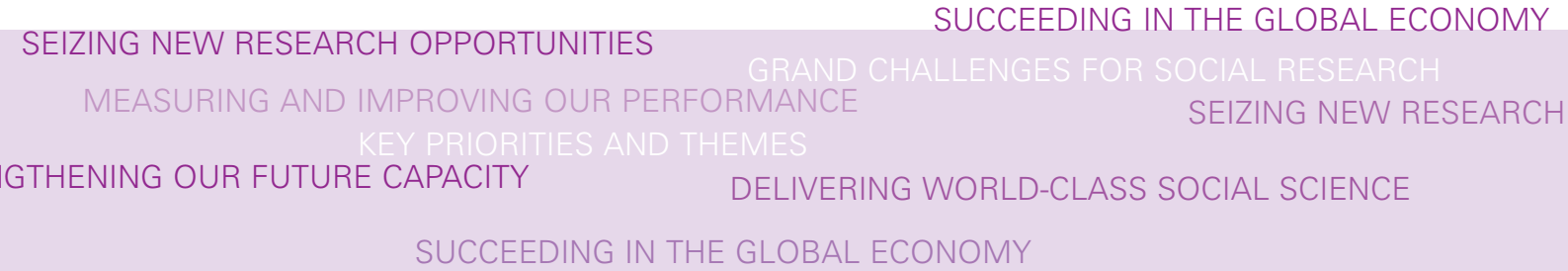
The Council can exercise the most far reaching impact upon the future health of the social science base through strategic intervention. Its Training and Development Board intends to pursue a targeted strategy, identifying key disciplines where the most pressing capacity problems exist. This will involve hard choices, with the reallocation of studentships and postdoctoral fellowships between subject areas. We will also introduce higher salaries and stipends for postdoctoral fellowships and studentships in priority areas. We are carrying out work to identify areas, including at a sub-disciplinary level, with particular problems and opportunities to build new research capacity to meet future research challenges. This analysis will help inform the Council's studentship quota allocations from 2006.

Six initial priority areas have been identified. In economics the major problems are recruitment and retention, which threaten to erode the UK's role as a world leader in this discipline. Management and business studies is affected by similar problems, but is also a disciplinary area where there is scope to improve the general quality of research capacity. The lack of quantitative skills is endemic to many areas of social science and again there is an urgent need to enhance research quality. The UK has a strong reputation for good quality research in socio-legal studies and area studies, yet these disciplines have fragile research bases which need to be revitalised as the current generation of academics retire. In addition, social work is an emerging research area which we will seek to foster:

It is also intended to introduce an 'innovation pool', designed to support novel and flexible training provision, particularly in cross-disciplinary areas.

In conjunction with the AHRC and funding councils, we will develop a programme to build capacity in Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Asian and East European Studies. This will involve a number of measures, such as funding studentships and tailored training for academic staff at more advanced stages of their research careers. Research training will integrate social and cultural aspects with dedicated language training.

A new scheme will be introduced for studentships linked to larger research grants. This will provide an additional capacity building resource within the responsive mode. A dedicated responsive mode scheme for junior applicants will aid new researchers at a crucial early stage of their academic careers, providing a bridge to longer term research development. The first awards under both of these initiatives will commence in 2006-7. We will also be strengthening our support for researchers at all stages of their careers through the new Researcher Development Initiative and through active support for the work of the new RCUK Research Careers and Diversity Unit.



4 STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE CAPACITY – RESEARCH RESOURCES

To ensure that ESRC leads on the development of a core set of social science datasets with secure long term funding and on the development of methodology in the social sciences.

4.1 INFRASTRUCTURE

The continued development of a national social science infrastructure is essential if the UK is to retain its leading position in social and economic research. The ESRC has a unique role to play in achieving this objective, by both taking the lead in developing a coherent and comprehensive data infrastructure and by fostering methodological innovation to ensure that it is fully exploited. The Council is developing a national datasets strategy to help achieve this.

The Council has already made major strides in developing a world-class data infrastructure. The UK has, for example, an internationally renowned collection of longitudinal studies including the National Child Development Study, British Household Panel Study and the Millennium Cohort. In April 2004, the Council committed a further £23 million over the next six years to fund the future development of its longitudinal studies.

The maintenance and development of access to the Census datasets is vital in underpinning many areas of UK social science. We will be providing additional resources for this in 2006-7 and 2007-8. The European Social Survey is a major survey, currently funded by over 20 European countries, designed to compare, chart and explain the interaction between Europe's changing institutions, its political and economic structures and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its populations. It provides an unparalleled data resource in enabling comparative research across Europe. Council has agreed to fund a further two sweeps of this survey and is committed to its support in the long term.

