

2010– 2011 annual report and account

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

Annual Report and Accounts 2010 - 2011

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Schedule 1, sections 2 [2] and 3 [3] of the Science and Technology Act 1965.

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The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), established by Royal Charter in 1994, is the UK's principal funder of basic and strategic research across the biosciences, in universities and research centres throughout the UK. BBSRC is funded primarily by the Science Budget through the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).



BBSRC works collaboratively with its sister Research Councils through Research Councils UK (RCUK) in areas that include: cross-Council programmes of research; research training and careers development; knowledge exchange and economic impact; communications, public engagement and administrative harmonisation. www.rcuk.ac.uk

Updated information on BBSRC's policies, activities and impact is accessible at: www.bbsrc.ac.uk

This Report provides an overview of BBSRC's major activities during the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, including progress against targets set down in the BBSRC Scorecard (www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/publications/1011_scorecard.pdf) which previously would have been reported in a separate Annual Delivery Report.

This Report is accessible at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/Annualrepor1011. Readers may wish to refer to the previous Annual Report at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/annualreport0910; the BBSRC Strategic Plan 2010-2015 at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/publications/policy/strategy/strategic-planindex.aspx; and the BBSRC Deliver Plan 2011-2015 at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Publications/delivery_plan_2011_2015.pdf

Chairman's statement

Bioscience research in the UK remains a world leader. This is of more than academic interest: bioscience will drive many of the innovations needed for industrial and business growth in manufacturing - for example through biocatalysis for products and processes derived from renewable biological materials, rather than from petrochemicals, as well as in more traditional areas of sustaining food production and generating opportunities for new and improved medicines and healthcare.

The Government's Science Budget announcement, in December 2010, recognised the importance of bioscience research with an allocation of almost £1.5Bn over four years to BBSRC. In the light of national pressures on public finances, this was an excellent outcome, and a vote of confidence both in UK bioscience and its role in developing a Bio-Based Economy.

The significant reduction in capital funding from £60M in 2010-2011 to £30M in 2014-15, will require us to make further efficiency savings. However, as we detail in this Report, we have made and are making major investments at institutes, most notably at the Institute for Animal Health. The Government's announcement in March 2011 of £70M for innovation campuses associated with BBSRC-supported institutes in Cambridge and Norwich gives us further opportunities for synergistic funding and partnerships to ensure that our investment drives development of new business enterprises.

This Report provides several examples of how BBSRC invests in truly fundamental, or 'blue skies', scientific research that also has enormous strategic potential. Realising that potential involves many challenges. One of the most fundamental is the development of mechanisms for harvesting new knowledge from the massive amounts of data being generated on biological components and systems, so that it may be used to design and deliver novel and new processes and products. Examples include: using bioinformatics approaches on the genomes of livestock, plants, insects and pathogens for crop improvement and improved animal health, welfare, and productivity; linking biomedical and biological data resources to facilitate understanding and earlier diagnosis age-related changes and to improve disease prevention and management; and combining biochemical data and metagenomics of plants and microbes to develop sustainable sources of bioenergy and new applications in industrial biotechnology.

The Government's announcement in February 2011, of earmarked funding from the UK's Large Facilities Capital Fund for ELIXIR is particularly welcome.



ELIXIR is a pan-European initiative that aims to operate a sustainable infrastructure for biological information throughout Europe, enabling knowledge transfer in medicine, the environment and bio-industries to deliver economic growth to the UK, Europe and beyond. It is coordinated at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) near Cambridge.

I was delighted to welcome two new Council members in April 2010, Professor Keith Lindsey and David Gregory, who brought a strong combination of academic excellence and commercial experience. With the Council's strong strategic emphasis on food security, the credentials and experience of Keith Lindsey and David Gregory in plant science and food retailing have been, and will continue to be, highly valued assets to the Council.

BBSRC's continuing success this year is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all those who have served on BBSRC Council, on BBSRC's Committees and Panels, and to the staff of BBSRC. I would like to thank all those involved.

Professor Sir Tom Blundell FRS
BBSRC Chairman
November 2011

Chief Executive's report

Delivering a sustainable bio-based economy

BBSRC's over-arching objective is to protect and enhance the UK's pre-eminence in bioscience research, and to drive translation of research outputs into economic and social benefits.

In particular, we have a unique, pivotal role in enabling and shaping the development of a bio-based economy.

We have the privilege and responsibility of being able to bring together our investment in research and research training with activities to translate research outputs into public goods for UK society as a whole, for example in informing policymaking, and in creating both new business opportunities and the highly skilled individuals to take them forward.

This Report outlines how we have delivered on our objectives systematically and strategically through:

- ▶ increased focus and investment on our scientific priority areas: global food security; industrial biotechnology and bioenergy; and basic bioscience underpinning health
- ▶ refreshing and re-focusing our policy on knowledge exchange and commercialisation; embedding a culture of knowledge exchange across our research community; facilitating collaborative investment and innovation with business and policy sectors; and engagement with wider societal aspirations and concerns
- ▶ focusing support for skills development and training to ensure the highest quality and value both for the students and their future employers in research, industry or other parts of the economy
- ▶ enabling new ways of working, supporting facilities and infrastructure; optimising leverage for our investment, for example through partnerships with counterpart agencies overseas; and increasing efficiency

Progress against targets and milestones:

BBSRC met or exceeded almost all of its targets for 2010-11. We completed major investments in sustainable bioenergy, developed significant international partnerships in ageing research and food security, and met all commitments to cross-Council programmes in global security and environmental change.

We also exceeded targets for investments in research and technology clubs by £4M and for commitment to research aligned with the Technology Strategy Board by £3M.

Through our investment in the UK bioscience research base and in providing policy leadership for our community, BBSRC is well positioned to contribute to policy debates in order to strengthen the UK's lead in the biosciences. During the past year this has included contributing views or developing policy on open access, peer review, demand management and the concentration of research.

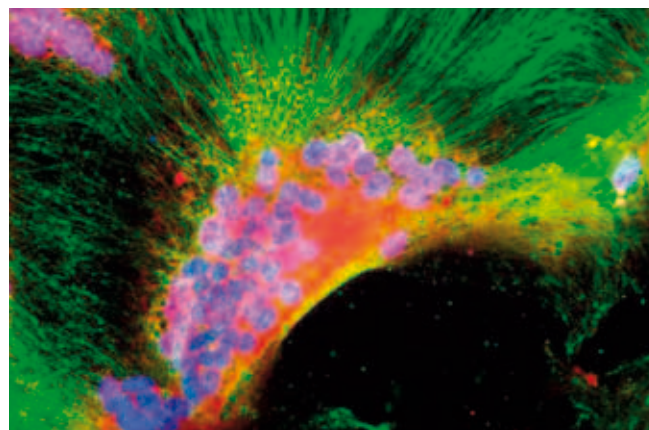


For BBSRC, managing demands on our peer review system, which relies on the goodwill and support of our bioscience research community, is a priority.

It is important that we maintain a success rate for grant applications that ensures time and effort is not wasted for applicants and reviewers. We have been working with researchers and, where appropriate, specific disciplines in order to improve demand management.

During the past year we have also undertaken a significant amount of work to transfer our grant processing activities to the RCUK Shared Services Centre. I am grateful for the patience and support of our research community during this change, as we recognise that our grants service had to slow to allow the transfer to be made.

In October 2010, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) announced the end of field operations and the successful conclusion of the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme's (GREP) objective of rinderpest eradication. This is only the second time that the world has been able to eliminate a viral disease. The Institute for Animal Health at Pirbright played a key role in the development of diagnostics and in the training of local people and scientists in Africa and Asia as part of the eradication programme.





BBSRC-funded researchers publicly released the first draft sequence coverage of the wheat genome in August 2010. The release marks a step towards a fully annotated genome and makes a significant contribution to efforts to support global food security and to increase the competitiveness of UK farming. David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science, said: "This is an outstanding world class contribution by the UK to the global effort to completely map the wheat genome. By using gene sequencing technology developed in the UK we now have the capability to improve the crops of the future by simply accelerating the natural breeding process to select varieties that can thrive in challenging conditions." The genome data has been released in a raw format which other research teams across the world can download.

We continue to be committed to open communication about our research and policies and to be at the forefront of public engagement with research. In 2010, we restructured the BBSRC website to launch a new online news service – www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news. This allows us to provide visitors with regularly updated news arranged around our major research areas.

Since the change, visitor numbers have increased significantly. We also provide access to all BBSRC news and funding updates through RSS feeds, Twitter and the re-designed BBSRC monthly news email.

In a major initiative to increase access to details of our funded grants, we launched a new interface for our awarded grants database – Portfolio Analyser – in February 2011.

The new system is designed to facilitate collaboration across our community and to make it easier for the public and potential end-users of our research to find projects of interest.

In June 2010, the findings of the Synthetic Biology Dialogue were published. This major dialogue activity,

commissioned and funded by BBSRC and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council with support from Sciencewise-ERC, was designed to allow a diversity of views from a cross-section of society to inform Research Council and wider Government policymaking in the emerging field of synthetic biology. We are now considering the findings through our strategic decision making processes.

Challenges:

Modern bioscience research offers exciting and potentially boundless opportunities to improve quality of life in the UK and beyond. However, there are challenges we must overcome to realise these opportunities fully, and this is an important part of BBSRC's mission.

For some time now we have spoken about how a modern bioscientist can be a biologist, an engineer, a computer scientist, a chemist, a mathematician, or any discipline that is seeking to tackle a bioscience question.

This multi- and inter-disciplinary approach to bioscience is increasingly a reality and we continue to support

Two BBSRC-supported exhibits from the Babraham Institute and Rothamsted Research were part of The Royal Society's Summer Science exhibition in July 2010. Summer Science this year was held on the South Bank in London on a larger scale than usual to mark the Society's 350th anniversary. HM The Queen visited the exhibition and her tour included talking to scientists on the Babraham Institute exhibit about calcium cell signalling.



Innovator of the Year 2011 winner Jason Swedlow receives his award from Minister for Universities and Science Minister David Willetts. Prof Swedlow received the honour, and a £10,000 prize, in recognition of his work on the Open Microscopy Environment (OME) - a revolutionary venture into open source software.

this way of working through mechanisms such as cross-Council and multiagency research programmes – BBSRC is involved in all but one of the cross-Council research themes and I was pleased to see the publication of the strategic plan for the multiagency Global Food Security programme in January 2011.

Work in previous years identified the need for BBSRC to protect strategically important and vulnerable capabilities in UK bioscience. One way we have looked to address this in the last year is through requirements for supporting studentships as part of the new Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) scheme that we announced in March. Institutions applying for support for studentships through DTPs will need to explain how they will address training in niche skills.

It is now well recognised that modern bioscience is data intensive, with the latest techniques and technologies in genomics generating huge quantities of data and with the global research community producing thousands of papers every month. Harnessing this information through improved data storage, handling and interrogation will be one of the central challenges in the coming years.

Considering this, we were very pleased with the announcement in February that funding had been earmarked from the Large Facilities Capital Fund for ELIXIR.

This project has the potential to make a significant increase in access to biological data resources by researchers in academia and industry across Europe, and I look forward to further developments.

Professor Douglas Kell

BBSRC Chief Executive
November 2011



Credit: Mitchell Thomson

In June 2010, BBSRC and the other partners in the Insect Pollinator Initiative (Defra, the Natural Environment Research Council, The Scottish Government and The Wellcome Trust) working together as part of the Living with Environmental Change programme announced £10M of research projects. These projects will explore the causes and consequences of threats to insect pollinators and ask questions about the decline of honeybees and other pollinating insects over recent years. The aim is to inform the development of mitigation strategies that will ensure that the pollination of agricultural and horticultural crops is protected and biodiversity in natural ecosystems is maintained.



Start of construction of new laboratory at IAH Pirbright – Construction work began in September 2010 on the £100M+ new high containment laboratory at the Institute for Animal Health Laboratory at Pirbright. When operational in early 2014 the laboratory will be home to almost 150 IAH scientists and support staff and will have unique national capabilities that other research groups will be able to access.

Key funding data

Summary of grant applications and success rates				
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Number of applications (excluding Fellowships)	1,983	2,033	1,865	1,832
Success rate by number (%)	29	21	22	28
Equivalent success rate by value (%)	28	23	23	26

Applications and success rates by gender						
Success rate by number (%)						
	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Project grants	18.3	12.9	19.6	18.9	23.0	21.0
Programme grants	44.4	43.9	37.9	39.7	46.7	40.8
New investigators	24.8	14.8	33.0	41.3	23.6	17.5
Fellowships*	14.4	6.7	18.2	6.9	-	-

Percentage of female applicants from total applications and from successful applications for peer-reviewed funding						
	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	Total	Successful	Total	Successful	Total	Successful
Project grants	22.8	17.3	23.6	23.0	21.3	19.8
Programme grants	21.6	21.4	19.5	20.2	18.6	16.7
New investigators	28.9	19.5	32.9	38.0	31.0	25.0
Fellowships*	23.6	12.5	27.4	12.5	-	-

Dates indicate session of application

*Fellowships are awarded in the following session therefore 2010-11 Fellowship information is not complete at the time of going to press

Funding to BBSRC Funded Institutes (£M)									
Institute (£M)	BBSRC SPs*	BBSRC Other Funding	Defra/ FSA	Industrial Contract Income	Other Research Income	European Union	Other Sources	TOTAL REVENUE INCOME	BBSRC CAPITAL FUNDING
Babraham Institute	12.8	2.2	-	0.2	3.8	0.3	3.2	22.5	7.8
Institute for Animal Health	11.1	5.2	6.7	0.1	0.8	1.3	4.8	30.0	46.6
Institute of Food Research	9.8	1.4	0.5	0.2	1.4	1.3	0.3	14.9	2.2
John Innes Centre	13.9	6.7	0.5	0.2	1.9	2.4	2.0	27.6	7.8
Rothamsted Research	13.3	5.9	4.3	2.5	1.1	0.5	1.8	29.4	4.6
The Genome Analysis Centre	5.4	0.2	-	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	6.8	-
TOTAL	66.3	21.6	12.0	4.0	9.1	5.9	12.3	131.2	69.0
2009-10 Comparatives	51.5	24.1	11.9	4.5	8.0	7.1	15.7	122.8	67.1

Publications from BBSRC Funded Institutes				
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Referred publications per scientist	2.4	2.5	2.3	4.1
Total publications per scientist	4.3	4.3	3.5	5.3

*Figures prior to 2008-09 include the former BBSRC funded institutes, Roslin Institute and the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, which are now embedded respectively in Aberystwyth University and the University of Edinburgh. Figures from 2010-11 include the Genome Analysis Centre.

Top 25 universities by grant funding

University	Research grants (£M)
Manchester	18.71
Edinburgh*	14.89
Cambridge	14.72
Imperial College London	13.66
Nottingham	13.59
Oxford	12.67
University College London	10.19
Bristol	8.29
University of Glasgow	8.28
Newcastle	6.95
Warwick	6.92
Leeds	6.77
Sheffield	5.48
Dundee	4.93
Birmingham	4.91
King's College London	4.88
Liverpool	4.85
York	4.74
East Anglia	4.37
Aberdeen	4.33
Cardiff	3.49
Leicester	2.85
Sussex	2.85
Southampton	2.68
Royal Veterinary College	2.58

*Two BBSRC funded institutes, the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Science (IBERS) and the Roslin Institute (RI), are now embedded respectively in Aberystwyth University and the University of Edinburgh. In addition to the funds detailed in the table above, the Institutes received Core Strategic Grants of £4.5M (2009-10:£4.5M) and £8.5M (2009-10: £7.5M) respectively.

Transferring Knowledge BBSRC Funded Institutes (£K)*

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Industrial income	7,979	7,618	5,746	6,426	7,482
Income from intellectual property	551	455	563	864	1,176
Patents awarded	15	10	27	15	23
Commercial licensing agreements	41	53	36	46	42
Spin-out companies trading	17	16	16	17	21
Refereed publications co-authored with industry	82	71	55	41	48

*Figures prior to 2008-09 include the former BBSRC funded institutes, Roslin Institute and the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, which are now embedded respectively in Aberystwyth University and the University of Edinburgh. Figures from 2010-11 include the Genome Analysis Centre.

In future years, the Annual Report and Accounts will not include the tables titled 'Transferring Knowledge – BBSRC Funded Institutes' or 'Publications from BBSRC Funded Institutes' as the information will not be available prior to the deadline for publication. This data will, instead, be made available via BBSRC's website.

The data previously included in this section providing an analysis of research funding now forms part of the Annual Accounts and can be found in note 2.

Progress and achievements

Delivering an internationally competitive research base

Sustainable national capability

BBSRC's principal aim, on which all other objectives depend and derive, is to maintain the world-leading quality of bioscience research in the UK. We met virtually all our targets on schedule. Some have been modified in the light of external factors, for instance implementation of the Wakeham recommendations in 2011-2012.

BBSRC has continued to accept applications for responsive mode funding across its broad remit. We have also maintained success rates at around 20%, while at the same time encouraging applications in priority areas and where there is need for increased capability, and supporting LONger LARger awards (LOLAs). During the year, two strategic LOLAs were funded from seven applications: on ageing processes in the brain (£5M) and on a public wheat pre-breeding programme (£7M).

We met our targets on support for Tools and Resources, including support and engagement with the cross-Research Council programme on nanotechnology. We have committed £6.5M from the Bioinformatics and Biological Resources Fund.

We completed all of our 2008-2011 targets in supporting capacity building in systems biology, and have funded a five-year project to develop an e-learning platform in systems biology. Systems biology is now an embedded approach across our remit.

We have continued to develop the networks on synthetic biology to facilitate multidisciplinary.

We have ensured access to the Genome Analysis Centre (TGAC) which we have now recognised as the 'preferred supplier' for research requiring next generation sequencing.

We have begun to establish strategic partnerships with leading universities for research in our priority areas. These will enable more strategic, joined-up and efficient approaches to delivering mutual priorities, and deliver synergy on investment. Initial arrangements are in place with Aberystwyth University and the Universities of Cambridge, East Anglia and Nottingham, around food security.

Construction of new laboratories and phenomics facilities at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences at Aberystwyth University is in progress on target, as part of BBSRC's contribution to a major investment arising from transfer of the former IGER to Aberystwyth University.

In collaboration with the University of Edinburgh and the Scottish Agricultural College, the final phase (£20M) of a £57M investment in the new Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh was completed. The building was

completed on time and budget at March 2011 and will be formally opened later in 2011.

Developments at BBSRC funded institutes are reported on page 9.

Leverage from international partnerships:

UK bioscience has continued its outstanding success as a leading partner in collaborative research in Europe. The UK has been designated co-leader (with France) of a Joint Programming Initiative in agriculture, food security and climate change which brings together 20 European countries around a common research strategy.

In partnership with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), and under the EuroSYNBIO programme, four awards (total £1.5M) have been made for research into new approaches for antibiotic production; power generation; new medicines; and new techniques in cell biology.

BBSRC committed £7.7M to support sixteen projects (totalling £24M) under ERASysBio which involve 85 research groups in 14 countries. The projects apply principles of systems biology to a range of topics including food security, healthy ageing and bioscience underpinning health.

We have co-invested with the US NSF in fundamental research on photosynthesis (see page 11); and with multiple partners on food security in developing countries (see page 10).

We have strengthened our links with agencies in Brazil (EMBRAPA, CNPq the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, and FAPESP, São Paulo's State Research Council) to increase mobility and collaborative research between scientists in the UK and Brazil. With Defra, BBSRC has supported seven fellowships for scientists from EMBRAPA to work collaboratively with scientists at Rothamsted Research and the BBSRC Sustainable Bioenergy Centre; and BBSRC is leading for RCUK/FAPESP on joint applications for research.

