Global Challenges Research Fund
Town Meeting

Village Hotel, Coventry
29th June 2016

Professor Philip Nelson
1. UK research landscape
2. What is GCRF?
3. Why we are here today?
4. What to expect?
5. Next steps
Reform of Higher Education and Research

White Paper “Success as a Knowledge Economy” and Higher Education and Research Bill

- Proposes the creation of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to include the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and parts of HEFCE.

- UKRI will be a single arms-length body with a single Chief Executive as Accounting Officer

- The current Research Councils will no longer exist in their current form and Royal Charters will be removed

- John Kingman has been appointed as interim Chair of UKRI and will help set up UKRI and advise ministers on the appointment of its first Chief Executive

- The White Paper restates the Government’s commitment to the Haldane Principle
UK Research and Innovation

Department of Business, Innovation and Skills

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

IUK £547m
EPSRC £858m
MRC £616m
STFC £529m
BBSRC £422m
NERC £325m
ESRC £178m
AHRC £98m
QR £1686m

"I'm here about the details."
What is the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)?

- Support cutting edge research which addresses the problems faced by developing countries
- Address global challenges through disciplinary and interdisciplinary research
- Strengthen capability for research and innovation, within both UK and developing countries
- Enable agile responses to emergencies and opportunities
Challenges manifest in developing countries [OECD DAC List]
ODA Compliance

1. Which country/ countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal and are these countries likely to continue to be ODA eligible for the duration of the research?

2. How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?

3. How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list?

GCRF Guidance:
http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/international/gcrfodaguidance-pdf/
Strengthening pathways to impact within developing countries

- Building research capacity and collaborations with academics in developing countries
- Building partnerships and collaborative links with NGOs/charities/civil society in developing countries
- Developing further collaborative opportunities to strengthen international links (including Newton, DfID, Commonwealth etc)

“doing things with people and not simply for or to them”
Pathways to Impact: Stakeholder roles

GCRF

RCUK Research

Translation
Innovation

Development
Action & Impact

UK Research Base

UK Stakeholders
(Government, Charities, Business)

International Stakeholders
(Universities, Charities, UN, NGO, Overseas Governments)
Pathways to impact on the developing world

• Impacts from research are always uncertain, often unexpected and cannot be guaranteed – this includes impacts on developing world

• The likelihood of impact is increased:
  ➢ If the research is orientated towards real world problems and challenges
  ➢ If stakeholders that are close to the problem, or have a mandate to implement any solutions, are involved in the progression of the research
  ➢ If the academics and research team are motivated to achieve impact and benefit.
GCRF allocation
(4th March 2016)

- Core allocation to Councils
- Collective Fund (unallocated)

Expenditure (£M)

- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2019-20
- 2020-21
GCRF allocation
(4th March 2016)

Pace & urgency
Challenge-led research, evidence gathering & long-term planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Core allocation to Councils</th>
<th>Collective Fund (unallocated)</th>
<th>Expenditure (£M)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
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<td>50</td>
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<td>2017-18</td>
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<td>2019-20</td>
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<td>2020-21</td>
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Why are we here today?

**Convene**

- **Town Hall Meetings**
  - June – July 2016
  - Coventry (29th June)
  - London (4th July)
  - Edinburgh (11th July)

**Delegate and distribute**

- **Call for Evidence**
  - June - August 2016
  - “The Challenges”
  - Practicalities (eg ODA)

**Look broadly**

**Drill deep**

- **Focus Groups**
  - Nov/Dec 2016
  - Refine and prioritise challenges

- **Call for Ideas**
  - Spring 2017
  - Community led strategies
  - Priorities within challenges
What to expect?

• Keynote talk: Amy Mina, International Director (Practical Action)
  Technology Justice: perspectives from the field

• Group session 1: Global Challenges
• Group session 2: Practicalities
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## Current RCUK GCRF Challenge Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Health</strong></th>
<th><strong>Clean Energy</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sustainable Agriculture</strong></th>
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<td><em>To tackle diseases, strengthen health systems and reach the world's most vulnerable.</em></td>
<td><em>To provide access to clean energy, including new technologies and the behavioural insights required for successful introduction to developing countries.</em></td>
<td><em>To improve nutrition and food security, support technological innovation, and increase resilience to climate change.</em></td>
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<th><strong>Conflict &amp; humanitarian action</strong></th>
<th><strong>Foundations for Inclusive Growth</strong></th>
<th><strong>Other potential topics</strong></th>
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<td><em>New insights and approaches for preventing conflict and violence, build stability and strengthen humanitarian action.</em></td>
<td><em>To understand what works best for developing countries to build the foundations for economic development - macroeconomics, institutions, innovation and private sector growth, cities and infrastructure, education systems, jobs and skills.</em></td>
<td><em>Resilient systems</em></td>
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<td><em>Mass Migration and Refugee Crises</em></td>
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• Group session 1: Global Challenges
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GCRF Practicalities

- Building capability overseas
- Enabling interdisciplinarity
- Ensuring ODA compliance
- Ensuring impact in developing countries
What happens next?

• Call for Evidence to be launched w/c 4th July

And then…

• Outcomes of Town Meetings synthesised
• Results of the online Call for Evidence analysed
• Considered by the GCRF Strategic Advisory Group in September
• Focus groups to ‘drill down’ into detail of challenge areas
• Call for Ideas to identify specific research priorities
Thank you

Professor Philip Nelson
Chair, Research Councils UK