An initiative to deepen our portfolio of international data resources would assist the global and comparative aspects of UK social science research. Funding has been committed for 2006-7 and 2007-8 to carry this out.

If the UK is to maintain its leading international position it must commit to the long term support of existing datasets and radically extend its current data infrastructure. For example, resources must be found to create bigger and better datasets with large enough sample sizes to enable social scientists adequately to answer a range of increasingly detailed and complex questions. The importance of this was emphasised by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee in its scrutiny of ESRC last year. The Committee also noted the value of securing additional funding from government departments and other partners for this work. These issues are being addressed by the UK Data Forum, which was set up by the ESRC last year to co-ordinate work across all key stakeholders in this area, and will be the focus of a major bid in the 2006 Spending Review.

4.2 METHODOLOGY

It is of vital importance that the most advanced tools and techniques are available to the social science community both to collect and effectively analyse increasingly multi-layered and multi-textured social science data resources.

The Council is at the forefront of improving the methodological skills base of the UK, and has pioneered world leading developments in advanced quantitative methods. It currently supports a number of initiatives, such as the investment of over £15 million in a Research Methods Programme and two major facilities: the National Centres for Research Methods and E-Social Science. An initiative to build capacity in secondary analysis will commence this year.

It is important that further methodological work is carried out. Funding has been committed to an initiative on survey data collection and measurement for 2006-7 and 2007-8. Work will also commence on developing a programme on the methodological challenges of undertaking comparative research.

5 ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

To ensure ESRC communicates effectively with its stakeholder communities and increases the impact of its research.

A large number of successful communications and knowledge transfer activities already take place, and these will be maintained. They include corporate publications and events, training for award-holders, seminar series, knowledge transfer schemes such as the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, and engagement with stakeholders through mechanisms such as concordats with government departments. However, the active promotion of social science and the maximisation of its impact on in policy and practice require an extension of these activities in a strategic way.

5.1 KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

In April 2004, the ESRC Council approved the organisation's Knowledge Transfer Strategy that identified key strategic actions. These will be further developed during the Spending Review period. In particular, the ESRC will engage with Government departments and devolved administrations through strategic partnership agreements. ESRC will collaborate to provide a research evidence base that can be drawn on in the policy formulation process. For example, it is planned that eight public policy seminars will be offered on topics identified by Government departments.

The ESRC plans to respond positively to the imperatives of the 'Science and innovation investment framework' by increasing its rate of knowledge transfer; rate of interaction with business, and the amount of collaborative research that it undertakes. The resources available to deliver on these challenges will depend in part on the allocation to ESRC from the OST knowledge transfer fund. However, the ESRC will respond to research challenges identified by specific sectors, large corporates and SMEs by drawing on ESRC centres and programmes as well as funded researchers.

Interaction with business will also be enhanced through cooperative education and training schemes, particularly Collaborative Awards in Science and Engineering (CASE) and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. The expansion of these schemes will contribute to the generation of new knowledge, enhance research-host organisation interactions, and expand communities of practice.

Similar principles underlie the ESRC's intention to introduce placement schemes that allow researchers to spend time in Government departments working on identified projects and developing the research skills of other employees. It is also intended to apply this scheme to business. Conversely, it is planned that Government and business employees will be supported to spend time in research units working on joint projects.

The ESRC's role in building capacity through training and development will also be fulfilled by offering 'Getting research into Policy/Practice' workshops for social science researchers. The resources of ESRC methods researchers will be drawn on to meet training needs in Government departments and among business.

The ESRC Ventures Fund will be used to engage with strategic partners on new jointly-funded research initiatives. Potential projects to be explored could include 'Worklessness', 'The role of higher education institutions in small regional economies', 'Work futures', 'The economics of migration' and 'Problem gambling'. Given the flexibility of this scheme, other collaborations will be developed over the Spending Review period.

With this scheme and other research initiatives, attention will be given to maximising the impact of the research investment. Drawing on the evidence that is already available, stakeholder involvement throughout all stages of the research enterprise will be encouraged and supported.

In all of these activities, the ESRC will continue to play an active role in the RCUK Knowledge Transfer Group to share and combine resources for the benefit of users across all sectors.