BBSRC and the Vietnam Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in March 2011 on rice genomics research. BBSRC has committed up to £350k, and MOST up to £100k, to help improve flood-, drought-, salt- and pest-tolerance in rice. A novel genomics platform will be developed at the John Innes Centre and The Genome Analysis Centre enhance rice breeding institutions in Vietnam.

BBSRC and the National Science Council of Taiwan signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2010 to cooperate in biotechnology research in food security, bioenergy/industrial biotechnology and bioscience underpinning health.

Developments at BBSRC Funded Institutes:

BBSRC's scientific remit requires research that is most appropriately delivered at mission-oriented institutes with specialist facilities, alongside that conducted in university research departments, and new multi-disciplinary and 'virtual' centres.

Working closely with institute governing bodies, with institute directors and with BIS, we have agreed revised governance arrangements of institutes previously sponsored by BBSRC and funded through single core strategic grants. The new arrangements were ready for implementation, subject to HM Treasury confirmation of pension arrangements which has now been received, and the new arrangements are being implemented during 2011.

We have agreed revised terms and conditions of grant at institutes on schedule, and met targets for initial phases of the assessment of the new portfolios of Institute Strategic Programme Grants (ISPGs), National Capability Grants and funding to support Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation activities, which replace single core grants.

Directors from BBSRC Swindon Office and institutes meet regularly on high level policy and strategic issues and will continue to do so.

During 2010 -11 the quinquennial Institute Assessment Exercise has progressed on schedule and will be completed in 2011-2012.

We completed allocation of £17.5M resource and capital funding to institutes over the period 2008-2011.

Babraham Institute

The new bioincubator was completed on schedule (see page 16) and is fully occupied.

Institute for Animal Health

Plans for development of new world class facilities at Pirbright were progressed on schedule, with construction of the £135M laboratory complex starting in September 2010. Plans for closure of the Compton site are also on target. IAH is now governed by a Board on which BBSRC serves as a Corporate Trustee.

Norwich Research Park

A new science vision has been developed on schedule with the NRP Science Advisory Board; and targets were met for on-going development of new strategic partnerships for a centre for diet, food and health research.

Rothamsted Research, North Wyke

Our investment in a farm platform to provide a national capability for research in sustainable agriculture and land-use is on target.

The Genome Analysis Centre

In partnership with regional economic development partners, BBSRC has committed £4M for further investment at the Genome Analysis Centre on the Norwich Research Park. This will support a purpose-built data handling facility, which will include a 'warehouse' for key datasets and the capability to disseminate these nationally. The new facility was launched in Spring 2011.

Global food security

BBSRC met all its objectives in this priority area.

BBSRC led establishment of the Global Food Security (GFS) Programme, which published its strategic plan in February 2011 (www.foodsecurity.ac.uk/assets/pdfs/gfs-strategic-plan.pdf). Lord Cameron of Dillington has been appointed Chair of the GFS Strategy Board.

The UK and France are co-leading a Joint Programming Initiative in this area (see page 8).

With the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Scottish Government, BBSRC supports the UK coordinated strategy on *Campylobacter*, and will contribute to joint investment of up to £2M with Defra and the Food Standards Agency.

BBSRC announced it will manage, and contribute £3M to a £20M initiative to improve food sustainability in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, in partnership, with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Department for International Development and the Indian Department of Biotechnology. The RCUK India Office is enabling coordination with the Indian partners.

We invested £2.9M in a UK-USA collaboration on research on enhancing photosynthesis (see page 11). We committed £2.5M for crop protection research under the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) platform in sustainable agriculture.

Related activities:

■ Nine awards (total £9.65M) were made to study the causes and consequences of threats to insect pollinators and to inform mitigation strategies. This Insect Pollinators Initiative was funded by BBSRC, Defra, the Natural Environment Research Council, the Scottish Government and the Wellcome Trust, under the Living with Environmental Change (LWEC) partnership.

■ Also under LWEC, BBSRC committed up to £2M to the Environmental and Social Ecology of Human Infectious Diseases initiative; and committed £1M for a new programme on Ecology of Human Infectious Diseases, with the NSF, NIH and ESRC. In the Global Uncertainties programme, BBSRC funded four joint projects (total £1.7M) in the Emerging and Major Infectious Diseases of Livestock ERA-Net.

Research highlights include:

■ Scientists from the Universities of Bristol and Liverpool and the John Innes Centre published the first draft sequence of the expressed wheat genome. This will accelerate understanding of the genetic basis of traits such as yield, and drought- and salt-tolerance, enabling development of improved varieties for market needs. This is being pursued with support under a new LOLA (page 8).

■ Collaborative research between teams at the Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh and University of Cambridge produced chickens that are genetically modified to prevent spread of bird flu to other chickens – a first step in developing totally resistant birds.

■ A new approach to breeding of potato plants resistant to blight has been developed by scientists at the University of Dundee, the former Scottish Crop Research Institute and the University of Aberdeen, from research funded under BBSRC's Crop Science Initiative.

■ A new genotyping method for accelerating and reducing the cost of breed improvement in dairy and beef cattle has been developed by an international consortium that includes researchers from The Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh.

Communication and engagement:

■ BBSRC provides the secretariat and delivery arm for the GFS Communications and Public Engagement Group. GFS was showcased at CropWorld 2010, where speakers included BBSRC Chief Executive Professor Douglas Kell and Rothamsted Research Director Maurice Moloney, at the 2011 Oxford Farming Conference and at the 2011 AGM of the National Farmers' Union.

■ Outputs from BBSRC's £13.3M Crop Science Initiative were disseminated to policymakers and business leaders in November 2010. A dissemination event for the joint BBSRC/Defra/MRC/Wellcome Trust initiative on combating swine 'flu was scheduled in July 2011, and tool a 'One Biology, One Health' approach by including the human-focused pandemic 'flu projects supported by MRC/WT/Department of Health.

■ We publicised results from our 5-year £8M programme on animal welfare at a dissemination/networking meeting in February 2011. This covered findings in: measuring animal welfare; impact of early life experiences on welfare; effects of an animal's environment and its perception of that environment.

■ BBSRC coordinated the launch of the Insect Pollinators Initiative to conservation bodies, beekeeping associations and other stakeholders; participated in AgriBusiness 2010, and funded the Rothamsted Research display on soil science at the 2010 Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition.

Industrial biotechnology and bioenergy

BBSRC met or exceeded its objectives in this priority area.

The BBSRC Sustainable Bioenergy Centre (BSBEC) is a key element in our investment to enhance UK capability in second- and future-generation bioenergy, and biofuels. It is part of our portfolio of industrial biotechnology, where we support fundamental and strategic research, including collaborative projects with industry. Following a review by BSBEC's Science and Impact Advisory Board, we are implementing recommendations for future development.

BBSRC leads a cross-Council Bioenergy Strategic Coordination Group, established in January 2011 as a sub-group of the RCUK Energy Programme Coordination Group. The new group includes representative from the TSB and from the research community.

Following a jointly organised 'Ideas Lab', with the US NSF, BBSRC has committed £2.9M, (with NSF committing £3.25M), for four fundamental research projects on photosynthesis, including synthetic biology, that explore the potential for transformative developments in food production and bio-energy. BBSRC is supporting a complementary portfolio of grants on enhancing photosynthesis.

We made three responsive mode awards for bioenergy research, totalling £1.8M (including funding from EPSRC and NERC): at University College London/ University of Cambridge, the University of Cambridge and the University of York. These focus respectively on Isoprenoid-based biofuel from algae using synthetic biology; algal-bacterial interactions relevant to industrial cultivation of microalgae; and degradation of xyloglucan.

In 2010 we made the second round of awards under the Integrated Biorefining Research and Technology Club (IBTI). Five awards, totalling just under £1.9M (£1.3M from BBSRC and £0.6M from EPSRC) were made to scientists at the Universities of Glasgow, Glyndwr, Imperial College London, Liverpool and York. These investigate: production of fine chemicals from lignocellulose; bio-refining to produce novel polymers and surfactants; consolidated bioprocessing to produce fuels and chemicals from lignocelluloses; process intensification technology to produce high value functional products for the food industry.

Research highlights include:

■ BSBEC researchers at the University of Cambridge discovered the genes for key plant enzymes that toughen wood, straw and plant stems, making it difficult to extract sugars for fermentation. These represent new targets for breeding crops where non-edible parts may be converted more easily, using less energy and fewer chemicals, and for improving varieties of bioenergy crops such as willow and miscanthus.

■ A study on the barriers and drivers for bioenergy products, led by the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) and BSBEC, which identified the economic factors most critical for farmers, suppliers and developers.

■ Researchers at the University of Manchester (with groups at DIAMOND, and the Universities of Cardiff and Birmingham) developed a simple biosynthetic process to make re-useable magnetic nanocatalysts with potential applications from pharmaceutical manufacture to remediation of polluted groundwaters.

■ Building on their ability to manipulate synthetic pathways in plants to produce the beneficial long chain omega-3 fatty acids found in fish oils, scientists at Rothamsted Research are exploring opportunities to enhance production of these polyunsaturates in marine microbes, with support from an IBTI Club Training Grant Studentship.

■ Scientists at the Universities of Dundee and Oxford are working together on harnessing the potential of microbial hydrogenase enzymes as catalysts for renewable inexpensive production of hydrogen for making fuel hydrocarbons. Structural biology suggests that the active sites of these enzymes might be as catalytically active as platinum – an expensive and limited resource.

Communication and Engagement:

■ The findings of the Synthetic Biology Public Dialogue, commissioned and funded by BBSRC and EPSRC, with support from Sciencewise-ERC, were published in June 2010. They focused on: the uniqueness of synthetic biology; the leadership and funding roles of the Research Councils' developing scientists' capabilities to think through responsibilities; what innovation looks like under these circumstances; controlling the science; and future dialogue. The Councils jointly published the actions they will take in response: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/society/dialogue/activities/synthetic-biology/findings-recommendations.aspx>. For BBSRC, this is being taken forward with advice from the Bioscience for Society Strategy panel (BSS).

■ BBSRC published its position statement on bioenergy research in July 2010. We have established a BSBEC Outreach Group, chaired by the BBSRC bioenergy champion, and linked to BSS. We are developing engagement based on 'connected conversations' and using a 'toolkit' that includes 'scenario discussions'. Our planned introduction of public engagement training around bioenergy has been postponed from March to Summer 2011 to enable input and advice from a subgroup of BSS. BBSRC's Inspiring Young Scientists Coordinator presented interactive materials on bioenergy in the RCUK-coordinated display at the 2011 Big Bang Fair; and will pilot schools resources at schools in Norwich.

■ BBSRC co-supported a display by University of Cambridge scientists on algal biology for food and fuel, at the 2010 Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition.

Basic bioscience underpinning health

BBSRC met or exceeded its objectives in this priority area.

With Research Council partners, BBSRC has contributed to development of the 2011-2014 work plan of the Lifelong Health and Wellbeing (LLHW) programme. We completed our committed support for phases 2 and 3, at around £2M. In September 2010, the Research Councils and Health Departments launched 'A strategy for collaborative ageing research in the UK'.

BBSRC contributed £3.5M (of a total £10M investment with EPSRC and TSB) for the Innovation and Knowledge Centre in Regenerative Therapies and Medical Devices, which was launched in June 2010. The Centre is also funded by industry (£6M) and the University of Leeds (£2M). It aims to harness emerging technologies and to translate innovation in healthcare, from the laboratory to the bedside.

In partnership with EPSRC, MRC and industry, we funded nine awards through the Diet and Health Research Industry Club. These will explore: wheat fibre and nutritional quality of bread (University of Birmingham, Institute of Food Research, Rothamsted Research); possible dietary components to combat osteoarthritis (University of East Anglia); bioactivity of flavonoids (University of East Anglia, University of St Andrews); consumer perception of reduced fat foods (Institute of Food Research, the University of Edinburgh); possible beneficial effects of dietary polyphenols to reduce chronic inflammation (University of Liverpool); the role of specialised dendritic cells in maintaining gut health (University of Oxford); potential approaches to reduce saturated fat content of milk (University of Reading); mechanisms of vascular protection by omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (Royal Veterinary College); and effectiveness of different forms of vitamin D in overcoming deficiencies (University of Surrey).

We have made two awards under our 'highlight' 'High Performance Sport as A Model for Biological Research' (for project commencing in 2011-2012). Researchers at the Universities of Leeds and Liverpool will work with the British Cycling Science team to develop a model that explores how physiology is optimised to sustain high levels of exercise, with implications for informing patient care where exercise is important. Another award supports research at the University of Nottingham into aspects of longer term training regimes, muscle metabolism and activity.

We have worked closely with the Medical Research Council (MRC) to harmonised approaches in areas such as the use of animals in research, and in investment in the NC3Rs. BBSRC-funded research on reducing stress in laboratory mice was awarded the 2010 NC3Rs prize for advances in animal welfare.

The mid-term review led by BBSRC of the four Centres in Integrative Mammalian Biology (at Manchester/Liverpool, Imperial College, Kings College and Glasgow/Strathclyde), funded by BBSRC/MRC/The Funding Councils/BIS/Industry to build capacity in *in vivo* research reported that all have exceeded expectations in terms of delivering training and new research collaborations. The Centres now provide an effective focus for wider activities such as; developing systems approaches; developing and sharing best practice; and new approaches to the welfare of experimental animals.

Research highlights include:

■ Research combining molecular cell biology, human gene profiling and mouse genetics provided new insights into limited fat storage and fat tissue expansion in obese individuals and how this may trigger other health problems. The research at the University of Cambridge was funded by BBSRC, MRC and the European Union Sixth Framework Programme. It showed that a protein produced by fat cells may be implicated in increased risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

■ Epigenetics research at Babraham Institute, in collaboration with scientists in Germany and Japan has shed new light on how genomes of mammalian embryos are reprogrammed as new life begins. It reveals how a new type of epigenetic modification appears to be vital during the earliest stages of embryo reprogramming. This is likely to increase understanding of how failures in epigenetic regulation during ageing may cause conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, obesity, cancer and autoimmune disorders.

■ From research funded by BBSRC, scientists at the University of Leeds have developed new biological scaffolds that will not be rejected by a patient's immune system, and which can be repaired and renewed like normal tissue. This paves the way for 'off the shelf' materials for uses such as: repair of blood vessels after surgery for blocked arteries; repair of torn ligaments or tendons; and repair or replacement of heart valves.

Communication and engagement:

■ BBSRC supports the UK National Stem Cell Network, and provides media relations support for its Annual Science Meeting. BBSRC and MRC have published their response to the Stem Cell Dialogue study.

■ A Transatlantic Symposium was held at the 39th Annual Meeting of the American Aging Association in the USA in June 2010 for grantholders supported by the joint BBSRC and National Institute of Aging Collaborative Research on the Biology of Ageing Initiative. The biennial conference of the UK Age Research Forum was held in London in September 2010.

■ BBSRC funded the Babraham Institute's presentation on calcium signalling and heart function, at the 2010 Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition.

Exploiting New Ways of Working

BBSRC met or exceeded all its objectives in this priority area.

The Bioinformatics and Biological Resources (BBR) Fund is BBSRC's key mechanism to support new and sustain existing resources required by the breadth of the biosciences supported by BBSRC. We invested £6.5M in eight high quality resources. These resources will support: a functional genomics toolkit for studying the wheat pathogen *Mycosphaerella graminicola*; a tool to enable the annotation of genomes of farm animals; a portal for metagenomics data designed to handle next generation sequencing data (co-funded by NERC); an integrated tools for systems and genome biology; a database for structure-based annotations linking genomes to phenomes; next generation TILLING tools for reverse genetics in plants; a resource for integrated epigenomics studies; and a pipeline technology for third-generation sequence technology.

In parallel to the BBR Fund, we provided £2.5M investment to twenty-one small-scale, pump-priming novel technology and methods development projects through the strategic Tools and Resources Development Fund (sTRDF). These projects included those directly relevant to underpinning BBSRC's strategic priorities, such as developing new transformation systems to study oilseed rape fruit formation, and new reporter technologies for human pluripotent stem cells. Other projects supported the development of enabling technologies which have potential across BBSRC's research base. These included novel fluorescence atomic force microscopy techniques, single molecule DNA sequencing using gold nanoparticles and high resolution 3D image reconstruction techniques.

We have worked in partnership with the Technology Strategy Board in order to stimulate the industrial base to engage with and utilise academic expertise in new approaches to research challenges as an efficient and effective route for the development of new products. We provided co-funding for relevant projects awarded through the TSB 'Harnessing Large Data Sets' and 'Genomes UK' competitions. We invested £80k to pay 50% of the academic costs for a project mining chemogenomics data and developing a novel visualisation tool to support agrochemical discovery, pharmaceutical, metabolomics and toxicology research. We invested a further £790k in five projects through the Genomes UK competition, supporting genomics research and development for: the discovery of novel biopharmaceuticals from marine sources; improving both salmon and oilseed rape breeding; the identification of novel approaches in pest control; and improving carcass traits in beef cattle.

Research highlights include:

■ Researchers at Imperial College London, funded through the Tools and Resources Development Fund developed a quantitative microarray system for oligosaccharides. It was announced in October 2010 that this had been applied to identifying a subset of swine flu viruses that expressed a receptor that allowed them to attach to different cells in the airway, impeding the body's ability to clear the lungs and potentially increasing how dangerous the virus was. <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/research-technologies/2010/101022-pr-swine-flu-strain-disabled-lung.aspx>

■ As part of an international consortium, Roslin Institute-based researchers developed Biolayout Express 3D using funding from the Bioinformatics and Biological Resources Fund which can visualise genomics data using desktop computing (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/research-technologies/2010/101116-f-visualising-complex-networks.aspx>). This tool is used by around 2000 users worldwide to analyse expression clusters from next-generation sequencing. It is also being further developed to integrate datasets and types from a variety of sources, enabling the discovery of new knowledge and new lines of research not easily identified through other, more conventional routes.

■ A consortium of scientists from across the UK successfully sequenced the strawberry genome. The research was published in Nature Genomics in December 2010. The researchers found that the wild strawberry genome possesses around 35,000 genes, about one and a half times the number humans have, most of which, they predict will have been retained by the varieties we eat. Strawberries are a valuable crop with sales of home-grown strawberries in the UK alone of £231M in 2009. The wild strawberry is also closely related to other important food crops including apples, peaches, pears and raspberries, and to roses, and its genome sequence will help breeders of all of these plants to produce new varieties with improved traits. <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/research-technologies/2010/101226-pr-uk-researchers-strawberry-genome.aspx>

Communication and engagement:

■ Recognising the increasingly complex nature of data arising from biology, BBSRC organised and funded (with support from AHRC) a cross-disciplinary research workshop to explore some of the challenges associated with visualising biological data. This workshop brought together researchers from the biological, physical and social sciences, arts and humanities to stimulate discussion of ideas in this area, bring different perspectives and research approaches to these challenges.

■ BBSRC, along with the other Research Councils contributed to the development of an RCUK report 'Delivering The UK's E-Infrastructure for Research and Innovation'. BBSRC was represented on the Expert Advisory Panel, chaired by Professor Carole Goble, and contributed by providing evidence and inputting into the conclusions and recommendations, which have subsequently been used in the development of a UK-wide position on e-infrastructure. The BBSRC Chief Executive, in his role as RCUK Champion, has been involved in these current activities. One key piece of evidence for both these reports was the RCUK e-Science review which BBSRC was heavily involved with, providing evidence of past investments in the e-Science programme and identifying academic researchers funded through the programme who could present their key research highlights to the review panel. The report was published in July 2010; <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/research/esci/e-Infrastructurereviewreport.pdf>

■ We continue to implement the recommendations of the BBSRC/EPSC Synthetic Biology Public Dialogue, and in February 2011 we organised (with EPSC) a dissemination event with the Research Council-funded Networks in Synthetic Biology to present the main findings and conclusions of the dialogue to the research community.

