

Knowledge Exchange: A NERC Perspective

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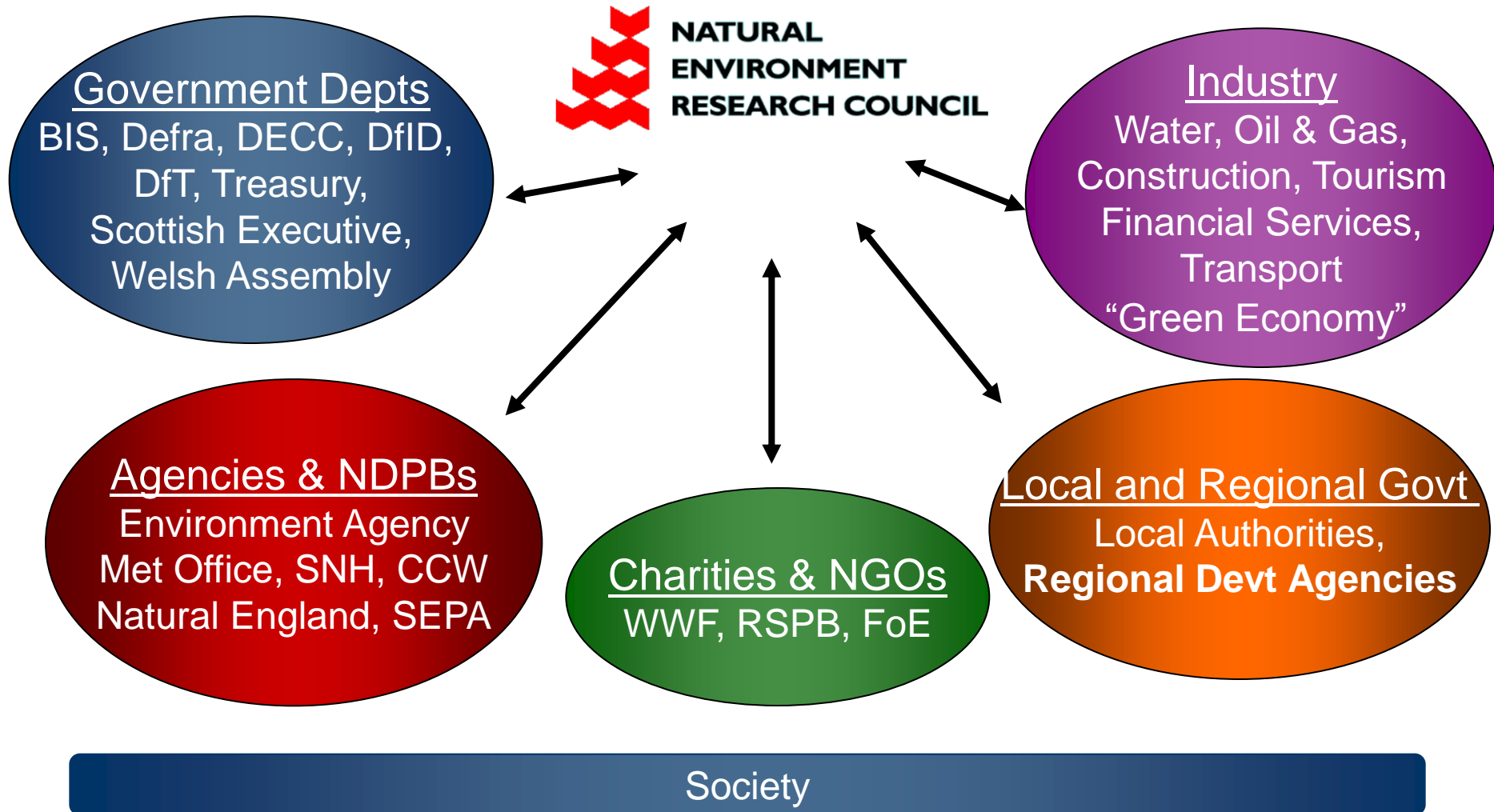
Knowledge Exchange Manager

1 October 2009

Summary

- Who are NERC's stakeholders?
- The Impact Agenda
- Mechanisms for supporting and promoting KE and economic impact – schemes and Impact Plans
- Conclusions

Who are our 'Stakeholders'?