5.2 SCIENCE IN SOCIETY

ESRC is committed to promoting social science to a variety of audiences and to demonstrating its valuable contribution to the UK knowledge base. In 2005-6 we will be developing an ESRC Science and Society strategy. This will enable us to take forward a public engagement programme which is evidence-based and which heightens understanding of social science. The strategy will also complement the work of the new RCUK Science in Society Unit for which ESRC will have lead responsibility. The RCUK science in society strategy will be published in the autumn of 2005. A new communications strategy has also been agreed by our Council, proposing a new direction and campaign theme (Giving Social Science a Voice) for the next two years, targeted at influencing our stakeholders.

The creation and ongoing development of an ESRC Information Centre, Society Today, was approved by Council in October 2003 to provide an integrated online presence for the ESRC and its investments and for social science research more generally. 'ESRC Society Today' is now a running service. The content and functional aspects of the portal will be actively developed over the next few years, addressing for example the needs of specific communities (e.g. postgraduate students) as well as supporting ESRC strategic initiatives (e.g. the national datasets strategy).

5.3 EVIDENCE FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

Communication and dissemination for evidence for policy and practice will be addressed through two key areas: (1) providing access to the social science information/knowledge pool and (2) intermediation. The first area will be provided for through the development of web-based resources for evidence-based policy and practice, to be supplied by the national co-ordinating centre of the ESRC Evidence Network. The second area will extend the concept of media fellows to pilot a new scheme for 'research brokers'. These will act as intermediaries between researchers and research users by performing a variety of communication and knowledge transfer activities.

5.4 INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

We will be maintaining a variety of activities which enhance the UK's international position. This includes developments towards the European Union's proposed 7th Framework Programme and the associated European Research Council. It also involves full involvement in the development of the European Research Area (ERA) and our central role in the ERA network of social science research funding agencies (NORFACE) which is currently being expanded to include Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Estonia. We have also taken a major role in the reform of the European Science Foundation ECRP (European Collaborative Research Projects) scheme to make it more amenable to supporting the highest quality collaborative research.

Arising from this we have taken the chair, from April 2005, of the Technical Committee on Social Sciences and Humanities of the Inter-Governmental group for Co-operation on Science and Technology (COST). This will provide the ESRC with an opportunity to influence the development of the European policy agenda and to encourage the dissemination of good practice in the funding of social science research.

In order to promote and develop international collaboration, we will be extending our international networking activities, including those now being led pivotally by the expanded NORFACE network. This will include conferences and workshops to stimulate collaborative research. We will also be funding a second round of the visiting fellowship scheme with the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) in the United States. This year it will be open both to US researchers to visit our centres and programmes and for those from our centres and programmes to visit the US. We are co-funding with the US National Science Foundation Social, Behavioural and Economics directorate a project to review collaborative funding between social science agencies at a global level. These developments will be central to the development of the quality, influence and international status of UK social science research.

6 MEASURING AND IMPROVING OUR PERFORMANCE

6.1 ENSURING QUALITY IN RESEARCH

To establish a robust method of international benchmarking.

It is essential that we should be able to assess appropriately the quality of ESRC's research and that of UK social science as a whole. This not only feeds into our own decision-making, but is also a part of the new performance management framework. The Research Evaluation Committee (REC) has a well established system for evaluating the academic quality of individual investments and projects. Following the approval of its new strategy by Council in 2004, it is now extending the range of its work to include a greater emphasis on impact assessment and additional policy reviews.

The REC is taking forward its work on bibliometrics, which is exploring improved ways of assessing the bibliometric performance of UK social science, given the inadequacy of current metrics. Work will commence on the international benchmarking of UK social science disciplines. This will introduce an international perspective to the assessment of academic impact and add to the evidence base for capacity building and health of disciplines. The first review of this kind will be of social anthropology.

6.2 DELIVERING VALUE FOR MONEY

The Council is committed to improving the administrative efficiency with which the science budget is managed and delivered. Much of this work is being taken forward on a cross-Council basis in the context of the recent Gershon Review. This includes the continuing reduction of the proportion of our budget spent on administration; the reprioritisation of spend towards new priority investments; adding value to the science budget by leveraging additional resources from outside the public sector; and participation in key cross-Council initiatives through the research administration programme. These initiatives are described in more detail in the RCUK Delivery Plan.