Delivering a step change in economic impact

Through RCUK, and under 'Pathways to Impact, we have introduced a requirement for grant applicants to describe how they would realise potential social and economic benefits from their research.

We are on schedule for improving our procedures for identifying, collecting and managing details of BBSRC-generated economic and social impacts. We have developed an Economic Impact baseline, and have reviewed the Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation strategies and plans of the BBSRC supported institutes as part of introducing a new dedicated stream of funding to support these activities.

Professor Jason Swedlow of the University of Dundee won the overall 2011 Innovator of the Year award as well as Social Innovator of the Year for his work on 'Open Microscopy Environment' – an open source provider of software solutions for biological image management. Professor Chris Lowe of the University of Cambridge won the Commercial Innovator of the Year award for 'smart hologram' technology. Professor Keith Waldron of the Institute of Food Research won the Most Promising Innovator of the Year award for new composting technology to produce replacement for peat from wastes from the food chain.

Skills and training

Highly trained individuals from the academic sector and up-skilled specialists in industry and business are critical for the uptake of new technologies, and for sustainable science-driven growth in the UK economy.

BBSRC met or exceeded virtually all of its targets and objectives in this area. Some, like potential harmonisation of Industry Interchange Programme are still ongoing, and will be developed further to enhance effectiveness.

We have met our target to double to £8M pa support in our priority areas, including support for PhD studentships through our industry research clubs, and support, with MRC and the British Pharmacological Society, for *in vivo* skills.

We also met our commitments to RCUK-coordinated programmes, including funding (c £3.1M) for generic training for PhD and postdoctoral researchers, and support (£585K) for Vitae career development programmes.

Studentships:

■ We met our target to fund all BBSRC PhD studentships as flexible 4-year doctoral training grants (DTGs); all directly funded 3-year grants finished by March 2011.

■ In line with recommendations of a review of our Quota DTG scheme in 2010, led by Professor Robert Freedman and involving over one thousand grantholders, students and major partners, we announced in March 2011 that with effect from 2012, we will replace DTGs with a Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) programme. This will make larger awards to no more than 15-20 multi-institutional partnerships that align their training with BBSRC's strategic priorities, as well as providing broad-based and professional development for PhD students. We will increase each student's experimental costs £5,000 p.a. Students will be required to take a three month professional internship during their PhD. We have committed to invest over £60M through the programme for studentships starting in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

■ During the year, we announced our intention to cease support for taught Masters courses, upon completion of the current portfolio.

Communication and Engagement:

■ In March 2011, we assessed applications for our first Advanced Training Partnerships (ATPs). Four awards in the agri-food sector, totalling £12M, were announced later, and will commence in 2011.

■ We exceeded our target of funding 75 CASE studentships to major industrial partners. Our annual Industrial CASE scheme which is aimed largely at collaborative training with SMEs, attracted our highest ever level of applications (150) of which 88 were funded, significantly exceeding our target of 45 a year.

■ We met our target of further support for Modular Training for Industry.

Fellowships:

■ During the year, an evaluation of our David Phillips Fellowship scheme showed that it is performing well and meeting all its objectives.

■ In February 2011, we announced protection of our overall annual investment in our Fellowship schemes at around £10M a year. Our investment in 2010-2011 totalled £8.84M.

Research Experience:

■ We made 200 awards to enable undergraduates to experience work in a research environment (vacation bursaries). We are scaling back this activity, and have announced our intention to make 100 awards in 2011-2012.

Collaborative research

Close collaboration with the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) is a central plank in BBSRC's strategy to deliver economic impact from the research it funds. We slightly exceeded our 2010-11 target, committing £16M for industrially relevant research complementary to, or collaborative with, TSB – out of our commitment for the year of £22M for industrially relevant research. Through RCUK, we are developing methods for evaluating collaborations with TSB.

With the TSB, EPSRC and MRC, BBSRC has committed up to £750K towards a total investment of up to £6.25M to stimulate innovative processes and technologies in the food and drink sector. The 'Nutrition for Life' competition will support business-led proposals for collaborative research to advance two areas: novel, healthier foods & processes; and safety, authenticity and traceability.

We exceeded our target of £8M to support research through Research and Technology Clubs (RTCs): investing £12M in total to BRIC, DRINC, IBTI and CIRC. We have developed proposals for possible new RTCs in animal health, and activity to support innovative research in horticulture. (See page 12 for new awards funded through DRINC).

With EPSRC and MRC, we have invited applications for collaborative research with industry in chemical biology. We support research on *Campylobacter* (see page 11) and are exploring opportunities to support horticulture.

Examples of collaborations:

■ With biotechnology company CellCentric, BBSRC is funding a LINK project, totalling £900K for research at the Babraham Institute into enzymes involved in epigenetic changes, and small molecules that affect their activity. The aim is to understand how faulty epigenetic regulation may lead to conditions such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and obesity, and to informing design of improved medicines.

■ A gene that confers a unique form of resistance to all strains of turnip mosaic virus against which it has been tested was identified by scientists at the University of Warwick in partnership with Syngenta Seeds. This will aid breeding of resistant varieties against the virus which is the world's major pathogen of crops such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, swede and oilseed rape.

■ Through the Sustainable Arable LINK programme, and in partnership with the Scottish Government, plant breeders and the barley supply chain, BBSRC has contributed to an award of £924K for research to develop novel genotyping to accelerate the speed and precision of improvements in commercial varieties of barley.

■ Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh is part of a new \$2M strategic alliance for animal health that has been established between the Easter Bush Research Consortium and Pfizer Animal Health.

■ A new highly sensitive method for detecting non-proteolytic spores of the food poisoning bacterium *Clostridium botulinum* has been developed at the Institute of Food Research in collaboration with, and funding from, Nestle Research Centre, Switzerland. This offers food manufacturers improved quantitative data for risk analysis and implementing effective controls.

Entrepreneurship & commercialisation

We have met or exceeded our targets for 2010-2011, by supporting, individual researchers and research centres as well as through effective partnerships with the investment, technology management and business sectors.

In September 2010, new bio-incubator facilities, supported with funding from BBSRC, were opened for seven early-stage biomedical companies at the Babraham Research Campus (BRC). This brings total laboratory space for new bio-based ventures on the campus, which currently hosts 28 ventures, to around 70,000 sq ft.

The Government's announcement, in March 2011, of a total of £70M for innovation centres at BRC (£44M) and the Norwich Research Park (£26M), where BBSRC invests in world-leading research centres, will drive forward our plans for harnessing new knowledge to promote innovation and growth.

We met our target spend on Follow-on Funding, committing £2.5M during the year to help researchers take forward ideas with commercial potential that have arisen from research funded by BBSRC.

We have continued to support career development schemes that equip and enable researchers to take their work towards forward commercialisation. We awarded two BBSRC/RSE Enterprise Fellowships during the year. Although below our 2010-11 target of three, this brought our total for the period 2008-2011 to 17, exceeding the original target of doubling awards to 15 over this period.

We made four awards under the **BBSRC 'Excellence with Impact'** scheme, which recognises the success of university departments in harnessing the economic and social potential of their research outputs. The awards, presented by Minister for Universities and Science, David Willetts, were in two categories: 'Greatest Delivery of impact' (winner: University of Dundee College of Life Sciences; runner-up Newcastle University Institute for Ageing and Health); and 'Greatest Culture Change' (winner University of Aberystwyth IBERS; runner-up University of Liverpool School of Biological Sciences).

We met our target for increasing participants to the Biotechnology YES competition to over 350 pa, attracting over 550 participants into 120 teams for the 2010 competition. In the competition, which is run by BBSRC and the University of Nottingham Institute for Enterprise and Innovation and supported by a range of sponsors, scientists present a hypothetical business plan for a bio-based venture. The 2010 winning team from the University of Manchester presented a microbial technology as an alternative to nitrogen fertilisers.

An evaluation of the 15 years of this competition has confirmed that it is fully meeting its objectives.

BBSRC has continued to participate in the **RCUK Business Plan Competition** that helps researchers link with business and industry to turn their academic ideas into a commercially viable proposition.

Examples of commercialisation:

■ Through the technology management company Plant Bioscience Ltd, Dow AgroSciences has licensed novel crop improvement technology developed by researchers at the John Innes Centre (JIC). The technology, which enhances plant root systems, was developed from basic research into the genetic regulation of anchorage, water use and nutrient uptake in plants.

■ Procarta, a spin-out company previously supported by BBSRC and emerging from the JIC has secured £730K, potentially rising to £1.25M, in a round of equity investment led by Morningside Venture Investments Ltd and including current investors Rainbow Seed Fund and Icen Seedcorn Fund.

Corporate Information

Council

Council comprises the Chair, the Chief Executive and between 10-18 other members, at least half of whom are appointed for their qualification in relevant science. Users of research, in Government and industry, are also represented.

All members are appointed by the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills. They are required to abide by a code of practice that covers conflicts of interests and general conduct.

The Council approves the membership of the five Boards that report to it, namely Appointments, Audit, Remuneration, Institute, and Strategy Advisory Boards. The Chair of each Board is required to report regularly on the work of their respective Boards and to take forward specific tasks as directed by Council.

The Council is also expected to ensure that the Council Secretariat, which provides an administration interface between the Chair, Council and the BBSRC Executive, is of an appropriate standing and experience. The Council Secretariat is overseen by a senior official in BBSRC Swindon Office.

Note 24 in the Accounts contains details of related party transactions. Registers of interest for Council, Boards and Committees can be found at www.bbsrc.ac.uk

Council Membership (as at 31 March 2011)

Professor Sir Tom Blundell FRS
Chair

Professor Douglas Kell
Chief Executive

Professor Sir David Baulcombe FRS
University of Cambridge

Professor Peter Grindrod CBE
University of Reading

Professor John Coggins OBE FRSE
University of Glasgow

Dr David Lawrence
Syngenta

Professor Anne Dell CBE FRS
Imperial College London

Professor Keith Lindsey
Durham University

Professor Chris Pollock CBE
Independent

Professor Peter J Fryer
University of Birmingham

Dr Andy Richards
Independent

Mr Jim Godfrey OBE
R J & A E Godfrey

Dr John Stageman
AstraZeneca

Mr David Gregory
Independent

Professor Quintin McKellar CBE FRSE
University of Hertfordshire

Professor Quintin McKellar CBE served as a Council member until 31 March 2011. Professor Malcolm Weir, Heptares Therapeutics, also served as a Council member during 2010 - 11. Dr William West, CellCentric Ltd, Dr Michael Goosey, Independent, and Professor Russell Foster, University of Oxford, were appointed to Council from 1 April 2011.

Boards, Panels and Committees

(as at 31 March 2011)

Appointments Board

Professor Peter Fryer (Chair)
Council Member

Professor Richard Bardgett
Chair BBSRC Committee B

Professor Mary Bownes OBE FRSE
Independent

Professor Julian Burke
Independent, Industry

Professor John Coggins OBE FESR
(Deputy Chair)
Council Member

Professor Alistair Hetherington
Chair of BBSRC Strategy Panel

Professor Jane Hurst
Independent

Professor Chris Rawlings
Independent, BBSRC Institute

Audit Board

Professor Quintin McKellar CBE FRSE
(Chair)
BBSRC Council member

Dr David Brightman
Independent

Professor Anne Dell CBE FRS
BBSRC Council member

Dr Andy Richards
BBSRC Council member

Mr Mike Samuel
Independent

Professor Quintin McKellar CBE served as Audit Board Chair until stepping down on 31 March 2011. Dr Andy Richards became Chair of the Audit Board on 1 April 2011, and Dr David Gregory joined as an Audit Board member on 1 April 2011.

Institute Board

Professor Douglas Kell (Chair)
BBSRC Chief Executive

Mr Steve Visscher (Deputy Chair)
BBSRC Chief Executive

Professor David Boxer
BBSRC Institute Director

Dr Frances Green
Independent

Professor Keith Gull CBE FRS
Member representative of
BBSRC Institute

Professor Chris Pollock CBE
BBSRC Council member

Dr John Stageman
BBSRC Council member

Professor Michael Wakelam
BBSRC Institute Director

Remuneration Board

Professor Sir Tom Blundell FRS (Chair)
BBSRC Chair

Professor John Coggins OBE FRSE
BBSRC Council member

Professor Peter Fryer
BBSRC Council member

Professor Douglas Kell
BBSRC Chief Executive

Dr David Lawrence
BBSRC Council Member

Professor Malcolm Weir
BBSRC Council member

Strategy Advisory Board

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BBSRC Chief Executive

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Independent

Professor Sir David Baulcombe FRS
BBSRC Council Member

Professor Maggie Dallman
Independent

Professor Russell Foster FRS
Chair, Healthy Organism Strategy Panel

Professor Chris Gaskell
Chair, Sustainable Agriculture
Strategy Panel

Professor Maggie Gill
Independent

Professor Carole Goble
Independent

Professor Alistair Hetherington
Chair, Integrative and Systems Biology
Strategy Panel

Sir Roland Jackson
Chair, Bioscience for Society Strategy Panel

Professor Ottoline Leyser CBE FRS
Chair, Bioscience Skills and Careers
Strategy Panel

Dr Fiona Marston
Independent

Dr Ruth McKernan
Chair, Bioscience for Industry Strategy Panel

Professor Maurice Moloney
Independent, BBSRC Institute

Dr Phil New
Independent

Professor Jules Pretty OBE FRSA
Independent

Professor Chris Rawlings
Chair, Tools and Resources Strategy Panel

Dr John Stageman
BBSRC Council member

Bioscience for Industry Strategy Panel

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Pfizer

Dr Mark Carver
MSD

Dr Mark Berry
Unilever

Dr Julian Burke
Genetix

Dr Alison Campbell
Kings College London Business Ltd

Dr Mike Lant
Syngenta

Dr Steve Martin
TMO Renewables

Professor Jim Murray
University of Cardiff

Mr Keith Norman
Velcourt

Dr Roberto Solari
GSK

Dr Belinda Clarke
One Nucleus

Dr Paul Berryman
Leatherhead Food Research

Professor Helen Sang
The University of Edinburgh

Dr Simon Webster
Avacta

Training Awards Committee

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The University of Manchester

Professor John Birch
Independent

Dr Helen Cassaday
University of Nottingham

Professor Peter Doyle
Unilever R&D

Professor Clive Edwards
University of Liverpool

Professor Jonathan Elliott
Royal Veterinary College

Professor Shirley Ellis
Institute for Animal Health

Dr Ian Furner
University of Cambridge

Dr Simon Leather
Imperial College

Dr Jane Lewis
GlaxoSmithKline

Dr Candy Rowe
Newcastle University

Professor Michael Stumpf
Imperial College

Dr Will Watson
TEVA Pharmaceuticals

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University of Cambridge

Dr Sue Assinder
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Dr Paul Berryman
Leatherhead Food International

Professor Malcolm McCrae
University of Warwick

Professor Ian Roberts
The University of Manchester

Professor Nicola Spence
Science City York

Dr Liz Reynolds
General Bioinformatics

Mr Chris Warkup
Genesis Faraday

Mrs Jackie Wilbraham
AstraZeneca

Professor David Boxer
Institute of Food Research

Professor Jean Chambaz
Universite Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris

Professor Helen Byrne
University of Nottingham

Dr Martin Turner
Babraham Institute

Dr David Adams
Higher Education Academy,
University of Leeds

Bioscience for Society Strategy Panel

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British Science Association

Ms Wendy Barnaby
Independent

Professor Kenneth M Boyd
The University of Edinburgh

Dr Jane Calvert
The University of Edinburgh

Professor Robert Dingwall
Independent

Dr Richard Dyer OBE
Independent

Dr Christine Hauskeller
University of Exeter

Professor Brian Ilbery
Countryside and Community
Research Institute

Dr Sandra Knapp
Natural History Museum

Dr Tom MacMillan
Food Ethics Council

Dr Erinma Ochu
Manchester Beacon for
Public Engagement

Dr Gene Rowe
Independent

Dr Steven Walker
Campden BRI

Professor Vincent Walsh
University College London

Integrative and Systems Biology Strategy Panel

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University of Bristol

Professor Tim Benton
(Deputy Chair)
University of Leeds

Professor Ian Booth
University of Aberdeen

Professor Helen Byrne
University of Oxford

Professor Anthony Coolen
Kings College London

Professor Julian Davies
The University of Manchester

Professor Julian Dow
University of Glasgow

Dr Stuart Dunbar
Syngenta

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Microsoft, Cambridge

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Unilever, Post Sunlight, Liverpool

Dr Edda Klipp
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Professor Stephen Oliver
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University of Warwick

Professor Joerg Stelling
ETH Zurich

Dr Len Stephens
The Babraham Institute

Dr Lee Sweetlove
University of Oxford

Professor Cornelis Weijer
The University of Dundee

Dr Gavin Salisbury (Observer)
EPSRC

Dr Tom Foulkes (Observer)
MRC

Committee A

Dr Richard Baines
The University of Manchester

Dr Melissa Bateson
Newcastle University

Professor Susan Brain
King's College London

Professor David Donaldson
University of Stirling

Professor Francis Ebling
University of Nottingham

Dr Gary Entrican
Moredun Research Institute

Professor Laura Green (Chair)
University of Warwick

**Professor Nicholas Hartell
(Deputy Chair)**
University of Leicester

Professor Tom Humphrey
University of Liverpool

Professor Peter Keightley
The University of Edinburgh

Dr Paul Kellam
University College London

Dr Anne King
University of Leeds

Professor Kevin Laland
University of St Andrews

Dr Dawn Mazzatti
Unilever Corporate Research

Professor Anne McArdle
University of Liverpool

Professor Elek Molnar
University of Bristol

Dr Andrea Munsterberg
University of East Anglia

Professor Paul O'Higgins
University of York

Professor Daniel Osorio
University of Sussex

Professor James Stewart
University of Liverpool

Dr Andrea Streit
King's College London

Professor Simon Webster
University of Bangor

Dr Mark Wilkinson
Natural History Museum

Committee B

Professor Richard Bardgett (Chair)
Lancaster University

Professor James Brown
JIC

Dr Andrew Corran
Syngenta

Professor Neil Crout
University of Nottingham

Dr Iain Donnison
University of Wales

Professor Linda Field
Rothamsted Research

Professor Alain Filloux
Imperial College London

Professor Murray Grant
University of Exeter

Professor Julie Gray
University of Sheffield

Professor Sarah Gurr
University of Oxford

Dr Anthony Hall
University of Liverpool

Professor Nicholas Harberd
University of Oxford

Dr Julian Hibberd
University of Cambridge

Professor David Jones
University of Bangor

Professor Guy Kirk
Cranfield University

Dr Paula Kover
University of Bath

Professor Philip Mullineaux
University of Essex

Dr David Pearce
NERC British Antarctic Survey

Professor Charles Penn (Deputy Chair)
University of Birmingham

Professor Michael Shaw
University of Reading

Professor Simon Turner
The University of Manchester

Dr Marjan Van der Woude
University of York

Committee C

Dr Stephanie Allen
University of Nottingham

Dr Alison Elizabeth Ashcroft
University of Leeds

Dr Conrad Bessant
Cranfield University

Professor Julian Burke (Deputy Chair)
Genetix Ltd

Professor Athene Donald (Chair)
University of Cambridge

Dr Alistair Elfick
The University of Edinburgh

Dr Paul Dalby
University College London

Professor Mark Girolami
University College London

Dr Stuart Hassard
DeltaDot Ltd

Dr John Hunt
University of Liverpool

Professor Andrew Lloyd
University of Brighton

Professor Pedro Mendes
The University of Manchester

Professor Jason Micklefield
The University of Manchester

Dr Clare Mills
Institute of Food Research

Professor Conrad Mullineaux
Queen Mary, University of London

Professor Yvonne Perrie
Aston University

Professor Andrew Pitt
Aston University

Professor Jennifer Southgate
University of York

Professor Darren James Wilkinson
Newcastle University

Professor Phillip Craig Wright
University of Sheffield

Committee D

Professor Rudolf Allemann
Cardiff University

Dr Boyan Bonev
University of Nottingham

Professor Alastair Brown (Chair)
University of Aberdeen

Dr Jeremy Brown
Newcastle University

Professor Gregory Challis
University of Warwick

Professor Paul Clarke
University of Dundee

Dr Juliet Coates
University of Birmingham

Dr Graham Cook
University of Leeds

Professor Shireen-Anne Davies
University of Glasgow

Professor Helen Griffiths
Aston University

Dr Frank James Gunn-Moore
University of St Andrews

Dr Simon Hubbard
The University of Manchester

Professor Terry Jackson
Institute for Animal Health

Dr Nicholas le Brun
University of East Anglia

Professor Jennifer Littlechild
University of Exeter

Dr Cait MacPhee
The University of Edinburgh

Dr Simon Morley
University of Sussex

Dr Klaus Okkenhaug
Babraham Institute

Dr Richard Pickersgill
Queen Mary University of London

Dr Jonathan Tugwood
AstraZeneca

Professor Jeremy Turnbull
University of Liverpool

Professor Martin Warren
University of Kent

**Professor Melanie Welham
(Deputy Chair)**
University of Bath

Professor Michael Paul Williamson
University of Sheffield

Organisational developments

Efficiency

This year BBSRC has performed well in identifying savings. BBSRC delivered savings by:

- ▶ reducing the proportion of our expenditure attributable to administration costs (£0.8M)
- ▶ demonstrating effective reprioritisation of programme spend (£11.5M)
- ▶ supporting BBSRC funded Institutes to increase efficiency (£1.0M)
- ▶ growing the level of co-funding of research (£17.1M)
- ▶ controlling the cost of research (£2.0M)

BBSRC is committed to seeking further savings in the new spending review period, in line with the Government's agenda of austerity measures.

