Innovation Advisory Board (IAB)
2 March 2016

Minutes of the Third Meeting

Medical Research Council, Kemble Street, London

Present:

Richard Worswick – Chair
Debbie.Buckley-Golder - Innovate UK
Heather Dunlop-Jones – IBM UK Ltd
Phil Kaziewicz – GI Partners
Massimo Noro – Unilever
Jennifer Thompson – Durham Innovations Services, Durham University

Apologies:

Frank Salzgeber – European Space Agency
Paul Beasley – Siemens plc

STFC:

Sharon Cosgrove - Executive Director, Strategy, Planning and Communications
Claire Dougan - Corporate Strategy and Impact Evaluation
Janet Seed – Associate Director, Strategy, Planning and Communications
Michaela Simpson - Strategy Manager
Tim Bestwick – Executive Director, Business and Innovations Directorate
Malcolm Booy – Strategy Manager, Secretary to the IAB
Item 1 - Welcome and Introductions

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and all those present introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from Frank Salzgeber from the European Space Agency (ESA) and Paul Beasley from Siemens plc.

Item 2 - Minutes and Actions 16 September 2016 (IAB.15.02)

2. The Board approved the Minutes without amendment.

3. All actions had been completed with the exception of action 2.5 which was carried over to the next meeting:

4. It was agreed that an update from STFC on any issues to the Board should be circulated between meetings.

Item 3 - Comprehensive Spending Review and changes to the landscape

5. Sharon Cosgrove presented an update on the current status of STFC’s Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) planning. Research Council allocations for 16/17 and onwards were expected imminently.

6. The Board discussed the proposed changes to the landscape and future Research Council configurations which might arise as a result of the Nurse Review, the Global challenges Research fund and the relevant upcoming Green/White papers. The Board were updated on the emerging cross council landscape with regards to the opportunities to obtain funding from the Global Challenges Fund, under which all activities would be required to satisfy ODA eligibility.

Item 4 - Corporate Strategy Refresh (IAB.16.01.01)

7. Michaela Simpson provided an update on the STFC corporate strategy refresh. The published document will be a communication tool for the wider community which also intends to engage and obtain buy-in from STFC staff. Focus was placed on the sections that are relevant to the campuses and innovation programmes.

8. It was felt important to ensure that the final vision was aspirational whilst achievable, and clearly linked with the routes to delivery. It would be important to address how achievements would be measured.

Item 5 - Innovation Schemes Review (IAB.16.01.02)

9. Janet Seed updated the Board on the ongoing review of the various Innovation schemes currently being run by STFC. Feedback was given on the emerging recommendations of the review. The Board looked at the overall
level of funding available to the schemes and discussed ways of making the schemes publicised more effectively. The Board noted that the diagram demonstrating the various current Innovation schemes was very useful in showing the relationship between the various schemes. It was suggested that it should be placed on the main STFC website. The Board considered it important that the information on the STFC website was brought together in one place and presented clearly.

10. It was suggested that STFC could make the application process the same for the IPS, CLASP and Global Challenges schemes. Management of all schemes could be merged so that there is a consistent point of contact. An emergency procedure could be established for when a quick turnaround was required.

11. The Board supported the recommendations in the review. However, it was noted that the sums of money are not huge and spread quite thinly between schemes. It was felt that whilst this has been a good review of the overall activity, STFC could tension the schemes against each other to see if certain areas should be allocated a greater share of the funding.

12. The Board felt that STFC should ensure it clearly understands what it wants to deliver before it worries about “hiding the wiring” and also felt that central oversight of the whole budget could make the allocation of money more demand led and enable funding to be allocated to the most effective areas. It was also noted that STFC could merge the management of all schemes so that there is a consistent point of contact.

13. The Board thanked Lisa Kehoe for the useful scheme diagram which she had provided.

14. It was agreed that the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships currently managed by Innovate UK could be of interest to the STFC community. STFC should examine the reasons why there was low participation from the STFC-funded community, possibly by consulting relevant Universities.

Item 6 - Sci-Tech Daresbury Campus Impact Study (IAB.16.01.03)

SOME REFERENCES IN THIS SECTION HAVE BEEN REDACTED AS OFFICIAL

15. Claire Dougan gave a presentation to the Board to solicit feedback on methods of collecting data to show the impact of the Hartree centre.
16. The Board agreed that capturing the impact from STFC investments was vital for the organisation, especially for industrially focused programmes such as the Hartree Centre..

17. Phil Kaziewicz stated that he would be happy to help STFC if they wished to contact him to discuss the metrics that would be used by Industry to decide how to invest.

18. It was noted that Innovate UK had experience of measuring impact levels for many varying organisations. These measurements can include making assumptions from available industry data and turnover.

Item 7 - STFC Innovation Activities Status Report (IAB.16.01.04)

19. Janet Seed updated the Board on the status of STFC innovation activities.

Item 8 - AOB

20. It was noted that it would be timely to have a meeting of the respective Chairs of the Innovation Advisory Board, Science Board and SEAB to increase communication between the Boards.

21. It was agreed that the next meeting would be in September 21st 2016 at the MRC, starting at 10.30. The meeting would look at the developments relating to cross Council initiatives, the outcome of the various reviews and the impact of the spending allocation.