ESRC DELIVERY PLAN 2005

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APPENDIX I – FINANCIAL DATA

TABLE 1: ESRC SPENDING REVIEW ALLOCATIONS

£K	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Total Allocation	123,465	142,468	150,336
Resource , of which:	120,215	139,218	147,086
Full Economic Costs (FEC)	–	12,588	14,627
Roberts	–	1,415	7,244
Additional Funding for Health of Disciplines	–	5,000	5,000
Co-ordination of RC work on Public Engagement	200	200	200
Other Additions	76	76	76
Capital	3,250	3,250	3,250

N.B. These figures are departmental expenditure limits (DEL) and are allocated to ESRC under the Government's resource accounting and budgeting framework. The money represents maximum expenditure, subject to end year flexibility (EYF) arrangements to carry forward any unspent resource from one year to another. Separate allocations are made for capital and resource (including ring-fenced funding for capital grants to third parties), although these are not identified here.

TABLE 2: 2005 DELIVERY PLAN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

£K	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Income			
Science budget – resource and capital	123,465	129,880	135,709
FEC		12,588	14,627
Other Income	10,097	12,220	11,361
EYF Brought Forward	1,574	4,412	687
Total Income	135,136	159,100	162,384
Expenditure			
Supporting World Class Research	71,379	74,807	70,345
Future Sustainability: Trained People and Building Capacity	38,107	44,012	46,461
Underpinning Research Excellence: Facilities and Infrastructure	13,642	15,370	14,818
Engagement and Partnership	3,770	3,955	4,030
Measuring our Performance: Evaluation and Efficient Administration	8,238	8,368	8,501
Total Expenditure	135,136	146,512	144,155
FEC	0	12,588	14,627
Balance Available	0	0	3,602

Note: Figures for Supporting World Class Research include amounts for the Teaching and Learning Research Programme, the Venture Fund and the new ESRC/DFID scheme all of which also contribute significantly towards our Engagement and Partnership activities.

APPENDIX 2a – ESRC OUTPUTS FRAMEWORK

OUTPUT ONE	METRICS TO BE COLLECTED
A HEALTHY UK SCIENCE & ENGINEERING BASE	
Overview	
Quality	1 The ESRC is working to develop robust bibliometric indicators for the social sciences. As an interim performance measure, the Council will report evaluation grades for the work it funds
Sustainability	1 Metric under consideration by the Funders Forum
Scale	1 ESRC's annual budget
Agility	1 The amount spent on new initiatives and schemes in the first full year of expenditure 2 The number and value of interdisciplinary awards within ESRC's domain 3 The number and value of research contracts involving other research councils and other non-social science funders
Productivity and Efficiency	1 The percentage of ESRC's budget spent on administration
User Focus (science base)	1 The ESRC will collaborate in surveys operated on a cross research-council basis
UK Contribution to Global Knowledge Pool	
Quality	1 The ESRC is working to develop robust bibliometric indicators for the social sciences. As an interim performance measure, the Council will report evaluation grades for the work it funds
Scale	1 The number of publications arising each year from ESRC research
Agility	1 The rate of change in publications per annum in relation to ESRC's priorities
Productivity and Efficiency	1 The number of publications per £M of ESRC funding
UK Newly Trained People	
Quality	1 The number of ESRC trained research students recorded as unemployed by the Joint Council first destination survey 2 The proportion of ESRC funded PhD these submitted within four years
Sustainability	1 The proportion of ESRC funded students recorded as in permanent and temporary academic posts by the Joint Council first destination survey 2 ESRC studentship awards by gender and ethnic origin
Scale	1 The annual number of new ESRC studentship awards

Agility	1 The rate of change in the number of PhD award in ESRC's priority areas
Productivity and Efficiency	1 The average cost of an ESRC studentship award User Focus (business and public services)
User Focus (business and public services)	1 The proportion of ESRC funded students recorded to be employed in the business and public service sectors by the Joint Council first destination survey
UK Trained People Pool	
Scale	1 The number of academic staff in UK social science departments
Sustainability	1 Age profiles of academics in leading research departments by discipline 2 The number of academic staff in HEI's in each social science discipline 3 The ESRC will collaborate on a cross research-council survey to capture data on recruitment difficulties
Facilities and Infrastructure	
Quality	1 Qualitative assessments of the quality of ESRC research resource investments
Scale	1 The value of ESRC support for new research resources
Agility	1 The change in the proportion of ESRC expenditure dedicated to research resources
User Focus (science base)	1 The level of usage of ESRC research resources
User Focus (business and public services)	1 The level of co-funding by business and government agencies of ESRC's research resources
Positioning and Relationships (including Science in Society)	
Sustainability	1 The ESRC will collaborate in surveys operated on a cross research-council basis
Scale	1 The level of co-funding of ESRC research by external bodies. 2 The number of ESRC interactions focused on public participation and engagement
User Focus (science base)	1 The proportion of non-academic members of ESRC's Council and Boards 2 The number of researchers trained in media and public engagement skills
Quality	1 Evaluate the quality of interaction focused on public participation and engagement