Risk management

BBSRC utilises a range of techniques to ensure that risk is managed in a manner that ensures a proper balance is struck between prudent management and innovative approaches to issues. We use a formal structure of operational risk registers, longer term strategic risks and business critical projects. We have a corporate risk manager to advise senior management. The corporate risk register is aligned with the Office of Government Commerce approved model. This is regularly reviewed by the executive management of BBSRC and the BBSRC Audit Board, and annually by internal auditors. Our procedures are supported by Statements on Internal Control from the Chief Executive, and Group Directors, which draw on evidence from the work of the Audit Board, the annual report from the Head of Internal Audit, the risk management frameworks developed by BBSRC, responses to external audit management letters which identify where control gaps exist and the Funding Assurance Programme report. In addition, for significant programmes such as the Institute of Animal Health's Pirbright Development, the Office of Government Commerce's Gateway process is used.

Staff report

On 1 April 2011, 1927 staff were employed in Institutes funded by BBSRC and in the BBSRC Office, compared to 2083 in 2010. Of the 1927 staff, 1623 were in BBSRC funded Institutes and 304 were in BBSRC Office (which includes staff in Joint Service Units which BBSRC hosts on behalf of all of the Research Councils). As at 1 April 2011, 870 staff were in the science category, which represents 45.2% of all staff. Women occupied 23% of senior posts in BBSRC (pay band PC1-F). The comparable figure for 2009-10 was 24%.

Under the new governance arrangements for BBSRC funded Institutes, existing staff at Institutes will remain BBSRC employees working under a deployment agreement. Such staff will therefore continue to be included in BBSRC data. However, staff employed locally by institutes on different terms and conditions will be excluded from BBSRC statistics.

Environmental policy

BBSRC is committed to embedding sustainability into our operations and reducing our carbon footprint. We continue to promote the management of sustainability and implementation of environmental best practice both in BBSRC and at BBSRC funded-Institutes.

BBSRC is committed to following the Joint Research Council Environmental Policy Statement and attends the Research Council Environmental Group which meets quarterly to discuss the environmental issues that affect Polaris House. In order to satisfy and maintain the required standards a number of environmental targets and impacts have been agreed for review, assessment and improvement. These include: waste reduction; landscaping enhancement; green purchasing; reduction of CO₂/energy emissions; and green transport. Environmental issues are communicated to all staff through the cross-Research Council Environmental Awareness newsletter.

BBSRC's approach is based on the guidance of the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and BREEAM planning procedures. The energy usage, environmental impact and sustainability of all current and future building projects are reviewed and managed under the BREEAM grading scheme.

BBSRC funded Institutes, located in BBSRC owned buildings, report their energy usage annually, and the data is collated to provide a view of total energy usage across the BBSRC Estate. The BBSRC Estate energy usage is monitored and reviewed, and where potential energy savings are identified, implementation projects are considered for funding. Energy saving projects totalling £120,000 were funded in 2010-11 at Babraham Institute, the John Innes Centre and Rothamsted Research, with projected payback periods of 3 to 5 years.

A phased implementation of the ISO14001 standard for environmental management is underway for BBSRC and BBSRC funded Institutes. Polaris House achieved ISO 14001 during 2009. This year, Rothamsted Research achieved ISO 14001 on 20th July 2010. An application is in progress for the North Wyke site, which hopes to achieve accreditation in 2011-12. The Institute for Animal Health has also begun the application process for its new Pirbright campus.

Diversity and Equality

Our vision is to make BBSRC an organisation of choice for employment and training, a place where people want to work and train to deliver excellent science with impact. In support of this we continue to mainstream diversity into our core business activities through the delivery of the Diversity Strategy and Equality and Diversity Action Plan.

A revised Diversity strategy for 2010-2013 has been agreed with five new priority areas:-

- ▶ Combating mental ill health through a review of policies and publication of additional guidance.
- ▶ Enhancing leadership by appointing a senior level Diversity Champion at each BBSRC establishment.
- ▶ Reviewing how we communicate with and engage employees.
- ▶ Identifying talent and mentoring through a review of mentoring schemes to ensure that they support succession planning and the development needs of employees, particularly those in under-represented groups.
- ▶ Reviewing barriers to career progression through a pilot study at one institute.

Senior Diversity Champions have been appointed across the organisation. Their role is to champion delivery of the diversity strategy and action plans at a local level and to ensure that it is embedded in local management strategies. During the year we have reviewed and updated our guidance for employees and managers on harassment and bullying in the workplace (including third party harassment), and expanded our guidance for managers on employing people with disabilities, including mental ill-health.

We have reviewed formal and informal mentoring schemes including arrangements for new starters and those in under-represented groups. Building on the effectiveness of existing informal arrangements, going forward there will be more emphasis on formal mentoring schemes, including a cross Research Council scheme.

A cross-functional Diversity Monitoring Group was set up to review existing monitoring mechanisms associated with all funding activity conducted by BBSRC and to develop, as necessary, mechanisms to ensure diversity monitoring is fit for purpose. In addition the Group reviewed existing equality and diversity advice and guidance for applicants for funding and those involved in the award processes.

Health and Safety

BBSRC understands that health and safety management is a key activity within our organisation. Our health and safety management system is implemented in accordance with HSE guidelines (Successful Health and Safety Guidelines- HSG65). In this way, we intend BBSRC to become an increasingly safer, healthier place to work. We promote improved health and safety practice through a clear structure of accountability. The BBSRC Chief Executive and senior managers all have an important lead role. However, our Health and Safety agenda cannot be delivered by managers alone. Health and safety practice is the responsibility of everyone in our workplace.

In 2010-2011 our aims for health and safety were to:

- ▶ assist managers in championing the importance of health and safety in the workplace.
- ▶ identify the key statutory requirements for health and safety, ensure we fully understand them and develop relevant and effective health and safety policies.
- ▶ organise and plan our health and safety systems with the appropriate resources against an achievable timeframe, ensuring clear lines of responsibility.
- ▶ ensure all staff receive health and safety training and development appropriate to the environment they operate in.
- ▶ develop new ways to establish and maintain an effective health and safety culture, so that all staff take their responsibilities seriously, the workforce is fully involved and risks are properly managed.
- ▶ do more to address the new and emerging work-related health issues such as stress and allergy, etc.
- ▶ adapt and customise our approaches to provide support to institutes, with different governing arrangements, comply with their health and safety obligations.
- ▶ monitor work-related accidents and ill health to learn from them and prevent further harm.
- ▶ audit our health and safety management process and outcomes.

During 2010-11 there has been a slight decrease in the total number of reportable of accidents recorded within the year.

Annual Occurrence Reportable Incident Category (defined as in RIDDOR 1995)

	2010-11	2009-10
Contact with moving machinery or material being machined	0	1
Hit by a moving, flying or falling object	2	0
Hit by a moving vehicle	0	0
Hit by something fixed or stationary (visitor)	1	0
Injured while handling, lifting or carrying	3	2
Slipped, tripped or fell on the same level (including 1 contractor)	2	5
Fell from a height	0	1
Trapped by something collapsing	0	0
Drowned or asphyxiated	0	0
Exposed to, or in contact with, a harmful substance	1	0
Exposed to fire	0	0
Exposed to an explosion	0	0
Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge	0	0
Injured by an animal	1	2
Physically assaulted by a person	0	0
Another kind of accident	2	3
Total accidents	12	14
	(including 1 visitor and 1 contractor)	
Cases of occupational disease	1	0
Dangerous Occurrence	2	2
Overall total	15	16

Sickness absence: BBSRC office (including BITS)

	2010-11	2009-10
Total days of absence	2609	1954
Frequency of absences lasting longer than 28 days	20	2
Total days of long term sickness	1297	144
Average days of sick absence per person at BBSRC Swindon Office and BITS	7.88	6.82

Protected personal data related incidents

BBSRC recognises and fully supports the need for effective information governance in protecting its information and the information entrusted to it in the course of its business. Compliance with data protection law is taken very seriously and as such, BBSRC provides all employees with annual basic training on their responsibilities.

BBSRC continues to monitor and assess its information risks in order to identify and address any weaknesses, and ensure continuous improvements of its systems and procedures.

There have been no personal data related incidents in 2010-11 requiring reporting to the Information Commissioner's Office.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF PROTECTED PERSONAL DATA RELATED INCIDENTS FORMALLY REPORTED TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONERS OFFICE IN 2010-11

Statement on Information risk	All staff have undergone information assurance training and data protection awareness training. A full audit of Security Policy Framework compliance was completed and given substantial assurance. A full audit of Information Legal Compliance was completed and given substantial assurance. The Information Governance Policy was reviewed and revised. Information Asset roles have been fully defined for implementation during 2011-12. New procedures were introduced to ensure the security of personal data where business need requires the sharing of data with another organisation.			
Date of incident (month)	Nature of incident	Nature of data involved	Number of people potentially affected	Notification Steps
None	0	0	0	0
Further action on information risk	A review and, if required, the revision of the Data Protection Policy			

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF OTHER PROTECTED PERSONAL DATA RELATED INCIDENTS IN 2010-11

Incidents deemed by the Data Controller not to fall within the criteria for report to the Information Commissioner's office but recorded centrally within the Department are set out in the table below.

Category	Nature of incident	Total
I	Loss of inadequately protected electronic equipment, devices or paper documents from secured Government premises	0
II	Loss of inadequately protected electronic equipment, devices or paper documents from outside secured Government premises	6
III	Insecure disposal of inadequately protected electronic equipment, devices or paper documents	0
IV	Unauthorised disclosure	2
V	Other	1

Total number of protected personal data related incidents formally reported to the Information Commissioner's Office, by category number.							Total number of other protected personal data related incidents by category number.						
	I	II	III	IV	V	Total		I	II	III	IV	V	Total
2010-11	0	0	0	0	0	0	2010-11	0	6	0	2	1	9
2009-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	2009-10	0	0	0	0	3	3
2008-09	0	0	0	0	0	0	2008-09	0	0	0	0	0	0

Public Sector Information Holder

BBSRC does not sell data and therefore is not making a statement with regard to the requirements set out in HM Treasury and Office of Public Sector Information guidance.

Financial review

Financial highlights

- ▶ As part of the final year of the three year Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 allocation, grant-in-aid funding from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) decreased by £22.4M to £448.4M for the 2010-11 year. In 2010-11, BBSRC had a working budget of £482.3M. This comprised £373.8M resource and £108.5M Capital. Actual outturn was £370.3M resource and £111.4M capital.
- ▶ In 2010-11, BBSRC spent £387.1M on research and capital grants (compared to £402.8M in 2009-10). The £15.7M decrease in grant expenditure is, in part, a reflection of BBSRC's decreased allocation in 2010-11.
- ▶ During the year, BBSRC provided funding of £57.5M for training and fellowship awards (compared with £53.7M in 2009-10). The £3.8M increase reflects BBSRC's recognition of the importance of highly trained individuals and up-skilled specialists for sustainable science-driven growth in the UK economy.
- ▶ In the Budget on 23 March 2011, the Chancellor announced an additional £70M capital funding for BBSRC to develop the research campuses at Babraham and Norwich. This was part of a total of £100M additional capital funding for the Research Councils.
- ▶ The quinquennial revaluation of the BBSRC estate was undertaken by external valuers, Powis Hughes, at the end of the 2010-11 year. The net book value of BBSRC's tangible fixed asset base rose by £24.1M to £265M through a combination of valuation movements and additions to assets under construction.
- ▶ The revaluation resulted in the impairment of several items of land and building owned by BBSRC at BBSRC-funded Institutes which amounted to £14.4M (09-10: £0.5M). These impairments were largely due to the fact that scientific buildings are significantly more valuable when fully operational, than when they are ceased to be used for scientific purposes.
- ▶ In 2010-11, staff costs rose by £2M to £13.4M. This increase in expenditure reflects higher pension costs, and increased expenditure on temporary agency staff.
- ▶ Capital commitment at 31 March 2011 was £232.4M covering a variety of projects, including: the continuing redevelopment of facilities at IAH Pirbright; the campus innovation development programme; and work at the National Phonemics Facility.

Shared Services Centre (SSC)

As agreed by the seven Research Councils, the SSC was set up in 2007-08, following its incorporation as a limited company, (RCUK Shared Services Centre Limited). The SSC has been developed to provide Finance, Grants, Human Resources, Information Systems, Procurement and Payroll operational services to each of the Councils and some of their arms length bodies. The aim of the SSC is to reduce spending on administration through sharing and standardising processes across the Councils and to secure procurement savings through the consolidation of demand across the Councils.

A phased implementation took place to transfer the Councils' services. Significant milestones in 2010-11 included:

- BBSRC, ESRC, EPSRC, NERC, AHRC and STFC migration to Grants services;
- BBSRC, MRC, NERC and STFC migration to Finance and HR services;
- BBSRC, MRC and NERC migration to Payroll services.

Further rollout of the Grants system is planned for 2011-12.

The Councils shared the project development costs and BBSRC's agreed share is 20.54%. These costs have been accounted for in BBSRC's accounts as expenditure (note 6 to the Accounts) and within the SSC asset under construction (note 12 to the Accounts).

The transition to shared services was regarded as a business-critical project during 2010-11 and is referred to in more detail in the Accounting Officer's Statement on Internal Control.

Developments since 31 March 2011

The revised governance arrangements for institutes previously sponsored by BBSRC were implemented during the first half of the 2011-12 financial year. The impact of the new arrangements is to increase the independence of these bodies from BBSRC.

Creditor payment policy

BBSRC observes HM Treasury Guidance and makes every effort to pay creditors within 5 days of receipt of invoice. Where this is not possible, BBSRC observes the CBI's Prompt Payers' Guide, and adheres to the principles of the Prompt Payers' Code, endeavouring to ensure compliance with the agreed terms of payment of creditors' invoices and to pay them within 30 days of receipt of invoice. During 2010-11, 45% of payments were made within 5 days (no comparison available). During 2010-11, 85% of payments were made within 30 days (2009-10: 91%). The reduction in performance reflects a period of stabilisation during which a number of Research Councils took up the SSC services.

Audit Board

The Chair and at least three non-executive committee members of BBSRC's Audit Board are appointed by the Council, being members independent of management and free of any relationship that, in the opinion of the Council, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgement as Board members. Audit Board meets at least three times a year to monitor standards of risk management, corporate governance, internal control reports from the Research Councils' Internal Audit Service, external audit reports and to review BBSRC's and the BBSRC hosted Research Councils' Pension Schemes Accounts.

Auditors

BBSRC's Accounts are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General in accordance with Section 2(2) of the Science and Technology Act 1965. The audit fee for the year was £86,000 (2009-10: £76,000). No non-audit work was performed by the Auditors during the year. In so far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which BBSRC's auditors are unaware, and the Accounting Officer has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the BBSRC's auditors are aware of that information.

Professor Douglas Kell

Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

Date: 28 November 2011

Remuneration report

Council Chair and Council members except Chief Executive

Policy (unaudited information)

Remuneration rates are the same across the Research Councils. The rates are reviewed each year by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. In considering the new rates, the Department may take into account the increase given to the senior civil service. The Department consults with the Research Councils and the agreed change is implemented in October.

Appointments are non-pensionable and there is no entitlement to compensation for loss of office. No fee is payable in respect of Civil Servants, employees of Research Councils and other Non-Departmental Public Bodies and Agencies.

Remuneration (audited information)

The standard fee paid to Council members was:

	£	
Council Chair	16,430	per annum
Council Members who also chair Committees	9,110	per annum
Council Members	6,850	per annum

The actual remuneration paid was:

	Appointments		Remuneration £000s	
	From	To	2010-11	2009-10
Chair – Professor Sir Tom Blundell	01/07/2009	30/06/2013	16	12
Chair - Dr Peter Ringrose	01/05/2003	30/04/2009	0	4
Deputy Chair and CE - Professor Douglas Kell	01/10/2008	30/09/2012	0	0
Council Members				
Professor John Coggins FRSE	01/04/2008	31/03/2012	7	7
Mr Jim Godfrey OBE	01/04/2009	31/03/2013	7	7
Professor Peter Fryer FREng	01/05/2006	31/03/2012	9	9
Professor Sir David Baulcombe FRS	01/04/2009	31/03/2013	7	7
Professor Peter Grindrod CBE	01/04/2009	31/03/2010	7	7
Professor Jackie Hunter	01/04/2004	31/03/2010	7	7
Dr David Lawrence	01/04/2008	31/03/2012	0	0
Professor Quintin McKellar FRSE	01/04/2005	31/03/2011	9	9
Professor Christopher Pollock	01/04/2008	31/03/2012	7	7
Dr Andrew Richards	01/04/2008	31/03/2012	7	7
Professor Anne Dell CBE FRS	01/04/2007	31/03/2014	7	7
Dr John Stageman	01/04/2008	31/03/2012	2	2
Dr Malcolm Weir	01/04/2005	31/03/2011	7	7
Mr David Gregory	01/04/2010	31/03/2014	7	0
Professor Keith Lindsey	01/04/2010	31/03/2014	7	0

The total emoluments of the Chairman were honoraria of £16,430 (2009-10: £12,135). The Chairman's appointment is non-pensionable and there is no entitlement to compensation for loss of office. Dr Peter S Ringrose was appointed Chairman of BBSRC initially for a period of four years from 1 May 2003. This was subsequently extended by a further two years with his appointment ending 30 April 2009. Professor Blundell was appointed as BBSRC Chair of Council by BIS from 1 July 2009. The role of Deputy Chair was filled by Professor Kell following his appointment as BBSRC Chief Executive on 1 October 2008.

