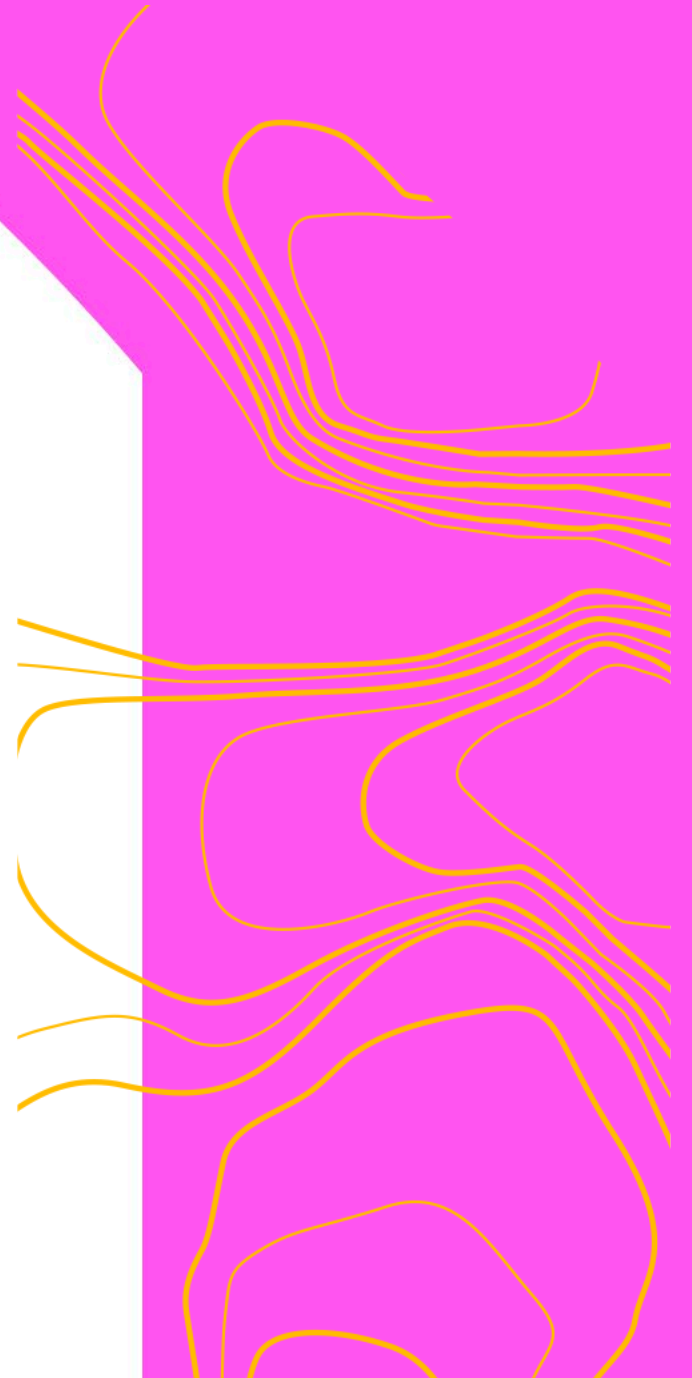




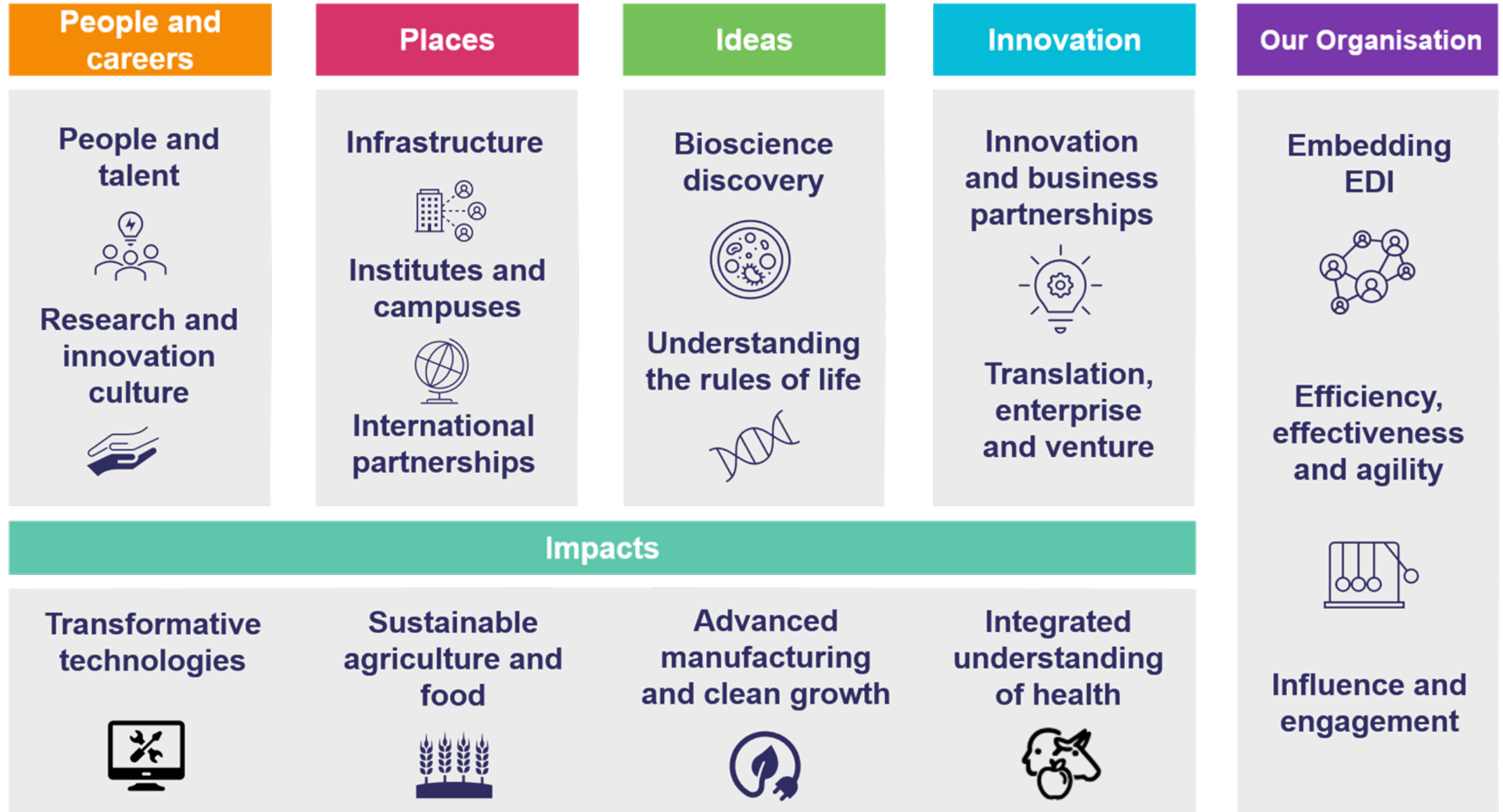
Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council

BBSRC Update

Oliver Huxley
Senior Portfolio Manager, Research Infrastructures
September 2024



BBSRC Research and Innovation Priorities – Delivery Plan 2022-25



7 key principles to guide future investment

BBSRC Infrastructure Strategic Framework

Balanced portfolio

- Physical and digital infrastructure
- Disciplinary coverage
- Equipment, resources, services, access, people
- Regional national and international capabilities

People, culture and talent

- Advocacy and best practice
- Technical skills and training
- Champion career pathways
- Recognition and support for Research Technical Professionals

Connected infrastructure ecosystem

- Share data equipment and expertise
- Enable physical and virtual access
- National and international collaboration
- Cross-sector, cross-disciplinary communities

Environmental considerations

- Embed shared standards and environmentally responsible approaches
- Align investments with UKRI Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Forward planning

- Horizon scanning
- Responsive to user needs
- Alignment across strategic priorities, funding opportunities and existing investments

Engagement

- Stakeholder engagement
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Community driven infrastructure ideas