OUTPUT TWO BETTER EXPLOITATION

Scale

Interaction with business and public services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The number of ESRC concordat agreements with strategic partners 2 The number of ESRC public policy and business-orientated seminars and workshops
Collaborative research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The number of collaborative ESRC research projects 2 The amount of external funding for joint research (excluding joint Research Council projects)
Commercialisation of research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The number of ESRC workshops and seminars to help develop entrepreneurial and commercialisation skills 2 The number of research projects on spinouts and other commercialisation processes
Co-operative training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The number of collaborative studentships by type (CASE, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, Government departments and agencies etc)
People exchanges between the science base and user organisations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The number of users placed in HEI's or ESRC research investments 2 The number of academics placed in user organisations

Quality

Interaction with business and public services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Surveys of concordat partner satisfaction 2 Evaluations of seminars and workshops to assess benefits and application of research findings 3 Feedback reports from user representatives on ESRC boards
Collaborative research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Evaluations of joint projects over £50,000 in value
Commercialisation of research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Systematic surveys obtaining feedback from seminar attendees on learning application 2 Follow up studies to track seminar impact
Co-operative training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 End of placement reports from students in receipt of collaborative funding 2 A survey of a sample of employers providing work experience for students 3 A survey of a sample of academic supervisors
People exchanges between the science base and user organisations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 End of placement reports from award-holders and their hosts

APPENDIX 2b – ESRC SCORECARD 2005 – DELIVERABLES, TARGETS AND MILESTONES

Key Deliverable	Target	Milestones
1. To increase funding for standard responsive grants and fellowships	To fund more of the best quality social science research in the UK and to increase standard responsive grant success rates to 25 per cent by 2010	1. To support a minimum of 220 new responsive awards a year through the SR period 2. To achieve and maintain a standard grant success rate of 22 per cent from 2005-6, based on current demand
2. To extend our international collaborative funding	To enable the UK's leading social scientists to undertake collaborative research with colleagues from across the globe	1. To have concluded bilateral funding agreements with at least seven partner countries by September 2005 2. To agree to fund at least six new projects a year under the ECRP scheme from 2005-6 3. To have agreed funding for the first projects under the bilateral agreements by April 2006 4. To extend the ESRC-SSRC visiting fellowship programme to include Canada, by January 2006
3. To introduce a new responsive scheme for groups, networks and projects for funding between £1.5m and £5m (post FEC) and to hold, at least biennially, open competitions for new research centres in any area within our remit	To provide additional opportunities for long-term and large-scale funding for the UK's best social science research teams	1. To agree and announce the details of the new large grants scheme by October 2005 2. To announce the 2005/06 centres competition by June 2005 3. To agree funding recommendations for new and continuing centres by February 2006 4. To have agreed funding for at least three new investments under the new large grants scheme in July 2006 and in 2007
4. To establish a major strategic collaboration with the Department for International Development (DFID)	To enhance the global impact of UK social science research on development through new work on these issues	1. To invite applications under the new scheme by September 2005 2. To agree the first awards under the scheme by March 2006
5. To continue to support the major, cross-Council 'Towards a Sustainable Energy Programme'	To ensure that social science makes a key contribution to cross-Council programmes generally and, in this instance, to the achievement of an energy efficient economy	1. To launch two new research groups and a new collaborative network under the Managing Uncertainties theme by October 2005