As noted in the policy section above, no fees are payable to Professor Kell. Dr Lawrence elected not to receive remuneration for his role on BBSRC Council.

Committee Chairs and Members (unaudited information)

The remuneration of Committee Chairs and Members is set by the Financial Management Group of the Research Councils.

	2010-11	2009-10	
Committee Chairman	£230	£230	per day
Committee Members	£170	£170	per day

Committee remuneration rates are reviewed every two years by the Research Councils' Finance Directors Group. It was decided to maintain the remuneration rates at their current level for 2010-11.

Chief Executive and BBSRC Directors (audited information)

Remuneration Committee

The Chief Executive's remuneration is determined by the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The Permanent Secretary is advised by a Remuneration Committee chaired by the Director General of Research Councils. The Chair of BBSRC is consulted.

BBSRC Remuneration Board

The remuneration of BBSRC Directors and Directors of BBSRC funded institutes is reviewed and adjusted annually by the Council Remuneration Board. The Board is chaired by the Chair of Council and other membership comprises the Chief Executive and three Council Members, at least one of whom must have an industry background. Members of the Remuneration Board are listed on page 18.

Policy

Subject to successful performance, the Chief Executive's salary rises by a cost of living increase and a pre-determined incremental increase up to a salary ceiling. In addition, non-consolidated, non-pensionable annual performance related pay may be awarded for performance towards objectives agreed by BBSRC and the Chief Executive.

The BBSRC Remuneration Board reviews performance against a series of objectives, categorised between fundamental, value-added or breakthrough, in determining each Director's annual salary level and any Performance Related Pay award. The Board will also take account of public sector pay constraints, relativities, job weight and any special factors. Increases are normally awarded from 1 July annually.

Contractual Policy

Professor Douglas Kell was appointed BBSRC Chief Executive on 1 October 2008 on a four year fixed term contract, with the option for extension. Professor Kell is employed with BBSRC for four days a week and continues to be employed one day a week with the University of Manchester.

BBSRC Directors are members of the BBSRC Executive Group. The Directors are on indefinite contracts, similar to the majority of BBSRC staff, with notice periods of three months. Directors' remuneration for 2010-11 is detailed overleaf. No Director is in receipt of benefits in kind.

Remuneration of Senior Employees (audited information)

	Director of Corporate Policy and Strategy	Director of Communications and Information Management	Deputy Chief Executive	Acting Director of Human Resources	Director of Human Resources	Chief Executive**	Director of Innovation and Skills	Director of Research	Director of Finance
	Mr Paul Burrows	Mr Paul Gemmill	Mr Steve Visscher	Ms Janet Juilliat	Mr Peter Swinburne	Professor Douglas Kell	Dr Celia Caulcott	Professor Janet Allen	Mr David Parfrey
Date of appointment	From 1 July 2009	From 1 Nov 2008	From 1 Oct 2008	12 Oct 2009 – 26 April 2010	From 1 Oct 2002	From 1 Oct 2008	From 15 Sept 2008	From 1 Oct 2008	From 1 Nov 2008
Salary and allowances in 2010-11	£65,000-70,000	£90,000-95,000	£140,000-145,000	£70,000-75,000	£90,000-95,000	£130,000-135,000	£105,000-110,000	£100,000-105,000	£80,000-85,000
Performance Related Pay in 2010-11	£0-5,000	£5,000-10,000	£5,000-10,000	£0-5,000	£0-5,000	£0-5,000	£10,000-15,000	£0-5,000	£0-5,000
Salary and allowances in 2009-10	£65,000-70,000	£90,000-95,000	£140,000-145,000	£65,000-70,000	£90,000-95,000	£130,000-135,000	£105,000-110,000	£100,000-105,000	£80,000-85,000
Performance Related Pay in 2009-10	£0-5,000	£5,000-10,000	£5,000-£10,000	£0-5,000	£5,000-10,000	£0-5,000	£0-5,000	£0-5,000	£0-5,000
Real increase in pension and lump sum at age 60	£2,500-5,000	£0-2,500	£2,500-5,000	£2,200-2,250	£0-2,500	£3,000-3,250	£2,250-2,500	£1,500-1,750	£1,500-1,750
Total accrued pension and lump sum at age 60 as at 31 March 2011/leaving date	£100,000-105,000	£10,000-15,000	£255,000-260,000	N/A*	£70,000-75,000	£5,000-10,000	£5,000-10,000	£40,000-45,000	£10,000-15,000
Cash equivalent transfer value as at 31 March 2010	£384,000	£112,000	£1,209,000	£206,000	£549,000	£66,000	£66,000	£511,000	£129,000
Cash equivalent transfer value as at 31 March 2011	£457,000	£146,000	£1,396,000	£261,000	£604,000	£118,000	£104,000	£601,000	£204,000
Real increase in cash equivalent transfer value 2010-11	£14,000	£15,000	£23,000	£23,000	£18,000	£42,000	£27,000	£21,000	£20,000

*Member of the Premium Scheme which does not involve an automatic lump sum on retirement.

**Based on a four-day working week.

Salary and Allowances

Salary and allowances covers both pensionable and non-pensionable amounts and includes: gross salaries; performance related pay; over-time; allowances and any ex-gratia payments. It does not include amounts which are a reimbursement of expenses directly incurred in the performance of an individual's duties.

Benefits in Kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by HM Revenue and Customs as a taxable emolument. There were no benefits in kind for any of the senior management during the year.

Bonuses

Bonuses are based on performance levels attained and are made as part of the appraisal process. Bonuses relate to the performance in the year in which they become payable to the individual. The performance related pay awards reported in 2010-11 relate to performance in 2010-11 and the comparative awards reported for 2009-10 relate to the performance in 2009-10.

Compensation for loss of office

There has been no compensation for loss of office of senior managers in 2010-11 or 2009-10.

Details of Pension Scheme

The employees of the Council are members of the Research Councils' Pension Schemes (RCPS) which are defined benefit schemes funded from annual grant-in-aid on a pay-as-you-go basis. The benefits are by analogy to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, except that while the schemes provide retirement and related benefits based on final or average emoluments, redundancy and injury benefits are administered and funded by the Council. The scheme is administered by the Research Councils' Joint Superannuation Service with the associated grant-in-aid managed by BBSRC.

From 30 July 2007, employees may be in one of four defined schemes; either a 'final salary' scheme (classic, classic plus or premium); or a career average scheme (nuvos). Pensions payable are increased annually in line with changes in the Retail Prices Index (RPI). Employees' contributions vary between 1.5% and 3.5% depending on scheme. The employer's contribution is agreed by the RCPS Board of Management on the recommendation of the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) and is set at 25.6% of pensionable pay.

A Partnership Pension Account was made available to new staff from 1 October 2002, based on the portable Stakeholder Pension introduced by the Government in 2001. This is a defined contribution scheme. The employers pay the RCPS 0.8 percent of pensionable pay to cover death in service and ill health benefits. The employers pay the balance to the employee's private pension provider.

The accrued pension quoted is the pension the member is entitled to receive when they reach pension age or immediately on ceasing to be an active member of the scheme if they are already at or over pensionable age. Pensionable age is 60 for members of classic, classic plus and premium and 65 for members of Nuvos.

For further details about the Research Councils Pension Scheme pension arrangements can be found at the website <http://jsspensions.nerc.ac.uk/>

Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in the former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the Research Councils' pension arrangement and for which the RCPS has received a transfer payment commensurate with the additional pension liabilities being assumed. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost.

Real increase in the value of the CETV

The real increase in the value of the CETV reflects the increase effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period. The actuarial factors used in the calculation of the CETV rate changed during 2010, due to changes in demographic assumptions and the move from the Retail Prices Index (RPI) to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the measure used to uprate civil service pensions. The new factors mean that the CETV figures shown for 31 March 2010 will not correspond to the figures shown in the remuneration report in the 2009-10 published accounts.

Professor Douglas Kell
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

Date: 28 November 2011

BBSRC Institutes and Centres

- Babraham Institute
- Institute for Animal health
- Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences at the University of Aberystwyth
- Institute of Food Research
- John Innes Centre
- Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh
- Rothamsted Research
- North Wyke Research
- The Genome Analysis Centre
- BBSRC Sustainable Bioenergy Centre
- Centre for Integrated Systems Biology of Aging and Nutrition
- Centre for Integrative Systems Biology at Imperial College
- Manchester Centre for Integrative Systems Biology
- Centre for Systems Biology at Edinburgh
- Centre for Plant Integrative Biology
- Oxford Centre for Integrative Systems Biology

Acronyms

AHRC	Arts and Humanities Research Council	IBERS	Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences
BBR	Bioinformatics and Biological Resources	IBTI	Integrated Biorefining Research and Technology Club
BBSRC	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	IFR	Institute of Food Research
BIS	Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	INRA	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique
BRIC	Bioprocessing Research Industry Club	JIC	John Innes Centre
BSBEC	BBSRC Sustainable Bioenergy Centre	MRC	Medical Research Council
CIDLID	Combating Infectious Diseases in Livestock for International Development	NC3R	The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research
CPD	Continuing Professional Development	NDPB	Non-Departmental Public Body
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
DfID	Department for International Development	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
DRINC	Diet and Health Research Industry Club	NFU	National Farmers Union
EEDA	East of England Development Agency	RCUK	Research Councils UK
EMIDA	Emerging and Major Infectious Diseases of Livestock	RELU	Rural Economy and Land Use Programme
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council	SCRI	Scottish Crop Research Initiative
EPSRC	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	SSC	Shared Services Centre
FSA	Food Standards Agency	STFC	Science and Technology Facilities Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	sTRDF	strategic Tools and Resources Development Fund
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England	TGAC	The Genome Analysis Centre
HEI	Higher Education Institution	TSB	Technology Strategy Board
HSE	Health and Safety Executive	WT	Wellcome Trust

Annual Accounts 2010-2011

Statement of Responsibility of Council and Chief Executive as Accounting Officer

Under Section 2(2) of the Science and Technology Act 1965, the Secretary of State with the consent of HM Treasury has directed BBSRC to prepare for each financial year a statement of accounts in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of BBSRC and its net expenditure, changes in taxpayers' equity, and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the Accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual (www.financial-reporting.gov.uk) and in particular to:

- ▶ observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Secretary of State including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- ▶ make judgments and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- ▶ state whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements; and
- ▶ prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Council will continue to operate.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has appointed the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer of BBSRC. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding BBSRC's assets, are set out in the NDPB Accounting Officers' Memorandum issued by HM Treasury and published in '*Managing Public Money*'.

Statement by Chief Executive on Internal Control

1. Scope of Responsibility

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of BBSRC's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me and disclosed in '*Managing Public Money*'.

The BIS Accounting Officer has designated me as the Accounting Officer of BBSRC, responsible for the effective, safe and efficient operation of the Council in accordance with the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum agreed between BBSRC and its sponsoring department, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

2. The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of BBSRC's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in BBSRC for the year ended 31 March 2011 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with HM Treasury guidance.

3. Capacity to Handle Risk

Overall responsibility for risk management in BBSRC rests with me as the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer. I sign this annual Statement on Internal Control as part of the audited Annual Accounts. The task of implementing and maintaining the risk management policy and strategy is delegated to the Director of Finance who fulfils the role of the Director responsible for risk. However, all BBSRC Directors share the responsibility to ensure the effective application of BBSRC's risk management strategy and policy. Within this established structure, BBSRC gives leadership to the process by a number of means, including:

- 1) setting out a risk management policy and strategy and defining the BBSRC level risk appetite;
- 2) signing up to risk management assurance statements at the most senior levels within BBSRC;
- 3) updating and reviewing the corporate register of key risks at least quarterly by senior management and at every Audit Board meeting;
- 4) reinforcing risk management at staff level through the development and implementation of group-level risk registers in support of those at corporate level;
- 5) appointing risk "owners" for all risks identified. These will typically be middle/senior managers within BBSRC who will be responsible for the day-to-day management of risk. They will lead the development of appropriate risk management plans and ensuring that risk response actions are carried out as required;
- 6) a formal PRINCE 2 based project management approach with embedded risk management is used for major activities, including the business critical projects listed below;
- 7) hosting the RCUK Internal Audit Service (RCIAS) which is responsible for providing an assessment of internal control to Chief Executives, through a carefully determined and managed internal audit programme. In BBSRC, the RCIA programme forms a key part of an overall Assurance Map, which brings activities, risks and assurance together;
- 8) hosting the RCUK Assurance unit which is responsible for managing and undertaking the Research Councils Assurance Programme.
- 9) employing a qualified accountant as Corporate Risk Manager to lead BBSRC's risk policies and drive the embedding of a mature risk culture across BBSRC
- 10) considering the interests of key stakeholders and operational partners in the formation and delivery of risk management policy and strategy.

BBSRC actively encourages a culture of effective risk management. This recognises that effective risk management is an essential component of successful business operations, rather than simple risk avoidance.

BBSRC adopts HM Treasury best practice on corporate governance and risk management. This has recently included taking forward the new Treasury initiative 'Managing Risk of Financial Loss' which specifically targets improving processes, controls and awareness of the risk of financial loss in public sector organisations.

4. The Risk and Control Framework

Risk management and internal control are considered on a regular basis by BBSRC Executive and Audit Board during the year. The Audit Board meets at least three times a year and plays an important role in overseeing the internal control arrangements for BBSRC. The Board reviews the external audit management letters arising from BBSRC, and approves the internal audit programme plan for the year in the light of the key risks identified as part of the risk management framework. In particular, business critical projects are picked out for special assessment by the BBSRC Executive and Audit Board on an ongoing basis.

The activities of the Research Councils' Internal Audit Service (RCIAS) in respect of BBSRC are reviewed by Audit Board and the scope of the internal audit plan for the coming year, which is based on the overall assessment of risk, is agreed. With this overarching view of audit activities, Audit Board plays a pivotal role in evaluating and reviewing the evidence supporting the Chief Executive's assurance statement on internal control.

In January, in light of the ongoing governance changes, the Audit Board agreed a change to its remit in relation to BBSRC-sponsored Institutes, which was subsequently ratified by Council. Audit Board agreed that BBSRC assurance regarding Institutes will in future focus on:

- (i) BBSRC's grants funding, where no changes are proposed to the current RCUK Assurance programme which provides an annual report to the BBSRC Audit Board;
- (ii) BBSRC's owned estate, where Audit Board will be presented with an annual review, and associated risks will be managed via BBSRC's Corporate Risk Register which Audit Board reviews regularly;
- (iii) BBSRC's capital developments, which are included within Audit Board's regular reports on business critical projects, as well as in BBSRC's Corporate Risk Register; and
- (iv) reputational risks to BBSRC from Institute activities, which are again managed via the BBSRC Corporate Risk Register as appropriate.

The Council's role, in terms of risk management, is to oversee the work of Audit Board through review of Audit Board minutes and key risks highlighted by the Audit Board Chair.

BBSRC Executive Group and Audit Board regularly review the strategic and operational risk management registers and framework, and receive reports on business critical projects pertaining through the year.

Business Critical Projects

The business critical projects at 31 March 2011 were:

1. The Institute of Animal Health (IAH) Pirbright redevelopment and long term sustainability. The project is planned to replace the current facilities with state of the art flexible facilities including areas with the highest level of bio-security. This unit will be able to respond to future national threats such as outbreaks of the Bluetongue virus.
2. Governance changes for BBSRC Institutes. The project aims to introduce improved clarity and modern good practice in governance arrangements for each of the BBSRC sponsored institutes.
3. The RCUK Shared Services Centre (SSC) project. The project was intended to deliver a single administrative support service for all UK Research Councils.

Since 31 March 2011, the IAH project has been removed from the list of business critical projects, although the sustainability of IAH remains on the Corporate Risk Register. BBSRC has designated Campus Funding as a business critical project for the development of the Norwich and Babraham research campuses. The ELIXIR programme has also been identified as a business critical project for BBSRC.

RCUK Shared Services Centre Project

The SSC project concluded on 31 March 2011 at a cost of £135.3M. Governance and risk management of the implementation project was provided by the RCUK SSC Project Board on behalf of the Research Councils and the project. An RCUK SSC Project Audit Committee, comprising representatives from each of the Research Councils' Audit Committees, operated to provide oversight on risk management and control of the project.

With the closure of the project, the remaining stabilisation issues now fall to the Research Councils and the SSC Ltd to be resolved and managed. There are a number of developments and enhancements required, and these need careful management to ensure that the necessary Value for Money is achieved and that there is no further uncontrolled scope or costs creep.

In line with Government directives, there is a need for SSC Ltd to develop a wider client base to realise the full benefits to be derived from bulk transactional processing. I am concerned by the risk associated with this growth; that the priorities for the SSC Ltd introduced by new clients may divert resources away from service improvement and benefit delivery for the Research Councils at a critical time. This risk will be managed via the RCUK Executive Group (comprising all RCUK Chief Executives).

The SSC Ltd now provides processing services in human resources, procurement, payroll, finance, grants, and IT to all seven Research Councils. During 2010-11, work was ongoing to develop further the security and controls framework operating between the Research Councils and the SSC Ltd. This work focused on solving issues as they arose, and putting in place monitoring and reporting mechanisms. Throughout 2010-11, there have been regular meetings between SSC staff and heads of function within the Councils to review service delivery, to address issues, and to gain a common understanding of the problems through constructive dialogue. However, I wish to disclose here a concern about the apparent inability to be able to extract accurate, reliable, and timely management information.

RCUK Assurance Unit

BBSRC hosts the Research Councils' UK Assurance Unit on behalf of the Research Councils. RCUK Assurance reviews the regularity of expenditure on Research Council grants at all eligible Research Organisations. The programme typically involves around 15-20 visits per annum to the research intensive organisations, supplemented by 15 desk based reviews for the less research intensive bodies.

Assurance activities focus on the control environment and its effectiveness in ensuring compliance with the Research Councils' terms and conditions which accompany grant funding, with a further strand of work focusing on the scrutiny of the costing methodology used in research organisations, which for universities is the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC). The programme is an important element of the risk management framework for BBSRC with an annual report produced for me, as the Accounting Officer, which reports on activities undertaken in the year as well as proposed activities for the following year

For 2010-11, due to unforeseen circumstances, the planned programme of visits could not wholly be undertaken, and only 11 visits were undertaken instead of the planned 19. This was due to the diversion of staff to other RCUK priority work, and the loss of staff resource without short term replacement owing to Government constraints on recruitment.

Despite the shortfall in visits, and taking into account the positive nature of findings from the actual visits made, the programme has nevertheless provided me with a satisfactory level of assurance. Relevant considerations include the good level of inherited assurance available from previous years' work, the fact that the 5 year rolling plan of visits is derived from a risk and assurance map, and also that the percentage coverage for 2010-11 in monetary terms was little short of previous years.

Executive Management

Directors' Assurance Statements on Internal Control (DASIC) are completed by each BBSRC Group Director. The DASIC provides assurance to me, in my role as Accounting Officer, that a sound system of internal control has been in place throughout BBSRC for the year. Previously, Directors of BBSRC-sponsored Institutes also completed the DASIC. However, in light of the Institute governance changes, BBSRC considers that internal Institute risk and assurance is the responsibility of the Institute Trustees and Audit Boards.

