
**PAPER TITLE: RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE (RKEC)
SUMMARY REPORT**

Date of sub-committee meeting: 27 January 2026 & 3 March 2026

REPORT

1. Matters for Approval

- 1.1 At the meeting on 3 March 2026, the Committee discussed and recommended the amendments to the Export Control Policy to Senate and Council for final approval (S25/26 – 79).

2. Matters for Noting

- 2.1 At the meeting on 27 January 2026, the Committee:
- 2.1.1 Received an update from the Chair of the Committee, including the proposal of some new ways of working for the Committee, an update on the REF Code of Practice, progress of the Global Talent fund initiative and updates from the Research and Impact Services (RIS) team around resourcing.
 - 2.1.2 Approved the publication of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and agreed the annual reporting schedule.
 - 2.1.3 Discussed the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) Annual Monitoring Statement. The University were due to submit the HEIF Accountability Statement for the next accountability statement in April 2026, consultation for which would include RKEC outside of the regular Committee cycle.
 - 2.1.4 Discussed the final report from the Bath Beacons project. It had been agreed at the end of 2025 that financial support from the University to the Beacons would end in 2026. The Committee noted that a lot had been learnt from the Beacons project and it would be useful to capture these lessons learnt.
 - 2.1.5 Discussed the UKRI Open Access update. The University had a good level of compliance, sitting at 92%. The Committee were encouraged to highlight to colleagues the resources available through the University library in regards to licensing.

- 2.1.6 Discussed the International League Table Citations Performance Report. The University had seen an increase in their citation score in the QS rankings and were predicting an 11% increase in raw citation data looking forward.
- 2.1.7 Received an update on the University Research Management System (URMS) project. Progress on the project was on track for completion by the deadline however there were some risks with the dependencies on project CLEAR which could impact the go live date.
- 2.1.8 Agreed the changes to the Research Institute Annual Review process.
- 2.1.9 Noted the RIS Pipeline of Major Opportunities Report and agreed that the creation of this report be ceased as it was not adding value to Committee discussion.
- 2.1.10 Noted minutes from the EPSRC IAA Programme Board and relevant Faculty and School RKECs.
- 2.2 At the meeting on 3 March 2026, the Committee:
- 2.2.1 Received an update from the Chair of the Committee, including progress on appointing under the Global Talent Fund, the launch of new REF governance structure; working groups to support digital research infrastructure improvements and prioritisation; responses to UKRI funding changes to improve more pro-active and strategic approach to funding opportunities, including through GW4 collaborations.
- 2.2.2 Discussed the Trusted Research Risk Map annual report and approved the recommendation within the paper to promote the UKRIO 'Research Security' training module and the HEECA Export Control training for all relative staff. They also reaffirmed the recommendation to the University Executive Board (UEB) to establish a University wide due diligence framework and agreed for the report to be shared with UEB and other relevant staff, including Heads of Department, Directors of Research and Deans of Faculties and School.
- 2.2.3 Discussed the REF Code of Practice, providing feedback to the Deputy Director for Research Performance, Information and Insights for consideration, including a request for better inclusion of the our initiatives to enhance quality and community for doctoral students within the Code. The Code of Practice is being considered by Senate under S25/26 – 72.
- 2.2.4 Discussed the Quarter 2 Report on Research Applications and Awards. There had been an increase in the number of applications for grants but overall a

decrease in the awards received, except for grants between £250k and £500k. There were due to be changes in research funding moving forward, particularly in relation to UKRI grants and so the University may need to review how they apply for certain grants, including increasing the amount of interdisciplinary research taking place, looking thematically. The Committee noted it may be beneficial for the University to review their resourcing to allow for redistribution of responsibilities to allow researchers to apply for the larger bids which were increasingly being launched with short timeframes.

- 2.2.5 Discussed the Research Risk Register. The Committee discussed how the risk register could be updated to make it better fit for purpose, and interest in moving to the central risk management system in tandem with strategic plan development.
- 2.2.6 Received an update on the URMS project. The team had carried out some scenario planning for how to launch WorkTribe without Project CLEAR being complete and it may be possible. However, it would carry a level of risk alongside it as it would rely on manual integration work before Unit 4 was launched. The aim was to continue with a go live date coinciding with Project CLEAR but if it became necessary there was a potential route forward.
- 2.2.7 Noted an update on activities of the Library Research Services.
- 2.2.8 Noted the minutes from the previous meetings of the Academic Ethics and Integrity Committee (AEIC), the Faculty and School RKECs and an update from the Research Governance Steering Group.