Key Deliverable	Target	Milestones
6. To consider our continuing support for the cross-Council Tyndall Centre and to seek to make additional investments in this area	To continue to support high quality work in the area of the environment, sustainability and climate change	<p>2. Working with EPSRC and a range of other partners, develop proposals for social science research on the options for nuclear energy and on fuel poverty by October 2005</p> <p>1. To decide on the future funding arrangements and research agenda of the Tyndall Centre by October 2005.</p> <p>2. To have considered proposals and made funding recommendations for new and continuing centres in this area by February 2006</p>
7. To develop a research agenda with colleagues in the arts and humanities in the area of identities, culture, ethnicities and religion	To consider a major joint AHRC/ESRC investment following SR 2006	<p>1. To agree a programme of capacity building and networking activities with AHRC by September 2005</p> <p>2. To have developed an initial proposal for a joint initiative with AHRC by April 2006</p>
8. To support additional studentships and allow stipends in identified priority areas such as economics, management and quantitative work	To identify and support those areas most in need of additional, targeted ESRC support	<p>1. To allocate no less than the following number of studentships each year in the priority areas listed below from March 2006:</p> <p>80 – Economics 60 – Management & Business Studies 40 – Advanced Quantitative Methods 25 – Socio-Legal Studies & Criminology 10 – Social Work</p>
9. To increase our support, through higher salaries, at the postdoctoral and junior levels through the postdoctoral fellowship scheme, a new early career fellowship initiative, a new scheme for first grants and a commitment to the cross-Council Roberts fellowships	To increase the potential recruitment pool in those areas experiencing the most difficulties in attracting and retaining good	<p>1. To allocate no less than the following number of fellowship each year in the priority areas listed below from March 2006</p> <p>25 – Economics 20 – Management and Business Studies 20 – Advanced Quantitative Methods</p> <p>2. To announce the new scheme for first grants by September 2005</p>
10. To develop a joint initiative with AHRC and HEFCE focused on training in languages such as Arabic, Chinese and Japanese for new social scientists	To increase the language skills of UK social scientists working on key regions and countries.	<p>1. To launch a call for proposals by October 2005</p> <p>Subject to securing joint funding:</p> <p>2. To allocate up to 20 studentships and 12 postdoctoral fellowships a year across the priority areas of Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Eastern European studies from March 2006</p> <p>3. To have established one centre of excellence (in each area) to build capacity more generally across Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Eastern European studies through training and support programmes by March 2006</p>

Key Deliverable	Target	Milestones
11. To introduce a new Researcher Development Initiative	To provide training and development for UK social scientists throughout the academic lifecourse	To commission the first round of training and development projects by June 2005
12. To continue funding for the Census Programme and the European Social Survey	To enhance access to and the usage of the Census datasets and the ESS as vital elements in underpinning many areas of UK social science	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To commission Census data support services by December 2005 2. To commission the fieldwork agency to collect ESS data
13. To develop proposals for a significant extension of our data and methods portfolio in SR 2006	To extend our portfolio of data resources, improve the quality of data collected, create major new large scale data sets and develop cutting edge methodological tools and techniques to improve the quality and impact of UK social science research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree data priorities with other key stakeholders through a National Datasets Strategy for the social sciences by December 2005 2. To identify key gaps in current methodological training provision based upon an ongoing assessment of training needs led by the ESRC National Research Methods Centre by March 2006 3. To commission new work to make effective use of appropriate methods for evaluation research by April 2006
14. To implement a new two-year ESRC communications strategy around the theme of 'Giving social science a voice'	To increase the dissemination of our social science research findings to a wider audience and to raise awareness of the contribution and impact of social science within the wider science community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To achieve a 30 per cent increase in ESRC Society Today page views (in comparison to ESRC's old corporate website) by April 2006 2. To achieve 2,000 subscribed users for the ESRC Society Today email bulletins by April 2006 3. To develop a project to raise national awareness of the diversity of social science research by December 2006
15. To implement the public engagement objectives of the ESRC's science and society strategy, which includes working in partnership with the new RCUK Science in Society Unit	To extend the engagement and understanding of the general public in relation to social science research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To integrate ESRC's Social Science Week into National Science Week 2006 focusing on the theme of interdisciplinary science 2. Develop a framework to establish formal links between the RCUK Science in Society Unit and ESRC's Science and Society Programme by October 2005 3. Develop a series of ESRC publications to highlight the findings from the Science in Society Research Programme to be delivered by September 2006
16. To introduce a new scheme for 'research brokers' to act as intermediaries between researchers and research users by performing a variety of communication and knowledge transfer activities	To increase the impact of social science research on policy and practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To appoint the first two 'brokers' by December 2005 2. To develop new researcher-user networks, emphasising people and ideas transfer, by December 2005