As disclosed within the related party transactions note in the annual accounts (note 24), I retain an interest in the Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre (MIB), which forms part of the University of Manchester. I continue to work one day a week for MIB, and to avoid any conflict of interest I abstain from any BBSRC discussions with relation to the University of Manchester.

5. Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the Executive Directors within BBSRC who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. I have been advised on the implications of the result of my review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by Council and Audit Board, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

The principal elements of support for the Accounting Officer's assurance statement are the work of the Audit Board and the BBSRC Executive, including the review of business critical projects, the annual report from the Head of RCIAS, the DASIC, the risk management frameworks developed by BBSRC, and responses to external management letters which identify where control gaps exist.

In 2010-11 work commenced to implement the Treasury's 'Managing Risk of Financial Loss' initiative. I look forward to learning the conclusions and recommendations of this work, which will enable BBSRC to strengthen further its risk management framework and assurance for 2011-12.

BBSRC received a substantial assurance rating from the Director of Internal Audit for 2010-11. The audit covered the operations of both BBSRC and the sponsored institutes. The 2010-11 audit included reviews of Risk Management, Fraud and Scientific Misconduct, Business Continuity Planning, Financial Transaction Testing, Security, and Legal Compliance.

The TGAC Business Critical Project (which was a Business Critical Project during 2010-11 year but closed prior to 31 March 2011) was the only audit to be classified with limited assurance where the majority of core governance and reporting processes were in the early stages of development. Assurance on the TGAC work remains of interest to BBSRC due to its capital investment in the project.

In addition to the BBSRC programme, two reviews, undertaken on behalf of RCUK, received substantial assurance; RCUK Transition Assurance and Readiness Stage 4 and RCUK SSC Grants Pre-Go Live. RCIAS also carried out a number of System Controls Audits of end-to-end processes shared by the SSC TD and Research Councils. Of the eight reviews, all but one were awarded limited assurance. This audit opinion was based on the situation at a given point in time and since the audits were completed, much work has been completed, by both SSC Ltd and the Councils to improve the processes and controls.

Despite further recent improvements, there remains one area that represents a fundamental control weakness and is therefore appropriate for disclosure in this statement. The area relates to Cash Management and Banking, in particular the bank reconciliation process. BBSRC, the other Research Councils, and RCIAS are currently working to improve control and assurance in these areas of weakness.

Going forward, a comprehensive internal audit strategy relating the RCUK SSC project and operations has been developed for 2011-12 and beyond. A wide-ranging audit strategy for BBSRC has also been developed for 2011-2015. The RCIAS plan for BBSRC in 2011-12 includes audits for Corporate Governance, Strategic and Operational Planning, Science Delivery and Support, Programme and Project support and Estates Strategy.

The internal control system provides confirmation that the risk is managed to a reasonable level and I can provide assurance that it supports the achievement of the BBSRC's policies, aims and objectives. As described in this statement the two significant control weaknesses affecting BBSRC are:

- (i) Inadequate management information provided by SSC Ltd managed systems; and
- (ii) Cash and banking.

Professor Douglas Kell
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

Date: 28 November 2011

The Certificate of The Comptroller and Auditor General to The Houses Of Parliament

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council for the year ended 31 March 2011 under the Science and Technology Act 1965. These comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows, the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. I have also audited the information in the Remuneration Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

Respective responsibilities of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, Accounting Officer and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibility of Council and Chief Executive as Accounting Officer, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Science and Technology Act 1965. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the Audit of the Financial Statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my certificate.

In addition, I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income reported in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on Regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for Qualified Opinion on Financial Statements

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has not complied with the financial reporting framework as it has not prepared group financial statements which consolidate the results of two sponsored Institutes. Under International Financial Reporting Standards, these Institutes should have been consolidated because the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has control over them according to the criteria contained within *IAS 27 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements*. Had the institutes been consolidated, group financial statements would have been prepared. I am unable to quantify precisely the impact on the financial statements. However, in my opinion, the Council has omitted a material value of assets and liabilities from its Statement of Financial Positions as at 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2011. There is also consequential misstatement of the Statements of Comprehensive Net Expenditure for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Qualified opinion on Financial Statements

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the basis for qualified opinion paragraph:

- ▶ the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council's affairs as at 31 March 2011 and of its comprehensive net expenditure for the year then ended; and
- ▶ the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Science and Technology Act 1965 and Secretary of State directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion:

- ▶ the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with Secretary of State directions issued under the Science and Technology Act 1965; and
- ▶ the information given in the Corporate Information part of the Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- ▶ adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- ▶ the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records or returns; or
- ▶ I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- ▶ the Statement on Internal Control does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury's guidance.

Report

Details of the matters leading to my qualified opinion are set out in my report on pages 38 and 39.

Amyas CE Morse
Comptroller and Auditor General
Date: 21 December 2011

National Audit Office
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London SW1W 9SP

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Houses of Parliament

Introduction

1. The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) is an Executive non-departmental government body established by Royal Charter in 1993, sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.
2. The Council is the UK's principal funder of basic and strategic biological research. To deliver its mission, BBSRC supports research and postgraduate training in higher education institutions and research centres throughout the UK, including BBSRC-sponsored Institutes, and promotes knowledge transfer from research to applications in business, industry and policy, and public engagement in the biosciences. In 2010-11, of the Council's £387.1 million of expenditure for research and capital grants, total grants of £156.9 million were made to these Institutes, to fund research, capital developments and training in support of the Council's key objectives. The net assets of BBSRC at the year-end were £276.5 million. The governance arrangements for the Institutes have been subject to review in recent years, with the intention of increasing their independence from BBSRC.
3. BBSRC applied International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for the first time in 2009-10. As set out in my Report on the 2009-10 Financial Statements (HC 585), I considered that, under the terms of the then newly applied standard, IAS 27 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements, two of the Institutes (the Institute of Food Research and the Babraham Institute) should be viewed as subsidiaries of the BBSRC and be consolidated into the 2009-10 financial statements. This is because the governance arrangements for these two Institutes meant that the BBSRC had the right to exercise control over the financial and operating policies of these bodies at 31 March 2010 (paragraph 9). The governance arrangements have since been amended but not until after the 2010-11 financial year end and therefore my position regarding the consolidation of the Institutes remains the same at 31 March 2011.

Purpose of Report

4. The financial statements on the following pages represent the results of the BBSRC for the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. The financial statements do not include the consolidated results of the two sponsored Institutes that I consider should be treated as subsidiaries of the BBSRC under IFRS. The purpose of this Report is to explain the background to the qualification of my audit opinion.

My obligations as auditor

5. Under the Science and Technology Act 1965, I am required to examine, certify and report on the BBSRC's financial statements. I am required, under International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland), to obtain evidence to give reasonable assurance that the BBSRC financial statements are free from material misstatement. In forming my opinion I examine, on a test basis, evidence supporting the disclosures in the financial statements and assess the significant estimates and judgements made in preparing them. I also consider whether the accounting policies are appropriate, consistently applied and adequately disclosed. I am required to satisfy myself that, in all material respects, the expenditure and income of the Council have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and conform to the authorities that govern them.

Audit opinion

6. I have qualified my audit opinion on the 2010-11 financial statements, owing to disagreement over the accounting policy for, and accounting treatment of, two of the Council's sponsored Institutes which should, in my view, be treated as subsidiaries, but which have not been consolidated into the Council's financial statements. This reflects a change arising from the first time implementation of IFRS in 2009-10. The BBSRC has since changed the governance arrangements for the two Institutes but control was still in place for 2010-11.

Explanation of Qualified Audit opinion

7. During 2009-10 I considered the governance arrangements for these Institutes in the context of the requirements of IFRS, and specifically of IAS 27. This standard states that the circumstances where control exists include when there is power to appoint or remove the majority of the members of the board of directors or equivalent governing body.
8. Under the governance arrangements existing in both 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Council had control over the appointment and/or removal of the Board of Trustees for the Institute of Food Research and the Babraham Institute. Both bodies prepare accounts in accordance with the reporting requirements for Charities which does not require them to apply IFRS. The Council accepts in principle that these bodies should be consolidated under IFRS accounting requirements, but has not considered it cost-effective to make the necessary accounting adjustments to consolidate the bodies into its 2010-11 financial statements, given the planned changes to the governance arrangements.
9. Audited accounts for both Institutes from 2010-11 are not yet available. The total net results for the year, for the Babraham Institute in its 2009-10 audited accounts are £2.4 million, and net assets are £61.2 million. Figures for the Institute of Food Research are £1.3m and £5.9 million respectively. If the two Institutes were to be accounted for as subsidiaries, the Council would need to prepare Group accounts which presented the accounts of the Group as those of a single entity.
10. The above figures are an indicative estimate of the overall impact on the Council's accounts. In practice, the Council would need to adjust the transactions for any changes to make the accounting policies consistent across the Group; eliminate the inter-entity balances, and adjust for transactions in the accounts that were common between the bodies. This would include fixed assets owned by BBSRC with related valuations in the Institute accounts. As none of the necessary adjustments have been considered by BBSRC, it is not possible for me to estimate the precise impact on the Council's accounts of not consolidating the bodies.

Action taken by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

11. The governing documents were amended for the Babraham Institute in April 2011 and for the Institute of Food Research in October 2011. In both cases the clauses that have allowed BBSRC to exert control under IAS 27 over the two Institutes have been removed. Therefore, assuming no other control criteria were to apply, the requirement to consolidate the bodies would be removed from the date that the new governance arrangements are effective.

Amyas CE Morse
Comptroller and Auditor General
Date: 21 December 2011

National Audit Office
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London SW1W 9SP

Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2011

		2010-11	2009-10
		£'000	£'000
	NOTE		
EXPENDITURE			
Research and Capital Grants	2	387,144	402,837
Training Awards and Fellowships	2	57,463	53,694
Staff costs	3	13,432	11,391
Other Operating costs	6	17,337	19,120
Research Institute Staff Restructuring	8	3,938	4,015
Depreciation	12,14	7,931	8,421
Loss on disposals and demolition of non-current assets	10	1,244	25
Impairment	13	14,411	505
Loss on Joint Venture	11	804	383
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		503,704	500,391
INCOME			
Other Operating Income	7a	(2,078)	(4,694)
Recovery of IT service to institutes		(2,508)	(2,888)
Other recoveries	7b	(579)	(604)
VAT recovered		(69)	-
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		(5,234)	(8,186)
NET EXPENDITURE		498,470	492,205
Interest payable		17	4
Net Expenditure after interest		498,487	492,209
		2010-11	2009-10
		£000	£000
Other Comprehensive Expenditure			
Net gain on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment		(60,465)	(26,098)
Net gain on revaluation of available for sales financial assets		-	-
		(60,465)	(26,098)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2011		438,022	466,111

All activities are regarded as continuing

The notes on pages 44 to 63 form part of these accounts

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2011

		31 March 2011 £'000	31 March 2010 £'000
	NOTE		
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	12	264,987	240,873
Intangible assets	14	278	413
Financial assets	11	12,087	1,776
Non current receivables	16	14,138	14,280
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		291,490	257,342
CURRENT ASSETS			
Assets classified as held for sale	15	3,100	-
Inventories		11	
Trade and other receivables	16	39,624	48,867
Cash and cash equivalents	19	10,483	2,904
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		53,218	51,771
TOTAL ASSETS		344,708	309,113
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	17	(57,179)	(48,092)
Provisions	9	(3,359)	(4,022)
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		(60,538)	(52,114)
NON CURRENT ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		284,170	256,999
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	9	(7,723)	(7,353)
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		(7,723)	(7,353)
ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES		276,447	249,646
TAX PAYERS' EQUITY			
Revaluation Reserve		253,932	199,383
General Reserve		21,280	50,263
Gates Reserve		1,235	-
TOTAL TAXPAYERS EQUITY		276,447	249,646

Professor Douglas Kell
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

Date: 28 November 2011

The notes on pages 44 to 63 form part of these accounts

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2011

		31 March 2011		31 March 2010	
	NOTE	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Net Expenditure for year		(498,487)		(492,209)	
Adjustment for depreciation		7,931		8,421	
Adjustment for impairment charge		14,411		505	
Adjustment for loss on Joint Venture		804		383	
Adjustment for loss on disposal and demolition of property, plant and equipment		1,244		25	
Decrease in provision for liabilities and charges		(293)		(240)	
Decrease/(Increase) in trade and other receivables excluding those for property, plant and equipment		9,037		(15,179)	
Increase in trade and other payables excluding those for property,plant and equipment		9,087		12,924	
NET CASH OUT FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			(456,266)		(485,370)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	12,14	(1,434)		(2,548)	
Purchase of financial assets	11	(11,115)		-	
Receipts from sale of property, plant and equipment	10	11,233		-	
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			(1,316)		(2,548)
NET CASH OUTFLOW BEFORE FINANCING			(457,582)		(487,918)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Capital Grants from BIS	18a	111,397		470,766	
Revenue Grants from BIS		336,959			
Funding from other bodies	18b	16,805		19,331	
NET CASH INFLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			465,161		490,097
INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE PERIOD			7,579		2,179
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD			2,904		725
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD			10,483		2,904

The notes on pages 44 to 63 form part of these accounts

Statement of Changes in Tax payers equity as at 31 March 2011

	NOTE	Revaluation Reserve £'000	General Reserve £'000	Total Reserves £'000
At 1 April 2009		181,345	44,315	225,660
Comprehensive Expenditure for the year		-	(492,209)	(492,209)
Grants from BIS	18a	-	470,766	470,766
Net Parliamentary Funding from other bodies	18b	-	19,331	19,331
Valuation additions	12	24,131	-	24,131
Transfers between reserves		(6,060)	6,060	-
Gains/losses recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Expenditure: -Professional revaluation- gains		1,967	-	1,967
Reserves realignment		(2,000)	2,000	-
At 31 March 2010		199,383	50,263	249,646

	NOTE	Revaluation Reserve £'000	General Reserve £'000	Gates Reserve £'000	Total Reserves £'000
Balance at 1 April 2010		199,383	50,263	-	249,646
Comprehensive Expenditure for the year		-	(498,487)	-	(498,487)
Grants from BIS	18a	-	448,356	-	448,356
Net Parliamentary Funding from other bodies	18b	-	16,805	-	16,805
Valuation additions	12	26,159	-	-	26,159
Transfers between reserves		(5,916)	4,681	1,235	-
Gains/losses recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Expenditure		-	-	-	-
Adjustment to other receivables brought forward		34,306	-	-	34,306
		-	(338)	-	(338)
At 31 March 2011		253,932	21,280	1,235	276,447

The notes on pages 44 to 63 form part of these accounts.

The sum of the valuation additions and the gains/losses recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Expenditure is shown in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure (page 40) as the net gain on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment.

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting

- i) These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts Direction issued by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills (BIS), pursuant to Section 2(2) of the Science and Technology Act 1965.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 2010-11 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM). The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adapted or interpreted for the public sector context.

Where the FReM permits a choice in accounting policy, the accounting policy judged to be the most appropriate to the particular circumstances of BBSRC for the purpose of giving a true and fair view have been selected. The particular policies adopted by BBSRC are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material to the accounts.

ii) Going Concern

BBSRC is dependent on funding from BIS to meet liabilities falling due within future years. Funding to 2010-11 was agreed as part of the previous Comprehensive Spending Review in 2007.

Under the Comprehensive Spending Review 2010, the Research Councils received financial allocations for resource and capital for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15. However, allocations for administration and capital are only fixed for 2011-12 and are indicative for the years beyond.

BBSRC has no reason to believe that future funding from BIS will not be forthcoming after this spending review period, therefore the accounts are produced on a going-concern basis.

iii) Adoption of new or amended standards effective in 2010-11

The following revised standards and interpretations have been applied by the Council from 1 April 2010:

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS/IAS)		Effective date
IFRS 7	Amendment to IFRS 7 – improving disclosures about financial instruments	1 January 2011
Major FReM Changes		
Chapter 11	Removal of notional cost of capital	1 April 2010

See note q)

b) Measurement convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to account for the revaluation of land and buildings and other fixed assets. Non-current assets held for sale are stated at the lower of previous carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling, BBSRC's functional currency and all amounts have been rounded to the nearest thousand unless otherwise stated.

c) Non current assets

i) Intangible Assets

Intangible Assets comprise purchased and developed specialist computer software and the BBSRC website and are carried at fair value. Intangibles are given definite useful lives and are amortised on a straight line basis over the useful life of the asset from the date of use based on nil residual value. The average expected useful life is 5 years for software and 3 years for website costs.

Intangible assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure based on the amount by which the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

ii) Land and Buildings

Land and buildings are carried at valuation at the reporting date. The basis of valuation for specialised scientific buildings is depreciated replacement cost and at open market value for non- specialised buildings. Valuations are adjusted annually at the reporting date by using the appropriate published indices and statistics. A full revaluation of land and buildings is carried out at least every five years except for buildings under construction or sites being prepared for sale.

Some buildings with similar remaining lives have been grouped together for valuation and depreciation purposes.

The council owns land and buildings which are leased to a number of funded institutes, all of whom are constituted as companies limited by guarantee and as registered charities and who prepare separate audited accounts. Additions to these assets may be funded wholly or in part from sources other than the BBSRC.

Where funded institutes carry out development funded by sources other than BBSRC that results in a material change in the value of the Council's owned assets, this is disclosed as a fixed asset valuation addition within the Property, Plant and Equipment note, with the contra to Reserves.

Any capital funding provided by the BBSRC to funded institutes in the form of capital grants is included within Research Grants in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure. Where these contributions result in a change in value of BBSRC's owned assets, this is also disclosed as a fixed asset valuation addition in the Property, Plant and Equipment note based on the construction costs during the year up to the Statement of Financial Position date, with the contra to Reserves.

In light of a forthcoming change in the FrEM in respect of income recognition, BBSRC will review the policy in 2011/12.

iii) Information technology, plant and equipment

Capital expenditure includes purchases valued at £3,000 or more. Assets are included in the statement of financial position at depreciated historical cost which approximates to fair value.

iv) Revaluation

Increases in valuation are credited to the revaluation reserve.

Losses on revaluation are debited to the revaluation reserve to the extent of the gains previously recorded and then to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

In the opinion of BBSRC, there is no material difference between the historic cost of equipment, fixtures and fittings and their current cost. Accordingly these assets have not been revalued and this position is kept under review.

v) Depreciation

Provision is made for depreciation on all non-current assets at rates calculated to write off the valuation of each asset (or group of assets) to its estimated residual value evenly over its expected useful life from the date the asset is bought into use. An expected useful life is assessed at each location by the valuer.

Expected useful lives are as follows:

Freehold Land	-	not depreciated
Depreciated replacement cost buildings	-	up to 60 years
Agriculture buildings	-	up to 60 years
Dwellings	-	up to 60 years
Office and computing equipment	-	3 to 5 years
System Software	-	5 years
BBSRC website	-	3 years
Motor vehicles	-	up to 4 years
Assets under construction	-	not depreciated until available for use

Increased depreciation charges arising from revaluation are matched by annual transfers from the revaluation reserve to the general reserve. On disposal of a revalued asset, that element of the revaluation reserve that becomes realised as a result is also transferred to the general reserve.

d) Financial assets

Investments are financial assets and are carried at cost less provision for any impairment in value.

e) Joint Ventures

Those investments that are held as Joint Ventures are accounted for under the equity method.

f) Investment Properties

Properties that BBSRC subleases to other Councils are not deemed to be investment properties. In its capacity as host of the Joint Building and Office Services unit (JBOS), BBSRC leases buildings for administration space on behalf of the Research Councils and recovers the full cost from them.