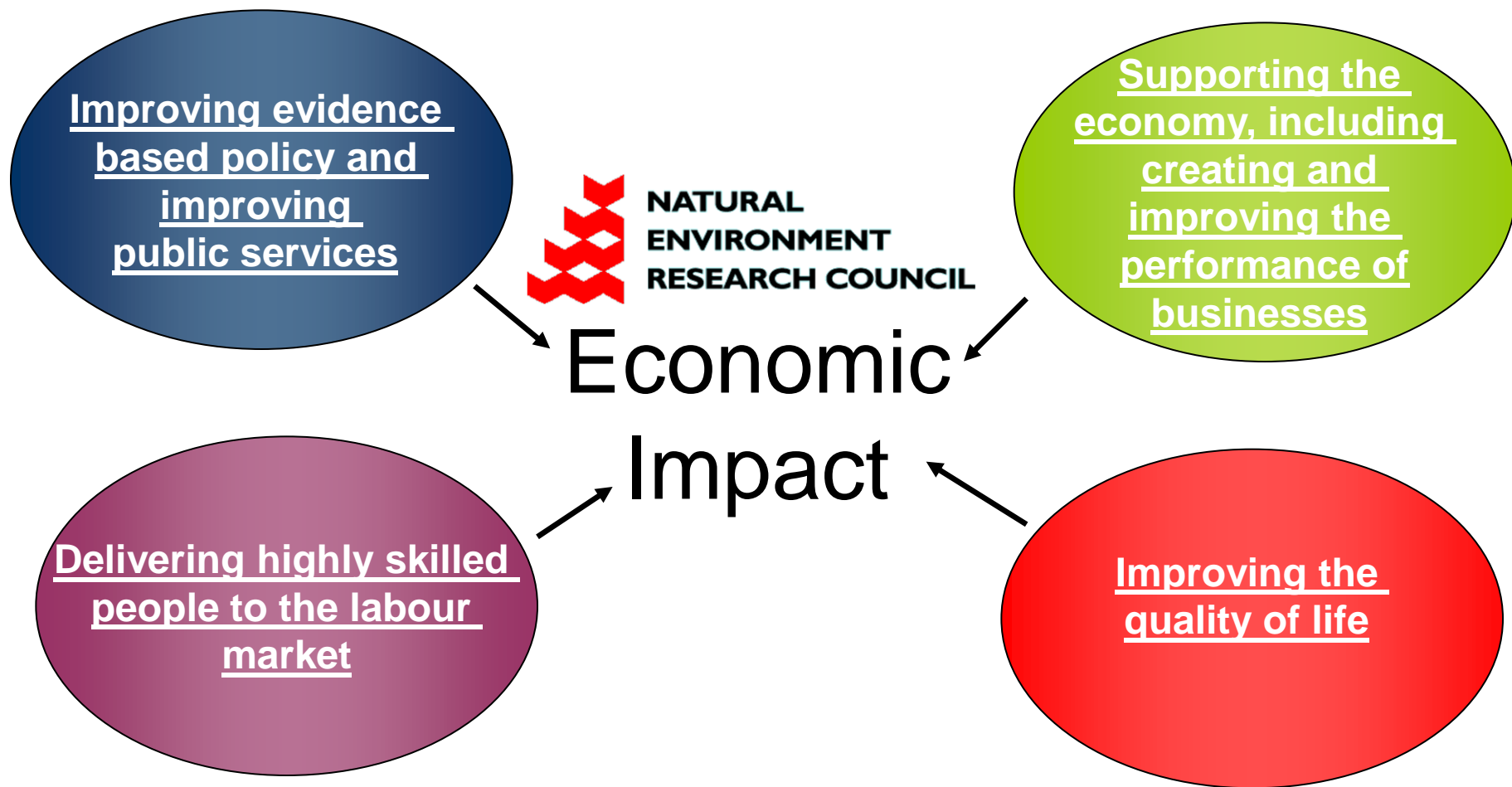


RCUK Statement of Expectation

- We provide flexibility and autonomy to the research community
- In return, these should maximise impact by:
 - Disseminating findings widely
 - Engaging with public and users and build networks
 - Exploiting results where appropriate
 - Ensuring that researchers and students develop skills to match career paths
- Not more applied research:
 - better application of research