Key Deliverable	Target	Milestones
17. To extend our range of concordats with government departments, devolved administrations; businesses; and organisations in the private and voluntary sectors and to extend the range of co-funding activities drawing on the Council's Venture Fund	To increase our collaborative funding with a range of research partners thus increasing the amount of additional funding from outside the science vote for high quality social science research relevant to our strategic priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To increase by 20 per cent the number of formalised agreements with strategic partners by March 2006 2. To increase the number of interactions with strategic partners by March 2006 3. To increase collaborative funding by ten per cent a year from March 2006
18. To develop improved ways of assessing the bibliometric performance of UK social science	To develop robust bibliometric indicators of the quality and impact of social science publications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To complete a project to identify improved indicators by October 2005 2. To begin implementing recommendations from the current development project, and to plan any necessary further work by February 2006
19. To establish a series of international benchmarking reviews of social sciences	To benchmark the quality and impact of UK social sciences against international standards; to identify ways of enhancing performance and capacity; and to help establish and promote future research agendas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To complete and evaluate the first International Benchmarking Review by February 2006 2. To complete and evaluate the second International Benchmarking Review by February 2007
20. To work towards the agreed cross-Council efficiency targets for 2007-8	To direct our funds towards new priority investments, to add value to the science budget by leveraging additional resources from outside the public sector and to reduce the proportion of our budget spent on administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To spend at least five per cent of the Council's budget on new initiatives in priority areas in each of the three years covered by the spending review 2005-6 2. To reduce the proportion of our budget spent on administration to 3.2 per cent in 2005-6 falling to 2.9 per cent by 2007-8 3. See target 17, milestone 3

APPENDIX 3 – LIST OF CURRENT ESRC INVESTMENTS (AS OF 1 APRIL 2005)

Economics and Economic Development

Investment	End Date	Location
Centre for Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy (CMAPP) (www.ifs.org.uk/esrc)	Sept 11	Institute for Fiscal Studies, London
Centre for Competition Policy (CCP) (www.ccp.uea.ac.uk)	Aug 13	University of East Anglia
Centre for Economic Learning and Social Evolution (ELSE) (else.econ.ucl.ac.uk)	Sept 10	University College London
Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) (cep.lse.ac.uk)	Sept 10	LSE
Centre for Market and Public Organisation (www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/CMPO)	Sept 14	Bristol
World Economy and Finance Programme (www.worldeconomyandfinance.org)	Feb 09	Birkbeck College London

Management and Business Studies and Innovation

Investment	End Date	Location
AIM Management Initiative (www.aimresearch.org)	Mar 07	London Business School/Warwick
Centre for Business, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS) (www.brass.cf.ac.uk)	Sept 11	Cardiff
Centre for Innovation in Complex Product Systems (CoPS) (www.cops.ac.uk)	Sept 06	Sussex/Brighton
Evolution of Business Knowledge Programme (www.ebkresearch.org)	Dec 06	Warwick
Public Services: Quality, Performance and Delivery Programme (public-services.politics.ox.ac.uk)	Nov 09	Oxford
Centre for Research on Innovation and Competition (CRIC) (www.cric.ac.uk)	Sept 06	Manchester

Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE) (www.economics.ox.ac.uk/skope)	Sept 08	Oxford/Warwick
Centre for Organisation and Innovation (COI) (www.shef.ac.uk/esrccoi)	Sept 06	Sheffield

¹Location of Centre/Group host institution or location of Programme/Network Director

Education, Psychology, Cognition and Linguistics

Investment	End Date	Location
Innovative Health Technologies Programme (www.york.ac.uk/res/iht)	Jan 06	York
People at the Centre of Communication and Information Technologies Programme (PACCIT) (www.paccit.gla.ac.uk)	Mar 06	Glasgow
Teaching and Learning Research Programme (TLRP) (www.tlrp.org)	Dec 08	Institute of Education, London

Government, Political Science and Law

Investment	End Date	Location
Devolution and Constitutional Change Programme (www.devolution.ac.uk)	Mar 06	Edinburgh
Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR) (www.csgr.org)	Sept 07	Warwick
Pathways into and out of Crime: Risk, Resilience and Diversity Network (www.sheffield.ac.uk/pathways-into-and-out-of-crime/)	Sept 05	Sheffield
Social Contexts and Responses to Risk Network (SCARR) (www.kent.ac.uk/scarr/)	Sept 08	Kent
New Security Challenges Programme (www.newsecurity.bham.ac.uk)	Dec 07	Birmingham
Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR) (www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR)	Sept 10	LSE

Geography, Environment, Urban/Rural and Transport Studies, Area Studies

Investment	End Date	Location
Centre for Socio-economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE) (www.uea.ac.uk/env/cserge)	Sept 06	University of East Anglia
Development and Persistence of Human Capability and Resilience in its Social and Geographical Context (www.capabilityandresilience.org)	Sept 06	University College London
Global Poverty Research Group (www.gprg.org.uk)	Sept 07	Oxford/ Manchester
Well-being in Developing Countries Research Group (www.welldev.org.uk)	Sept 07	Bath
Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (www.tyndall.ac.uk)	Sept 05	University of East Anglia
Rural Economy and Land Use Programme (www.relu.ac.uk)	Sept 11	Newcastle
UK Energy Research Centre (part of the TSEC Towards a Sustainable Energy Economy Programme) (www.ukerc.ac.uk)	Apr 09	Policy Studies Institute/Imperial College London/Oxford
Sustainable Technologies Programme (www.sustainabletechnologies.ac.uk)	Dec 06	Brunel