Assets leased to institutes are deemed not to be investment properties as the assets are provided to fulfil the BBSRC business principle to further science. If the assets were not provided to the institutes, BBSRC would incur additional grant expenditure to fund the institutes' rent of properties commercially. Accordingly the asset is held for the business of sponsoring research rather than for capital appreciation.

Impairment

The carrying amounts of the Council's assets are reviewed at each statement of financial position date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment; an asset is considered to be impaired if objective evidence indicates that one or more events have had a negative effect on the estimated future cash flows of that asset. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

g) Non current assets held for sale

Where a non current asset's carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sales transaction rather than through continuing use, is available for immediate sale in its present condition and its sale is highly probable, then the asset is classified as a held for sale.

A sale is highly probable where there is evidence of management commitment to sell, there is an activity programme to locate a buyer, the asset is actively marketed for sale at a reasonable price, and the sale will be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

The asset is measured at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell unless the asset is outside the measurement provisions of IFRS 5 'Non current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations'.

Depreciation ceases on assets classified as held for sale from the date the re-classification is made.

h) Derivatives and Financial Instruments

As the cash requirements of BBSRC are met through Grant in Aid provided by BIS, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating and managing risk than would apply to a non-public sector body. The majority of financial instruments relate to contracts to buy non-financial items in line with BBSRC's expected purchase and usage requirements and BBSRC is therefore exposed to little credit, liquidity or market risk.

Trade receivables

Trade receivables are not interest bearing and are carried at original invoice amount less allowance for impairment. Provision for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the Council will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivable. The amount of provision is the difference between the carrying amount and recoverable amount and is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are recognised in the period in which related money, goods or services are received or when a legally enforceable claim against the Council is established or when the corresponding assets or expenses are recognised.

i) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits.

j) Employee Benefits

Under IAS 19 'Employee Benefits' an entity is required to recognise short term employee benefits when an employee has rendered service in exchange for those benefits. Included in the financial statements under other accruals is an accrual for the outstanding employee holiday and flexitime entitlement at the year end on an undiscounted basis.

k) Pension Scheme and Retirement Costs

The employees of the Council are members of the Research Councils' Pension Scheme (RCPS) which is a defined benefit scheme funded from annual grant-in-aid on a pay as you go basis. The benefits are by analogy to the Principal Civil Service Pension scheme, except that while the schemes provide retirement and related benefits based on final emoluments, redundancy and injury benefits are administered and funded by the Council. As permitted by paragraph 31 of IAS 19, the Company has recorded the pension contributions payable for the period as its charge to the Statement of Changes in Net Expenditure.

l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when: the Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount can be reliably estimated.

When BBSRC has taken a decision to fund a programme of redundancies, then the associated costs are provided for. The provision for the ongoing Annual Compensation Payments is transferred from the Major Institute Restructuring provision and any remaining balance released once the redundancies are complete.

Where the time value of money is material, the amount of the provision will be the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation. The discount rate used will be the real discount rate set by HM Treasury, currently 3.5%.

Provisions are reviewed at the end of each reporting period and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate.

m) Contingent Liabilities

Contingent liabilities, including letters of comfort and financial guarantees, where obligations due cannot be measured reliably are not recognised as liabilities in the financial statements but are disclosed by way of a note in accordance with IAS 37.

n) Leases

Operating lease rental payments are charged to the operating cost statement on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

BBSRC holds no finance leases.

o) Foreign Currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are stated at fair value are translated at foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates the fair value was determined.

p) Value Added Tax

As the Council is partially exempt for VAT purposes, all expenditure and fixed asset additions are shown inclusive of VAT where applicable. Residual input tax reclaimable by the application of the partial exemption formula is taken to the operating cost statement as other operating income. Income is shown net of VAT.

q) Notional Cost of Capital Change In Accounting Policy

As part of HM Treasury's Clear Line of Sight project, the cost of capital charge will no longer need to be reported in an entity's annual report and accounts. In response to this, BBSRC will no longer be showing a notional costs note. It will also no longer be showing these costs on the face of its statement of comprehensive net expenditure. This is to make reporting simpler and easier to understand. For the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 this adjustment has no effect on the statement of comprehensive net expenditure as it was charged and reversed, and therefore the net expenditure for the year transferred to the general reserve is unaffected.

r) Ownership of Equipment Purchased with BBSRC Research Grants

Equipment purchased by an institution with research grant funds supplied by the Council, belong to the institution and are not therefore the equipment of the Council.

s) Grant-in-Aid

Grant-in-aid for revenue purposes is recognised as a financing flow and thus credited to the General Reserve.

t) Research Grants

Subject to the terms and conditions under which research grants are awarded, BBSRC makes payments for grants on the basis of pre-determined quarterly profiles. Profiles are arranged, in overall terms, to reflect the rate and incidence of expenditure at the grant holding organisation. Payments are normally made in the period to which they relate, although BBSRC retains some latitude in timing. Grant expenditure is charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure on an accruals basis.

u) Deferred Income

The Council receives funding for collaborative projects to support BBSRC's research. The majority of this funding is received from the UK public sector. Some of the funding may involve payment for the collaboration a number of years in advance of the accounting period to which it relates. Where there is a variance between work done in the accounting period and received funding, income will be deferred.

v) Insurance

In line with Government policy, BBSRC carries its own risk in respect of employment of staff, buildings and equipment, except where there is a statutory requirement to insure.

w) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The Council makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities in the next financial year. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances at the reporting date.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Estimates

The useful life of each of the Council's items of property, plant and equipment and intangibles is estimated based on the period over which the asset is expected to be available for use. Such estimation is based on experiences with similar assets and practices of similar businesses. The estimated useful life of each asset is reviewed periodically and updated if expectations differ from previous estimates due to physical wear and tear, technical or commercial obsolescence or legal or other limits on the use of an asset. An increase in the estimated useful life of any item of property, plant and equipment and intangibles would decrease the recorded operating expenses and increase non current assets.

Judgments

Asset impairment – IFRS requires that an impairment review be performed when certain impairment indicators are present. Property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and financial assets are subject to an annual impairment test or whenever there is a strong indication that the asset will be impaired. Management is required to make estimates and assumptions to determine the future cash flows to be generated from the continued use and ultimate disposal of these assets in order to determine the value of the assets. While the council believes that the assumptions used are reasonable and appropriate, these estimates and assumptions can materially affect the financial statements. Future adverse events may cause the management to conclude that the assets are impaired and may have a material impact on the financial condition and results of operations of the council.

x) Capital and reserves

The Council has three reserves: the General Reserve, the Revaluation Reserve and the Gates Reserve. The General Reserve is used to account for accumulated surpluses. The Revaluation Reserve is a specific reserve used only to reflect the unrealised balance of cumulative indexation and revaluation adjustments to fixed assets. Increases in valuation are credited to the revaluation reserve. Losses on revaluation are debited to the revaluation reserve to the extent of the gains previously recorded and then to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure. The Gates Reserve is a restricted reserve created for funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This reserve is ring-fenced for use on specific grant applications from 2012 onwards.

2. ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH GRANTS AND TRAINING AWARDS BY BUSINESS SEGMENT

The primary format used for segmental reporting is grant expenditure, where the key funding data is split between research funding, training, administration, and other, which reflects BBSRC's internal management structure and reporting. BBSRC's assets and liabilities are shared across all the operating segments, and therefore it is not possible to separately identify which segment they relate to.

Research

BBSRC funds, promotes and supports high quality basic, strategic and applied research relating to the understanding and exploitation of biological systems. To advance knowledge and technology (including the promotion and support of the exploitation of research outcomes) which meets the needs users and beneficiaries (including the agriculture, bioprocessing, chemical, food, healthcare, pharmaceutical and other biotechnological related industries), thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom and the quality of life.

Training

BBSRC supports post graduate training to help ensure the flow of highly qualified people into research careers and seeks to optimise the quality, volume and style of postgraduate and postdoctoral training to the needs of academia and industry and other user communities.

Administration

The costs for the administration of the BBSRC office, including BBSRC's share of the costs associated with the RCUK Shared Services Centre.

At 31 March 2011

	Research £'000	Training £'000	Administration £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000
Research Grants	275,784	-	-	-	275,784
Capital Grants	111,360	-	-	-	111,360
Postgraduate Awards	-	48,626	-	-	48,626
Fellowships	-	8,837	-	-	8,837
Staff Costs	-	-	13,432	-	13,432
Other Operating Costs	-	-	17,337	-	17,337
Staff Restructuring	-	-	-	3,938	3,938
Depreciation	-	-	-	7,931	7,931
Impairment and Other	-	-	-	16,459	16,459
Total Operating Expenditure	387,144	57,463	30,769	28,328	503,704

At 31 March 2010

	Research £'000	Training £'000	Administration £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000
Research Grants	282,996	-	-	-	282,996
Capital Grants	119,841	-	-	-	119,841
Postgraduate Awards	-	46,712	-	-	46,712
Fellowships	-	6,982	-	-	6,982
Staff Costs	-	-	11,391	-	11,391
Other Operating Costs	-	-	19,120	-	19,120
Staff Restructuring	-	-	-	4,015	4,015
Depreciation	-	-	-	8,421	8,421
Impairment and Other	-	-	-	913	913
Total Operating Expenditure	402,837	53,694	30,511	13,349	500,391

3. STAFF NUMBERS AND RELATED COSTS

For BBSRC office, Bioscience IT Services (BITS) and hosted Research Councils' Joint Services Units

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
Salaries and Wages	11,528	10,726
Social Security Costs	837	834
Other Pension Costs	2,542	2,120
Other fees and honoraria	363	321
	15,270	14,001
Less UK paid Joint Service Staff	(2,664)	(2,643)
Less overseas paid Joint Service Staff	(195)	(212)
	12,411	11,146
Administrative and BITS staff on Payroll	1,021	245
Temporary Administration and BITS agency staff		
TOTAL	13,432	11,391

AVERAGE NUMBERS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED

	2010-11	2009-10
Administrative	222.6	202.9
BITS	21.00	39.1
	243.6	242
Administrative and BITS staff on Payroll	54.1	72.1
UK paid Joint Services staff	3	4.0
Overseas paid staff		
	300.7	318.1
Staff on payroll	12	17.5
Temporary agency staff		
	312.7	335.6

BBSRC hosts the Research Council Internal Audit Services, Joint Business Office Services and Joint Superannuation Services teams on behalf of all of the Research Councils. The costs of these joint services are recharged in total to all of the Research Councils, including BBSRC. Also included in the staff costs figures are the permanent and temporary staff costs for the Biosciences IT service (BITS) which is the common service provider of Information Communication Technology (ICT) services to BBSRC.

An exercise was carried out to identify staff as being 'in-scope' for moving to the employment of the RCUK SSC Ltd under the transfer of undertakings (protection of employment) (TUPE) regulations. Included within the average administrative staff numbers are 8.3 FTE staff who have been TUPE transferred to the RCUK SSC Ltd and immediately seconded back to BBSRC. £234k is included within the staff cost for 2009-10 for these staff members. These secondments will end when the posts permanently migrate to the SSC. This will occur when the activities for which these staff are employed, become performed by the SSC.

No Staff costs have been capitalised in 2009-10 or in 2008-09.

4. SUPERANNUATION

The employees of the Council are members of the Research Councils' Pension Schemes (RCPS) which are defined benefit schemes funded from annual grant-in-aid on a pay-as-you-go basis. The benefits are by analogy to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, except that while the schemes provide retirement and related benefits based on final or average emoluments, redundancy and injury benefits are administered and funded by the Council. The scheme is administered by the Research Councils' Joint Superannuation Service with the associated grant-in-aid managed by BBSRC. The schemes' accounts are prepared by BBSRC, on behalf of the BBSRC Chief Executive as the Accounting Officer for the RCPS. Separate accounts are published for the Pension Schemes. Employees' contributions vary between 1.5 % and 3.5 %. The employer's contribution is agreed by the RCPS Board of Management on the recommendation of the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) and is set at 25.6 % of pensionable pay.

For 2010-11, employers' contributions of £2,542k were payable to the RCPS (2009-10 £2,120K) at 25.6 % (2009-10: 21.3 %) of pensionable pay, based on the salary bands. Employer contributions are to be reviewed every four years following a full scheme valuation by GAD. The contribution rates reflect benefits as they are accrued, not when the costs are actually incurred, and reflect past experience of the scheme.

5. REPORTING OF CIVIL SERVICE AND OTHER COMPENSATION SCHEMES-EXIT PACKAGES

Exit package cost band	Number of compulsory redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total number of exit packages by cost band
<£10,000	11 (9)	0 (1)	11 (10)
£10,000 - £25,000	28 (19)	3 (7)	31 (26)
£25,000 - £50,000	26 (13)	4 (2)	30 (15)
£50,000 - £100,000	25 (11)	4 (2)	29 (13)
£100,000-£150,000	6 (3)	2	8 (3)
£150,000-£200,000	0 (1)	1	1 (1)
Total number of exit packages by type	96 (56)	14 (12)	110 (68)
Total resource cost £	3,014,180 (1,593,476)	517,718 (105,537)	3,531,898 (1,699,103)

2009-10 comparative figures are in brackets

Redundancies and other departure costs have been paid in accordance with the provisions of the Research Councils Compensation Scheme which is in analogy to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. Exit costs are accounted for in full in the year of departure. Where the BBSRC has agreed early retirements, the additional costs are met by BBSRC and not by the Research Councils Compensation Scheme. III- health retirement costs are met by the pension scheme and are not included in the table

6. OTHER EXPENDITURE

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
Shared Services Centre operating costs	4,882	4,290
Shared Services Centre set-up costs	3,482	4,529
Central Purchasing by BITs	2,404	3,410
Professional Fees and Management Consultancy	1,471	1,647
Computing Expenses	1,521	490
Travel, Subsistence and hospitality	725	1,458
Other	884	919
Office Supplies	470	391
Rent, Rates and Insurance	457	145
Maintenance, Repairs and Cleaning	392	673
Internal Audit	353	285
Staff Training	210	807
External Audit	86	76
Total	17,337	19,120

7a. OTHER OPERATING INCOME

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
Property rentals	532	381
Contributions to grants	934	3,573
Other	612	740
	2,078	4,694

7b. OTHER RECOVERIES

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
Recovery of hosting Joint Service Units	579	568
Other recoveries	-	36
	579	604

8. RESEARCH INSTITUTE STAFF RESTRUCTURING

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
Annual Compensation Payments (ACP)	1,714	2,790
Redundancy Payments	3,941	2,888
Early Retirement Lump Sums (ERLS)	813	523
Other Costs	-	5
	6,468	6,206
Recoverable ACP and redundancy payments	(1,211)	(1,541)
Recoverable ERLS	(1,026)	(410)
Provided for (note 9)	(2,589)	(2,189)
	1,642	2,066
Increase provision for ACP and restructuring cost (note 9)	2,414	4,275
Release from existing restructuring provisions (see note 9)	(118)	(2,326)
Net cost	3,938	4,015

The total number of redundancies during 2010-11 was 78 (2009-10: 79).

Please see note 5 'Reporting of Civil Service and other compensation schemes- exit packages' for details on compensations agreed in 2010-11

9. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

PROVISIONS

	Annual Compensation Payments £'000	Major Institute Restructuring £'000	Shared Services Centre £'000	Total 31 March 2011 £'000	Total 31 March 2010 £'000
At 1 April 2010	5,541	5,249	585	11,375	11,615
Amount provided in year	2,065	150	199	2,414	4,275
Amount released in year	-	-	(118)	(118)	(2,326)
Amount expended in year	(1,552)	(371)	(666)	(2,589)	(2,189)
Total Provisions At 31 March 2011	6,054	5,028	-	11,082	11,375

PROVISIONS

	Annual Compensation Payments £'000	Major Institute Restructuring £'000	Shared Services Centre £'000	Total 31 March 2010 £'000	Total 31 March 2009 £'000
At 1 April 2009	6,262	4,540	813	11,615	14,104
Amount provided in year	1,011	3,059	205	4,275	3,879
Amount released in year	-	(2,208)	(118)	(2,326)	(2,705)
Amount expended in year	(1,732)	(142)	(315)	(2,189)	(3,663)
Total Provisions At 31 March 2010	5,541	5,249	585	11,375	11,615

Annual Compensation Payments (ACP) are payments to early retirees in advance of their pension entitlements under the Research Councils' Pension Schemes.

Institute related provisions include; redundancies following revision of scientific strategies £2.8M (£2.5M for 2009-10), provision for associated accommodation expenditure £1.9M (£1.9M for 2009-10) and legal costs £0.3M (£0.6M for 2009-10).

Following the payment of the final compensation lump sum, provision for on-going annual compensation payments (ACP) associated with the specific institute restructuring programme is transferred from the major restructuring provision to the ACP provision.

Provision for the rationalisation costs in relation to the development of the Research Councils Shared Services Centre

The Research Councils and the RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd have developed a Shared Services Centre to carry out the central functions of HR, Finance, Grants processing, Procurement and IT across all the Councils. As a result some Councils incurred redundancy costs, particularly where existing staff lived some distance away from Swindon where the centre is situated.

The Research Councils collectively agreed that they would be jointly liable for all necessary redundancies. The councils calculated their likely redundancy liabilities in order to make a provision in 2008-09 and this was updated as at 31 March 2010. A funding allocation model was developed and agreed by all the Research Councils and this identified the proportion of SSC project spend and liability each Council would incur.

During 2010-11 these provisions were fully utilised as the transfer of services to the SSC Ltd has now been completed.

TOTAL PROVISION FOR YEAR

	31 March 2011 £'000	31 March 2010 £'000
Restructuring	11,082	11,375
	11,082	11,375
Split as follows:		
Current Provision	3,359	4,022
Non current provision	7,723	7,353
	11,082	11,375

ANALYSIS OF EXPECTED TIMING OF CASH FLOWS

	Annual Compensation Payments £'000	Major Institute Restructuring £'000	Shared Services Centre £'000	Total £'000
Within one year	521	2,838	-	3,359
Between 2012 and 2017	3,987	300	-	4,287
Between 2017 and 2021	1,546	1,890	-	3,436
	6,054	5,028	-	11,082

10. LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
Receipts on disposals of property, plant and equipment	11,233	-
Less: Net Book Value of assets sold/demolished	(12,477)	(25)
Gain/(loss) on disposal of fixed assets	(1,244)	(25)

During the year there was a sale of some land at Babraham and a sale of a dwelling at Compton. These gave rise to a loss on disposal of £19K. In addition there were several items of land and buildings at our Institutes that were no longer required and were demolished. The loss on demolished assets was £1,168K. The SSC asset under construction was transferred to the SSC for no loss or gain. In addition to land and building, there was some disposal of IT equipment at BITS, where the assets were transferred to the Institutes. The loss on disposal for these items was £57K

11. FINANCIAL ASSETS

	PBL £'000	SSC £'000	Total £'000
Valuation/cost at 1 April 2010	536	1,240	1776
Additions	-	11,115	11,115
SSC loss at 31 March 2011	-	(804)	(804)
Net Book Value At 31 March 2011	536	11,551	12,087

Plant Bioscience Ltd (PBL)

110 ordinary shares at 10p each, representing one third of the issued share capital of Plant Bioscience Ltd.
Plant Bioscience Ltd is incorporated in England and Wales. www.pbltechnology.com

RCUK Shared Service Centre (SSC Ltd)

SSC Ltd has been operating a shared services centre, delivering services to the Research Councils, since May 2008. For the year ended 31 March 2011 the financial statements for the company show a loss of £4.4M (2009/10: £0.5M) against a turnover of £61.2M (2009/10: £64.8M). The Statement of Financial Position totals are £7 'A' shares and £62,016,358 'B' shares issued to the Research Councils and £3.9M cash (2009/10: £5.2M). All Councils have included the investment of SSC as a Joint Venture and accounted for it under equity accounting as permitted by IAS 31 'Interests in joint ventures'. The principal place of business for SSC is North Star House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 1FF.

