

Summary of the University Committee for Research and Innovation meeting (UCRI) March 26

Please see below a brief summary of the main topics of discussion at the UCRI March meetings:

At our operational meeting this month we:

- Reviewed and provided advice on the proposed evidence-gathering approach for the Research England Transparency Programme Pilot Exercise, which is aimed at improving understanding of how formula-based funding is used by HE providers.
- Agreed to bring forward the research planning cycle so that it aligns with the financial year and scheduled activities. Given this year's compressed timeframe, we will adopt a shorter, more focused RDOP template.
- Approved the outline and approach for the Spring bi-annual workshop, including membership of a stakeholder group to examine specific issues linked to the R&I Strategy and to help shape the related KPIs.

In other news we:

- Reviewed progress on the AI in Research Action Plan.
- Received an update on developments concerning the proposed UKCEH formal partnership.
- Heard the latest on the NHM partnership and agreed a refreshed RDF budget for activities through to 2029.
- Approved additional RDF funding for the Beckett Research Centre to support pump priming projects aligned with strategic priorities.

At our strategic meeting this month we:

- Examined the Annual Workload Model in greater depth and confirmed that APVCs will participate in the school feedback sessions.
- Discussed the 2026 to 2028 strategic plan framework for the UoR hosted International Universities Climate Alliance and received an update on progress to date.