

Summary of issues highlighted for inclusion in development of a future Research Strategy

- Take a positive, ambitious, pro-active stance; seek first to influence change, be more than responsive.
- Take a longer-term perspective; avoid time-limited references.
- SFC is a catalyst, co-ordinator and animator of activity as well as funder; need to be clear on what SFC can influence; SFC as platform for leverage; making excellent research possible.
- Need clarity on interaction of this strategy with other SFC strategies (especially Innovation).
- Be clear on the standing of 'place' in the strategy – the contribution 'excellent research wherever it is found' makes to other aspects of public strategy.
- Celebrate Scotland's distinctive strengths.
- Remember the role of REG and OA process in delivering strategic aims.
- Explain the value of research – basic and applied; should be able to demonstrate the difference Scotland's researchers make.
- Presentation should be: crisp; positive; ambitious.
- Document should have: short, bold, positive statements; use of infographics.
- Consideration of inclusion, equality & diversity, researchers of the future.
- Context includes influence of other aspects of university funding/activity on research; and known financial constraints.
- Be clear on the baseline for improvement/where we are starting from; get an international perspective on Scotland's research.
- Set out principles for the strategy; and prioritise aims.
- Emphasise excellence.
- Prioritise core support as providing underpinning for other research funders and for 'the next Grand Challenge'; but retain ability to stimulate/leverage/co-ordinate other developments.
- Collaboration provides national critical mass; avoids isolation.
- Important to include preparations for the future.
- Learn from other locations' experiences.
- Include all disciplines and interdisciplinary research.

Likely headings

Purpose

Vision (from Strategic Plan overview)

Environment/context

Baseline

SFC's role

Our Principles

Definition of excellence

Aims eg

World-leading (a) national perspective (b) regional spread

Breadth of research base

Distinctive

Prepared for the future

Strategy

Outcomes

Action plan

Maintain

Develop

Prepare

Progress measures