

Delivery Plan 2016-2020

Top ten messages

- 1 We recognise that there are **huge pressures on public funds**, with multiple demands from different departments, that all require consideration
- 2 We have responded to this with a clear message, and supporting evidence, to government that **strong economies are science economies**, investing in research for discovery and innovation
- 3 We have successfully demonstrated that **our research is vital to the prosperity of the UK**, contributing to a nation that is productive, connected, resilient and healthy
- 4 We know from REF Case studies that **demonstrating this impact from our research investments can take anything from one to twenty years** (roughly ten years plus or minus ten!)
- 5 We are **committed to maintaining the health and breadth of the science base**, in the knowledge that world-leading research is built on the foundation of previous basic research
- 6 We will continue to **support the people, infrastructure and environment needed** to deliver the many great breakthroughs that history shows us arise from both investigator-led and challenge-led research
- 7 We will ensure, following a clear steer from our Council, that **at least 60% of our research investment is allocated to the “bottom-up”, investigator-led ideas** essential for the UK to compete in a globally competitive environment
- 8 We are clear that the Outcomes framework is a strategic expression of how engineering and physical sciences research and skills add value to the nation but we also hope it **provides an ambitious vision to inspire researchers**, providing a context to explain the potential longer-term impact of their work
- 9 We encourage our community to fully engage with our Delivery Plan and **bring forward ideas that can fulfil the ambitions identified within the Outcomes framework** of a productive, connected, resilient and healthy nation
- 10 We have identified a number of priorities that specifically address our Outcomes to help us deliver a productive, connected, resilient and healthy nation - these will form our **‘top-down’, strategic research programme, constituting around 40% of our portfolio**



“We have demonstrated over the last Delivery Plan that strong economies are science economies, investing in research, discovery and innovation through the engineering and physical sciences.

We now need to build on our strong foundations and work together to continue to deliver prosperity for the UK over the next four years.

We have ambitious plans to achieve within a challenging economic environment and a changing research landscape but I am confident that our community will rise to these challenges and keep the UK at the forefront of world-leading science and engineering.”

Professor Philip Nelson, EPSRC CEO