Sustainability

- Support for infrastructure at different lifecycle stages
- Encourage infrastructures to evolve to meet changing community needs and maximise usage



BBSRC's Infrastructure Portfolio

- BBSRC contributes towards a wide range of bioscience infrastructures operating at local, regional, national, and international scales.
 - Project-level support
 - Multi-user equipment and resources
 - Large-scale national infrastructure (UKRI Infrastructure Fund)
 - International co-operation and partnership

UKRI Infrastructure Fund (IF)

- In 2018/19, UKRI was commissioned to develop a research and innovation infrastructure roadmap, based on an understanding of our existing landscape and future opportunities. Two final reports were published; a Landscape Analysis and Opportunities Report.
- Building on these recommendations, the UKRI Infrastructure Fund was created to establish a clear approach to managing UKRI's infrastructure portfolio.
- Develop a pipeline of ideas and infrastructure requirements for the longer term, across UKRI communities
- Through the UKRI Infrastructure Fund we are able to prioritise significant infrastructure investments to enable step-changes in infrastructure capability and capacity.

UKRI Infrastructure Fund (IF)

- Total budget of £481 million between 2022 and 2025, to initiate approximately 25 major infrastructure investments.
 - Large-scale investment into new infrastructure, major upgrades, repurposing, transformative developments, and decommissioning
 - Spans the complete disciplinary spectrum in UKRI, from fundamental research to innovation-focused activities located across the UK's regions and nations, or which form part of major international collaborations
 - Supports both full projects and preliminary activities, such as design, scoping and proof-of-concept activities that contribute to the subsequent development of full project proposals.
 - Projects range from 12 months to 10 years or longer.

Funded BBSRC Infrastructure Fund projects

JIC TSA Next Generation Infrastructure

£317.7 million

Transforming the existing capabilities of the John Innes Centre and The Sainsbury Laboratory in plant and microbial science



EMBL-EBI: Data Resources for the Life Sciences Phase 2

£80.7m

Significantly upgrading current data capacity and support the development of new data platforms and portals



BioFAIR

£34 million

Will widen access to existing data processing, analysis and repository infrastructures to maximise FAIR and reproducibility of researchers' data.



PhenomUK

£2.4m – in progress

Scoping and pilot activity to develop a national distributed infrastructure in plant and crop phenotyping

BBSRC and UK-IMAS

- Bioimaging is central to BBSRC's research and innovation portfolio
- Infrastructure access, including advanced bioimaging, is highlighted within BBSRC's Strategic Delivery Plan.
- BBSRC fully support the development of this proposal, working alongside MRC and BioimagingUK.
- Submission to UKRI's Infrastructure Advisory Committee in Summer 2025.

ALERT: Mid-Range Equipment Call

- £200k to £1.5m available for mid-range equipment across the biosciences
- Can support a range of equipment including:
 - **Widely used** and **underpinning capability**
 - Emerging **advanced research technology** or utilisation in new ways
 - Promoting **collaboration and increased access** to users within industry, public sector and other institutes
- Important to highlight:
 - **Research Technical Professionals** can be both Project leads or Co-leads



ALERT 2023 Outcomes

- 29 awards → £22.3m total investment
- Approximately 12 awards for imaging equipment → ~£10m of funding across the UK
- Please see our [LinkedIn post](#) for the full announcement.
- A full list of award grants can be found [here](#).

RTP success in ALERT 2023



ALERT 2023 success rates

Overall = 26% (29/112)

RTP led apps = 17% (19/112)

RTP led awards = 42% (8/19)

*Many more RTPs named as project co-leads this year

2024 Transformative Research Technologies (24TRT)

- **Aims to support development early-stage technologies with transformative potential**
- Open across BBSRC's remit
- Small and short pilot studies directed towards the development of new technologies
- Research Technical Professionals are eligible to apply
- Responds to BBSRC's review of technology development
- Call opens: 4th September
- Call closes: 28th November
- Total fund: £3,000,000
- Maximum per application:
 - £180,000 (80% FEC)
- Project duration: 6-18 months

[Funding Finder link](https://www.ukri.org/publications/review-of-technology-development-in-the-biosciences/)

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