The Government's Impact Agenda

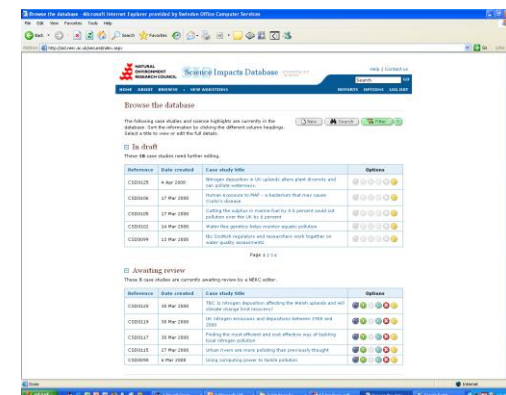


Demonstrating Impact

- NERC study “**Economic Benefits of Environmental Science**” (2006)
- 10 ‘in depth’ case studies of NERC research programs (eg Ozone hole, flooding, ground stability, microbial biodiversity)
- Significant economic impacts demonstrated
- Long time lags between activity and impact (can be 10 years or more)
- **NERC Science Impacts Database**
- **RCUK Economic impact of Research Councils: case study evaluation (2007)**
- **Research Councils’ Economic Impact Baselines – published in June 2009**
- <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/about/perform/documents/eibaselines20072008.pdf>
- Use of Output and Performance Measures recorded onto **NERC Research Outputs Database**

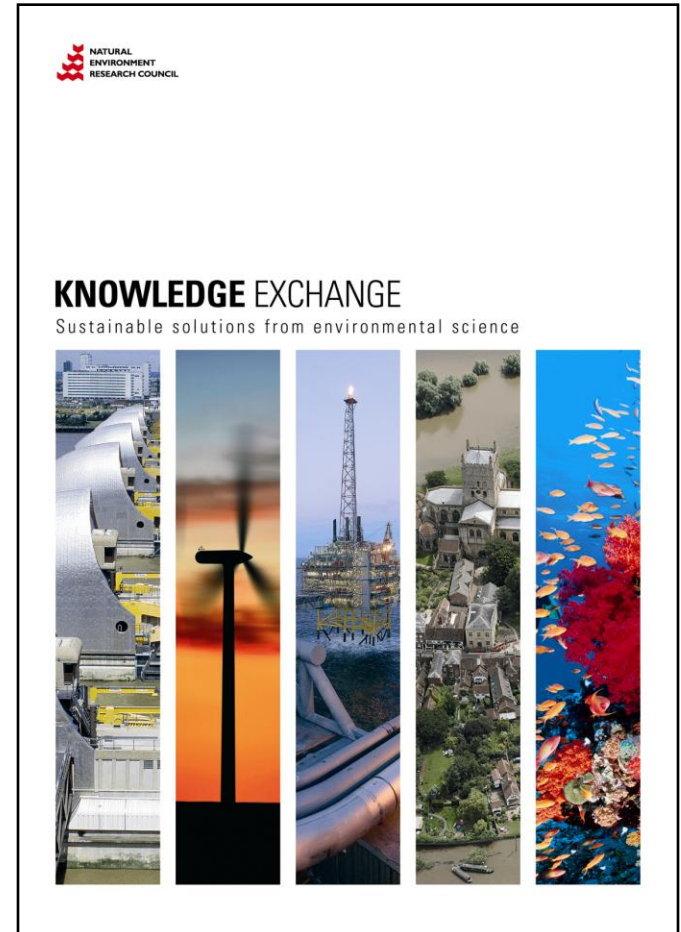


Science Impacts Database *promoting our science*



NERC's Knowledge Strategy

- Build a knowledge exchange **culture** throughout NERC
- Strengthen **engagement** with our stakeholders
- Enable full **access** to our knowledge and data
- Ensure full **utilisation** of NERC-funded research