The Research Councils entered into a supplementary shareholders' agreement with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on 4th October 2011 to allot the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills one 'A' ordinary share in the capital of RCUK SSC Ltd. This supplementary agreement confirmed the covenants of the original shareholders' agreement, signed 8th August 2007, remain extant. On that basis, BBSRC retains the same level of investment in RCUK SSC Ltd at 20.54% of the Company's B shares.

In addition to the above investments, BBSRC also has an interest in Roslin Biocentre Ltd and Rainbow Seed Fund as detailed below.

Roslin BioCentre Ltd (RBL)

49 Ordinary Shares at 100p each representing 49 per cent of the issued share capital of Roslin BioCentre Ltd fully paid.
Roslin BioCentre Ltd is incorporated in Scotland. www.roslinbiocentre.co.uk

Rainbow Seed Fund

Partner's capital fund investment of £92. Independently managed evergreen venture capital fund established in 2001 by the Office of Science and Innovation to invest in technologies developed from publically funded research. www.rainbowseedfund.com

12. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Completed Land excluding Dwellings £'000	Completed Buildings excluding Dwellings £'000	Dwellings £'000	Buildings Under Construction £'000	SSC Assets Under Construction £'000	Information Technology £'000	Plant & Equipment £'000	Fixtures & Fittings £'000	TOTAL £'000
Cost or Valuation									
At 1 April 2010	50,428	202,989	28,472	41,836	9,774	2,254	304	19	336,076
Additions	-	-	-	-	1,341	75	-	-	1,416
Valuation additions*	-	-	-	26,159	-	-	-	-	26,159
Impairment	(662)	(32,189)	(1,332)	-	-	-	-	-	(34,183)
Reclassification	(3,100)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3,100)
Disposals	(852)	(3,497)	(139)	(50)	(11,115)	(199)	-	-	(15,852)
Revaluation	10,219	52,256	1,492	-	-	-	-	-	63,967
At 31 March 2011	56,033	219,559	28,493	67,945	-	2,130	304	19	374,483
Depreciation and Impairment									
At 1 April 2010	12	93,544	-	-	-	1,493	144	10	95,203
Provided during the year	-	7,422	26	-	-	300	41	2	7,791
Impairment	-	(19,754)	(18)	-	-	-	-	-	(19,772)
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(3,230)	(2)	-	-	(155)	-	-	(3,387)
Revaluation	(11)	29,678	(6)	-	-	-	-	-	29,661
At 31 March 2011	1	107,660	0	-	-	1,638	185	12	109,496
Net Book Value									
At 31 March 2011	56,032	111,899	28,493	67,945	-	492	119	7	264,987
At 1 April 2010	50,416	109,445	28,472	41,836	9,774	761	160	9	240,873

	Completed Land excluding Dwellings £'000	Completed Buildings excluding Dwellings £'000	Dwellings £'000	Buildings Under Construction £'000	SSC Assets Under Construction £'000	Information Technology £'000	Plant & Equipment £'000	Fixtures & Fittings £'000	TOTAL £'000
Cost or Valuation									
At 1 April 2009	47,759	210,314	29,341	31,436	7,721	2,908	525	19	330,023
Additions	-	-	-	-	2,053	237	97	-	2,387
Valuation additions*	-	-	-	24,131	-	-	-	-	24,131
Reclassification	-	13,731	-	(13,731)	-	188	(260)	-	(72)
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(1,079)	(58)	-	(1,137)
Revaluation	2,669	(21,056)	(869)	-	-	-	-	-	(19,256)
At 31 March 2010	50,428	202,989	28,472	41,836	9,774	2,254	304	19	336,076
Depreciation and Impairment									
At 1 April 2009	109	106,242	-	-	-	2,155	347	10	108,863
Provided during the year	-	7,643	280	-	-	271	45	-	8,239
Impairment	(2)	507	-	-	-	-	-	-	505
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-	146	(192)	-	(46)
Disposals	-	0	-	-	-	(1,079)	(56)	-	(1,135)
Revaluation	(95)	(20,848)	(280)	-	-	-	-	-	(21,223)
At 31 March 2010	12	93,544	-	-	-	1,493	144	10	95,203
Net Book Value									
At 31 March 2010	50,416	109,445	28,472	41,836	9,774	761	160	9	240,873
At 1 April 2009	47,650	151,722	29,341	31,436	7,721	753	178	9	268,810

* Where institutes carry out development that results in a material change in the value of the Council's owned assets, this is disclosed as a fixed asset valuation addition.

The land and buildings were professionally valued as at 31 March 2011 by external valuers, Powis Hughes Chartered Surveyors, in accordance with SAVP and RICS guidance notes. In between formal professional valuations, management have used appropriate indices to revalue the land and buildings. In addition to this valuation, Polaris House was revalued as at 31 March 2010 by Powis Hughes, as part of a valuation carried out by NERC.

All assets are owned.

The SSC Assets Under Construction represents the Council's individual share of the Shared Services Centre currently being developed by the seven Research Councils.

Assets under construction represents BBSRC's share (20.54%) of the capital costs to date of the Research Councils on the Shared Service Centre. On the 29th March 2011, each of seven Councils, who were joint investors in the RCUK Shared Service Centre, sold their individual assets in the course of construction, which totalled £54 million, to the RCUK Shared Service Centre Ltd (RCUK SSC Ltd), in exchange for 'B' shares to the same value in RCUK SSC Ltd. BBSRC's agreed share (20.54%) of the capital costs of the project to the date of sale was £11.15 million

13. IMPAIRMENT

During the year, there was an impairment of several items of land and building at the institutes which amounted to £14.411M (09-10: £3.050M). Under FReM 2010-11, guidance 8.2.4, the impairment was taken through the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

14. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Website £'000	Computer Software £'000	Total £'000
Cost or Valuation			
At 1 April 2010	92	1,423	1,515
Additions	-	18	18
Valuation additions	-	-	0
Reclassification	-	-	0
Disposals	-	(33)	(33)
Revaluation	-	-	0
At 31 March 2011	92	1,408	1,500
Amortisation			
At 1 April 2010	50	1,052	1,102
Provided during the year	25	115	140
Disposals	-	(20)	(20)
Revaluation	-	-	0
Reclassification	-	-	0
At 31 March 2011	75	1,147	1,222
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2011	17	261	278
At 1 April 2010	42	371	413
	Website £'000	Computer Software £'000	Total £'000
Cost or Valuation			
At 1 April 2009	92	1,489	1,581
Additions	-	161	161
Reclassification	-	72	72
Disposals	-	(299)	(299)
At 31 March 2010	92	1,423	1,515
Amortisation			
At 1 April 2010	20	1,130	1,150
Provided during the year	30	152	182
Disposals	-	(276)	(276)
Reclassification	-	46	46
At 31 March 2010	50	1,052	1,102
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2010	42	371	413
At 1 April 2009	42	371	413

All additions to intangible assets arose from external purchases and services that were bought in. No element of intangible assets is internally generated or acquired as part of a business acquisition.

15. ASSETS CLASSIFIED AS HELD FOR SALE

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
1 April	-	-
Additions and capital improvement	3,100	-
Revaluation	-	-
31 March	3,100	-

The asset held for sale as at 31 March 2011 is a site that became surplus to requirements as it was no longer needed for institute research. The site was valued at £3.1M as at 31 March 2011 and is due to be sold during 2011-12.

16. TRADE RECEIVABLES AND OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

	31 March 2011 £'000	31 March 2010 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade receivables	7,444	6,640
Other receivables	12,803	22,092
Repayment of Early Retirement Lump Sums*	922	1,484
	21,169	30,216
Prepayments and Accrued Income		
Research Grants	3,762	4,704
Training Awards	11,340	10,715
Other	3,353	3,232
	18,455	18,651
	39,624	48,867
Amounts falling due after one year		
Repayment of Early Retirement Lump Sums	3,581	3,453
Other receivables **	10,557	10,827
	14,138	14,280
Total Receivables	53,762	63,147

* Cash received from the Research Councils' Pension Schemes (RCPS) in 2010-11 in repayment of Early Retirement Lump Sums (ERLS) was £1,477,396 (2009-10: £1,513,439)

** Other receivables due after one year include a £10.3m loan to Babraham Bioscience Technologies for the development of Babraham BioPark.

16a. TRADE RECEIVABLES AND OTHER CURRENT ASSETS BY SOURCE

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
i) Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other central government bodies	16,423	12,300
Bodies external to government	23,201	36,567
Total	39,624	48,867
ii) Amounts falling due after one year:		
Other central government bodies	3,581	0
Bodies external to government	10,557	14,280
Total	14,138	14,280

17. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES BY TYPE

	31 March 2011 £'000	31 March 2010 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade payables	2,097	12,334
Deferred Income	7,515	9,794
Shared Services Centre capital costs	7,721	7,721
Other payables	456	148
	17,789	29,997
Accruals:		
- Research Grants	8,791	11,839
- Other	30,599	6,256
	39,390	18,095
	57,179	48,092

17a. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES BY SOURCE

	31 March 2011 £'000	31 March 2010 £'000
Current:		
- Other central government bodies	23,487	19,100
- Bodies external to government	33,692	28,992
Total	57,179	48,092

18. NET PARLIAMENTARY FUNDING

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
Amount provided by BIS-capital funding	111,397	470,694
Amount provided by BIS-revenue funding	336,834	
Animal Licences provided by BIS	125	72
Net Parliamentary Funding	448,356	470,766

18a. NET FUNDING FROM OTHER BODIES

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
From other Research Councils	7,180	9,548
From other Government Departments	7,670	7,821
From other bodies	1,955	1,962
Net funding	16,805	19,331

19. NOTES TO THE CASHFLOW STATEMENT

	31 March 2011 £'000	31 March 2010 £'000
i) Reconciliation of movement in cash to movement in net funds		
Cash as at 1 April	2,904	725
Increase in cash in the year	7,579	2,179
Cash as at 31 March	10,483	2,904
ii) Breakdown of Balances		
HM Paymaster General	10,944	294
Lloyds/Barclays Bank PLC	75	3,146
Less Held for third parties	(536)	(536)
	10,483	2,904
iii) THIRD PARTY ASSETS: Cash held on behalf of Institutes to cover unforeseen losses to cover unforeseen losses		
At 1 April	536	536
At 31 March	536	536

The BBSRC and its sponsored institutes follow the public sector policy of not taking out commercial insurance and look to self-insure through maintaining an appropriate level of general reserves to protect against potential unforeseen losses. Alongside this, the sponsored-institutes contribute to a fund, held by BBSRC, to assist financially with any unforeseen losses of the institutes (and not BBSRC), which might otherwise have been covered by a commercial insurance policy. The fund was designated to address unforeseen losses with a financial value of less than 2% of the institutes' recurrent income. A panel of members consisting of BBSRC and institute representatives decide which 'claims' are appropriate to pay from this fund.

The fund is held by BBSRC for the sole usage by the institutes for such needs. Ultimately any remaining amounts in this fund will be returned to the institute. As such, these funds have been identified as held as a third party asset.

In light of the revised governance arrangements for BBSRC sponsored institutes, BBSRC plans to close the fund in 2011/12 to reflect the increased independence of the institutes from BBSRC.

20. FORWARD COMMITMENTS ON APPROVED RESEARCH GRANTS

	31 March 2011 £M	30 March 2010 £M
2010-11	-	238.3
2011-12	185.0	169.5
2012-13	112.2	108.0
2013-14	57.7	44.9
2014-15	12.0	23.1
After 2014-15	2.9	-
	369.8	583.8

Please see accounting policy A- 'Going concern' for details on the reduced level of commitment going forward for 2011-12 onwards

21. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The majority of capital expenditure funded by BBSRC is on contracts let by sponsored institutes. Capital commitments as at 31 March, for which no provision has been made, are as follows:

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
Shared Services Centre *	-	1,702
Authorised for contracts to be let, subject to full business case	193,881	216,796
Funding approved in principle:		
- BBSRC contribution to the Pirbright redevelopment	38,498	-
- BBSRC contribution to IAH business continuity and compliance	-	5,410
- Babraham works	-	15,320
	232,379	239,228

* Please see note 12 - Property, Plant and Equipment for details on the transfer of the Shared Services Centre in 2010-11

22. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

BBSRC has annual operating lease commitments under non cancellable agreements in respect of properties where the lease term expires as follows:

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
Within 1 year	112	112
Between 2 and 5 years	-	112
After 5 years	-	-
	112	224

The total of future minimum subleases payments expected to be received at 31 March 2011 is £66K . This is in respect of office accommodation not occupied by BBSRC.

22a. OPERATING LEASE RECEIPTS

BBSRC expects annual operating lease receipts under non cancellable agreements in respect of properties where the lease term expires as follows:

	2010-11 £'000	2009-10 £'000
Within 1 year	311	311
Between 2 and 5 years	920	1,001
After 5 years	1,840	2,070
	3,071	3,382

23. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The former BBSRC sponsored IGER institute transferred to the University of Aberystwyth on 31 March 2008. As part of the transfer, BBSRC agreed to contribute toward any redundancy costs should the university experience a fall in programme grant income as a result of the transfer, between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2014. BBSRC's contribution to any directly attributable redundancy costs is dependent upon both the level and year of income reductions.

The former BBSRC sponsored Roslin institute transferred to the University of Edinburgh on 13 May 2008. Should the university experience a fall in programme grant income between the transfer date and May 2015, BBSRC agreed to contribute to the cost of any redundancies that arise as a direct result of the transfer. The level of BBSRC's contribution is dependent upon both the size and year of income reduction. BBSRC also agreed to provide indemnity for any potential costs that arise as a result of past actions of the institute and indemnity for any fall in grant income of the Neuropathogenesis Unit as a result of the transfer. The proportion of settlement BBSRC will fund declines on an annual basis and is limited to claims up to May 2023.

24. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The BBSRC is a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

For the purposes of IAS 8, BIS and its partner organisations are regarded as related parties. During the year, the BBSRC has had various material transactions with BIS and entities for which BIS is regarded as the parent department, viz.: Arts and Humanities Research Council, Economic and Social Research Council, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Medical Research Council, Natural Environment Research Council, Science Technology and Facilities Council, Technology Strategy Board.

BBSRC also had a number of related transactions with RCUK SSC Ltd, as set out in the notes to these accounts.

Professor Douglas Kell was appointed BBSRC Chief Executive and Accounting Officer on 1 October 2008 and attends BBSRC Council as the Deputy Chair. Professor Kell continues to work one day a week with the Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre (MIB), which is part of the University of Manchester and abstains from any discussions with relation to the University of Manchester while working for BBSRC. All BBSRC grants where Professor Kell was the principle investigator were transferred from Professor Kell prior to his employment with BBSRC, with the exception of one grant where the final payment of £48k was paid on receipt of the final report, which occurred after 1 October 2008.

The accounts provide disclosure of all material transactions with those who are recognised as key management personnel as per IAS 24 'Related Parties'. This is taken to be those members of staff who are included under directors remuneration in the Remuneration Report and all Council members.

During the year BBSRC did not undertake any material transactions with any Directors, however during the year, the following material payments with Council members' organisations took place in respect of research and training grants funded by the BBSRC:

	Awards	£
Professor Anne Dell FRS	1	307,408
David Baulcombe	1	125,122
Professor Sir Tom Blundell FRS	3	210,168
Peter Fryer	2	115,595

The following Council members held positions on the Governing Bodies of sponsored research institutes:

Dr David Lawrence	Rothamsted Research
Mr David Gregory	Institute for Food Research

Registers of interest for Council, Boards and Committees can be found at www.bbsrc.ac.uk

The following Council staff held positions on the Governing Bodies of sponsored institutes and centres

Mr Swinburne	Institute for Animal Health
Mr Gemmill	Institute for Animal Health
Mr Stapley	North Wyke Research Centre

BBSRC sponsors six research institutes, which conduct long-term, mission-orientated research using specialist facilities that are in line with BBSRC's priorities. BBSRC provides Strategic Programme Grants to the institutes to fund specific research programmes. The sponsored institutes have separate charitable status and an independent governing body oversees the institutes' activities.

The BBSRC sponsored IGER and Roslin Institutes formally transferred to the University of Aberystwyth and the University of Edinburgh respectively. IGER transferred on 31 March 2008, while the Roslin Institute's transfer date was 13 May 2009.

Between 2004 and 2006 BBSRC invested £2M for one third of the issued share capital of Plant Biosciences Ltd. Details are shown in Note 11.

	Grants		Receivables (including loans)		Payables		Major Provision In Year	
	10-11	09-10	10-11	09-10	10-11	09-10	10-11	09-10
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Transactions with BBSRC-Sponsored Institutes:								
Babraham Institute*	22.8	29.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	-	-	-
Institute for Animal Health*	62.9	46.5	0.4	0.8	12.1	0.1	-	-
Institute of Food Research*	13.4	15.3	0.0	0.4	0.8	-	-	-
John Innes Centre	28.4	29.6	1.4	2.3	0.0	-	-	-
Rothamsted Research	23.8	27.2	3.1	4.1	1.2	0.3	-	-
The Genome Analysis Centre	5.6	0.7	0.0	-	1.5	-	-	-
	156.9	148.9	4.9	7.9	15.6	0.4	-	-
Transactions with former BBSRC-Sponsored Institutes:								
Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences	13.4	6.1	-	-	0.6	-	2.3	2.3
Roslin Institute	21.6	8.8	0.0	-	-	-	0.3	0.1
	35.0	14.9	0.0	-	0.6	-	2.6	2.4
Transactions with other related parties:								
Plant Biosciences Ltd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd	-	-	1.5	1.6	2.1	10.0	-	-
	-	-	1.5	1.6	2.1	10.0	-	-
Total	191.9	163.8	6.4	9.5	18.3	10.4	2.6	2.4

* Institutes occupying BBSRC owned estate at peppercorn rents.

	Receivables		Payables	
	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10
	£M	£M	£M	£M
	(see Note 16)		(see Note 17)	
Non-Institute:				
Within the WGA Boundary:				
Other Research Councils	3.6	5.2	14.3	2.3
Other Government Organisations	1.8	0.8	8.3	5.9
Research Councils' Pensions Schemes	12.8	5.0	0.0	-
Non WGA:				
Babraham Bioscience Technologies Ltd	10.3	10.3	0.0	-
Other Debtors (including Universities)	18.8	32.3	16.3	29.4
	47.3	53.6	38.9	37.6
BBSRC-sponsored institutes & other related parties	6.4	9.5	18.3	10.4
	53.7	63.1	57.2	48.0

25. DERIVATIVES AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

As the cash requirements of BBSRC are met through Grant in Aid provided by BIS, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating and managing risk than would apply to a non-public sector body. The majority of financial instruments relate to contracts to buy non-financial items in line with BBSRC's expected purchase and usage requirements and BBSRC is therefore exposed to little credit, liquidity or market risk.

26. EVENTS AFTER REPORTING PERIOD

IAS 10 Events after the reporting period, require the disclosure of the date on which the financial statements were "authorised for issue" and who gave that authorisation.

There were no significant events between the Statement of Financial Position date and 21 December 2011, the date when the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Houses of Parliament certified the accounts. The Financial Statements do not reflect events after this date.



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