Sociology, Social Policy, Social Work and Social Anthropology

Investment	End Date	Location
New Dynamics of Ageing	TBC	Sheffield
Cultures of Consumption Programme (www.consume.bbk.ac.uk)	Jun 07	Birkbeck College London
E-Society Programme (www.london.edu/e-society)	Mar 09	TBC
Genomics Research Centre – INNOGEN (www.innogen.ac.uk)	Sept 07	Edinburgh
Genomics Research Centre – EGENIS (www.ex.ac.uk/egenis)	Sept 07	Exeter
Genomics Research Centre – CESAGEN (www.cesagen.lancs.ac.uk)	Sept 07	Lancaster/Cardiff
Genomics Forum (www.genomicsforum.ac.uk)	Jun 09	Edinburgh
Simulating Policy for an Ageing Society Group (SAGE) (www.lse.ac.uk/collections/SAGE)	Oct 05	LSE
Families and Social Capital Group (www.lsbu.ac.uk/families)	Dec 06	South Bank
Identities and Social Action Programme (www.identities.org.uk)	Sept 08	Open University
Research Centre on Micro-social Change (MISOC) (www.iser.essex.ac.uk/misoc)	Sept 09	Essex
Gender Equality Network (www.genet.ac.uk)	Sept 09	Cambridge
Social Contexts of Pathways in Crime (SCOPIC) (www.scopic.ac.uk)	Sept 07	Cambridge
Non-Governmental Public Action Programme (www.lse.ac.uk/collections/NGPA)	Dec 07	LSE
Science in Society (www.sci-soc.net/SciSoc/)	Jul 07	Oxford
Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) (sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/)	Sept 07	LSE
Centre for Research on Socio-cultural Change (www.cresc.man.ac.uk)	Sept 14	Manchester
Stem Cells Research	Sept 06	N/A

Statistics, Computing, Infrastructure, Demography, and Research Methodology

Investment	End Date	Location
Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (www.compas.ox.ac.uk)	Sept 13	Oxford
British Election Study 2005/06 (www.essex.ac.uk/bes)	Mar 07	Essex
Centre for Applied Social Surveys (CASS) (www.socstats.soton.ac.uk/cass/)	Oct 08	Southampton/ Surrey/National Centre for Social Research
Centre for Longitudinal Studies (incorporates Millennium C ohort Study/NCDS and BCS70) (www.cls.ioe.ac.uk)	Mar 10	Institute of Education, London
Demonstrator Scheme for Qualitative Data Sharing and Research Archiving	Sept 06	Essex
Economic and Social Data Service (www.esds.ac.uk)	Sept 07	Essex/Manchester
European Social Survey (www.europeansocialsurvey.org)	Sept 05	National Centre for Social Research
ESRC/JISC Census Programme (www.soton.ac.uk/~djm1/)	Jul 11	Southampton
International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (www.lse.ac.uk/ibss)	Mar 07	LSE
National Centre for E-Social Science (www.ncess.ac.uk)	Mar 07	Manchester/Essex
Research Methods Programme (www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods)	Mar 08	Manchester
National Centre for Research Methods (www.ncrm.ac.uk)	Mar 09	Southampton
Scottish Longitudinal Studies Centre	Mar 09	St Andrews
Social Science Information Gateway (www.sosig.ac.uk)	Aug 06	Bristol
UK Longitudinal Studies Centre (incorporates British Household Panel Study) (www.iser.essex.ac.uk)	Sept 09	Essex
Workplace Employment Relations Survey (WERS)	Sept 05	DTI

² Note that Council has recently approved funding for the next two sweeps of the Survey. The next step is to appoint a Co-ordinator, then select a fieldwork agency. It is anticipated that this new contract will end in spring 2009.

³ The fifth sweep of the WERS is due to complete in September 2005. However, the Research Resources Board has agreed to fund a WERS Data Dissemination Unit which will run from September 2005 until August 2007; this is currently being commissioned.



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Economic and Social Research Council
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1UJ

Telephone: 01793 413000
Fax: 01793 413001
E-mail: comms@esrc.ac.uk
www.esrc.ac.uk

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