

Vice Chancellor's Office

COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE (CRI)

26 January 22

Present: Carol Wagstaff (CW) Chair, Guy Baxter (GB), Luke Bell (LB), Steven Bosworth (SBo), Stuart Brown (SB), David Coreless (DC), Robert Darby (RD), Aanisah Ehsan (AE), Karen Henderson (KH), Gunter Kuhlne (GK), Emilia McDonald (EMcD), Jenny Mcgrother (JMcG), Eugene McSorley (EMcS), Phil Newton (PN), Kirsty Withers (KW) and Abbie Smith (Secretary)

22/01 Welcome and apologies for absence

22/02 Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 October 2021 and actions

Item 19/12/03: The reinstating of regular funding calls is ongoing.

Item 20/04/01: The setting up of the working group and draft proposal is ongoing. The main priority has been to feed into the current digital strategy and continue to meet with the sub-group initially. Stuart B confirmed the team are looking into short-term solutions for storage capabilities, but long-term they will look to put resources towards digital strategy and arrange for a business analyst to investigate the requirements. It was agreed that the action should remain open.

Item 20/04/02: It was confirmed that a meeting has not yet taken place but communications have been sent so the action is ongoing.

Item 20/14/03: This user group have not met for a while but the action should remain open.

Item 21/19/02: Carol confirmed that this additional clause for the risk register has been submitted so this action can now close.

Item 21/19/03: Dawn C has circulated these draft objectives but Carol confirmed she would resend them to the group for visibility and then this action can be closed. Updating the terms of reference has been completed so this action can be closed as well.

Action: Carol to resend the draft objectives to CRI.

Item 21/22/01: This action can now be closed as it was discussed in UCRI that the lab stimulator will not be funded.

Item 21/25/01: This action is still ongoing, but it was agreed that the group would use this meeting to pre-allocate funding opportunities for 2022-23 from this round of submissions.

22/03 Matters arising from the minutes

Phil Newton stated that he can share the proposal following a presentation from Al Edwards on open hardware, it focussed on imaging technology that is funded by Research England.

22/04 Annual Research Equipment and Infrastructure Fund 21 / 22 Call

- i. Review of applications

The final decisions and feedback have been captured directly onto the excel spreadsheet.

- ii. ECR capital competition for 22/23 AREI

It was agreed that the call-out should be ready for Autumn once there has been confirmation on how much funding is available for 2022-23. It was mentioned an additional £500k should be available which would bring the total funding to £1m.

The group was supportive of setting up a competition where they would run it once and then agree on the frequency. The total competition value would be £150k, with a single item limit of £5-10k for science areas and £10-20k for non-science areas. It was suggested that the applicants would present their case in person, as historically these are more impactful than written submissions. The presentation panel would include Kirsty Withers, Jenny Mcgrother, Phil Newton and Carol Wagstaff and the final decision would be made by CRI through the usual funding process.

22/05 Strategy

Updates from:

- CAF (Gunter Kuhnle)

It was mentioned by Technical Services that there is currently an equipment list but it does not hold the most up to date information. The plan moving forward is to pull off reports from the new E-Marketplace systems when it is up and running. It was also suggested to include in this report what type of expertise is required.

Action: Karen Henderson to send the current equipment list on to Gunter Kuhnle.

- CINN (Anastasia Christakou)

No discussion held.

- Estates (David Corless/Emilia McDonald)

No discussion held.

- DTS (Stuart Brown)

o Digital Research Storage and Preservation Review Work

Discussion was held under minute number 22/02.

- UMASC (Guy Baxter)

It was confirmed that Guy is currently leading the team on the process of moving the herbarium to permanent storage, although the level of available resource is still unclear.

The group discussed the need to revise guidance on infrastructure bids. As they affect multiple areas of the university, departments need to analyse the submissions before decisions are made.

Action: Guy to revise guidance on infrastructure bids in time for the next CRI meeting in May 2022.

22/06 Projects and programmes portfolio

- a. BESS (Eugene McSorley and Steven Bosworth)

No discussion held.

22/07 Policy

No discussion held.

22/08 Any other business

To ensure all necessary areas of the university are involved in the review of submissions, the group agreed to structure the applications more by creating tick boxes to prompt applicants to engage with Estates, H&S and/or DTS going forward.

JMcG confirmed a new postholder will take up the post of Scientific Safety Advisor within the Health & Safety Services team on 1 March, his name is Jonathan Ridgeon. It was requested that going forward CRI would accept attendance by either Jonathan or Jenny.

22/09 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 16th May 2022