NERC and Science to Policy



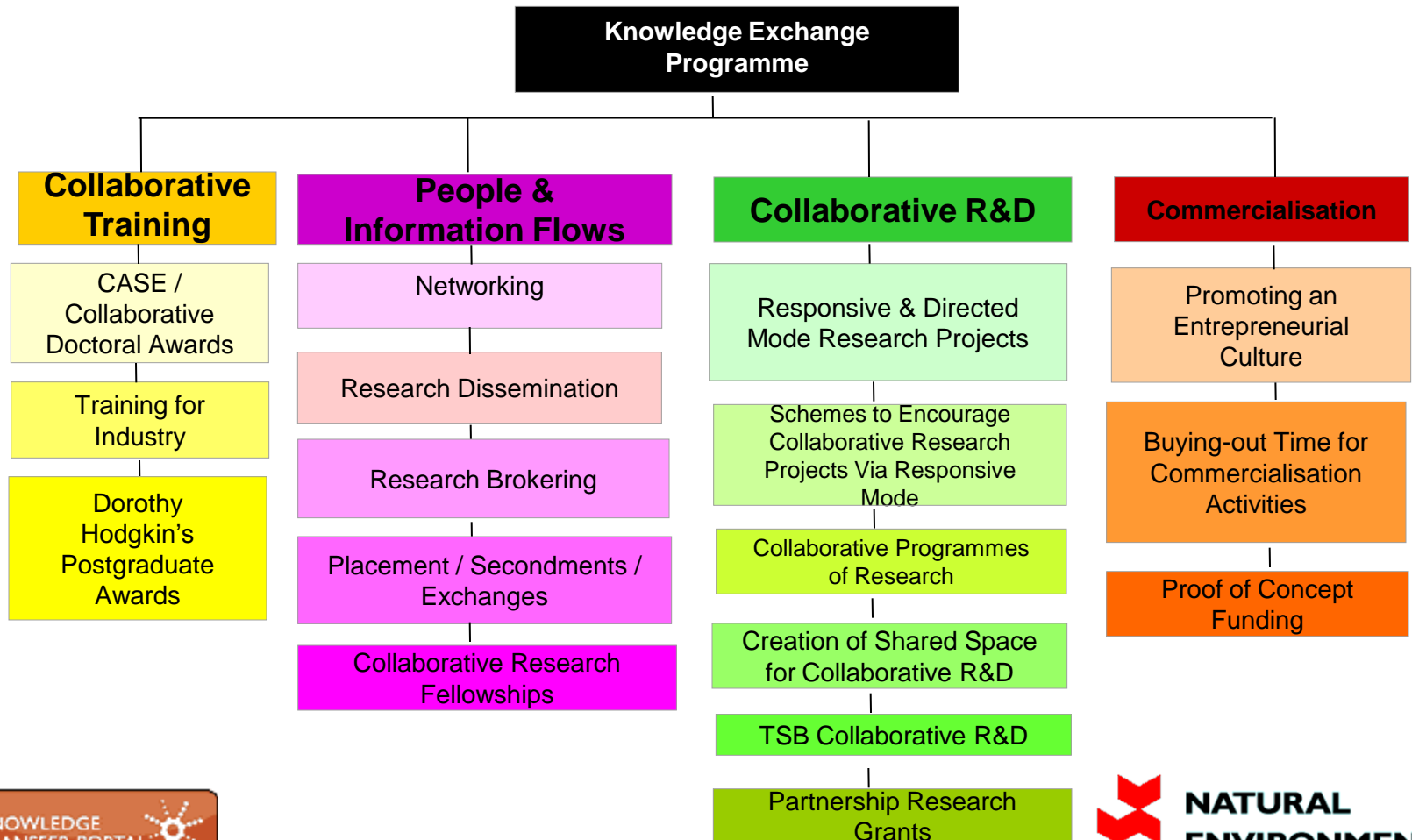
- Interactions with government departments and agencies
- Advisory groups and committees
- Interactions with Parliament
- Training and Policy Placement Secondments
- Dissemination of science outputs
- Engagement in directed programmes
- Commissioned Research
- Informal interactions

Tools

- “Taking part in the process” Science to Policy booklet
- Stakeholder database
- Using NERC Science
- Peer Review College
- Output and Performance Measures



Knowledge Exchange schemes



Other KE schemes

- Royal Society Industry Fellowships
- Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
- Environment Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES)
- Business Plan Competition
- POST secondments
- Connect A
- Partnership Research Grants
- Policy Secondments



Knowledge Exchange Call



- To enable the sharing and flow of knowledge, people, skills and expertise between the NERC research base and its user communities
- To help form communities made up of the research base and users of research outcomes to increase the exchange of ideas, knowledge, needs and requirements, and may generate new research directions;
- To facilitate the training of people in the user community in techniques that have previously been retained within the research base;
- To allow the movement of people between the research base and user organisations.

Not for: new research, commercialisation, academic-academic collaboration or public engagement

KE Call Facts and Figures

- External peer review and moderated using a panel of NERC Peer Review College and affiliate (user) members
- 50 awards since 2004 – significant number (>15) of atmospheric/climate projects
- About £9.5m committed since 2004
- Broad range of users involved in projects, from public, private and third sectors.
- Joint KE calls with research programmes (eg e-Science, FREE)

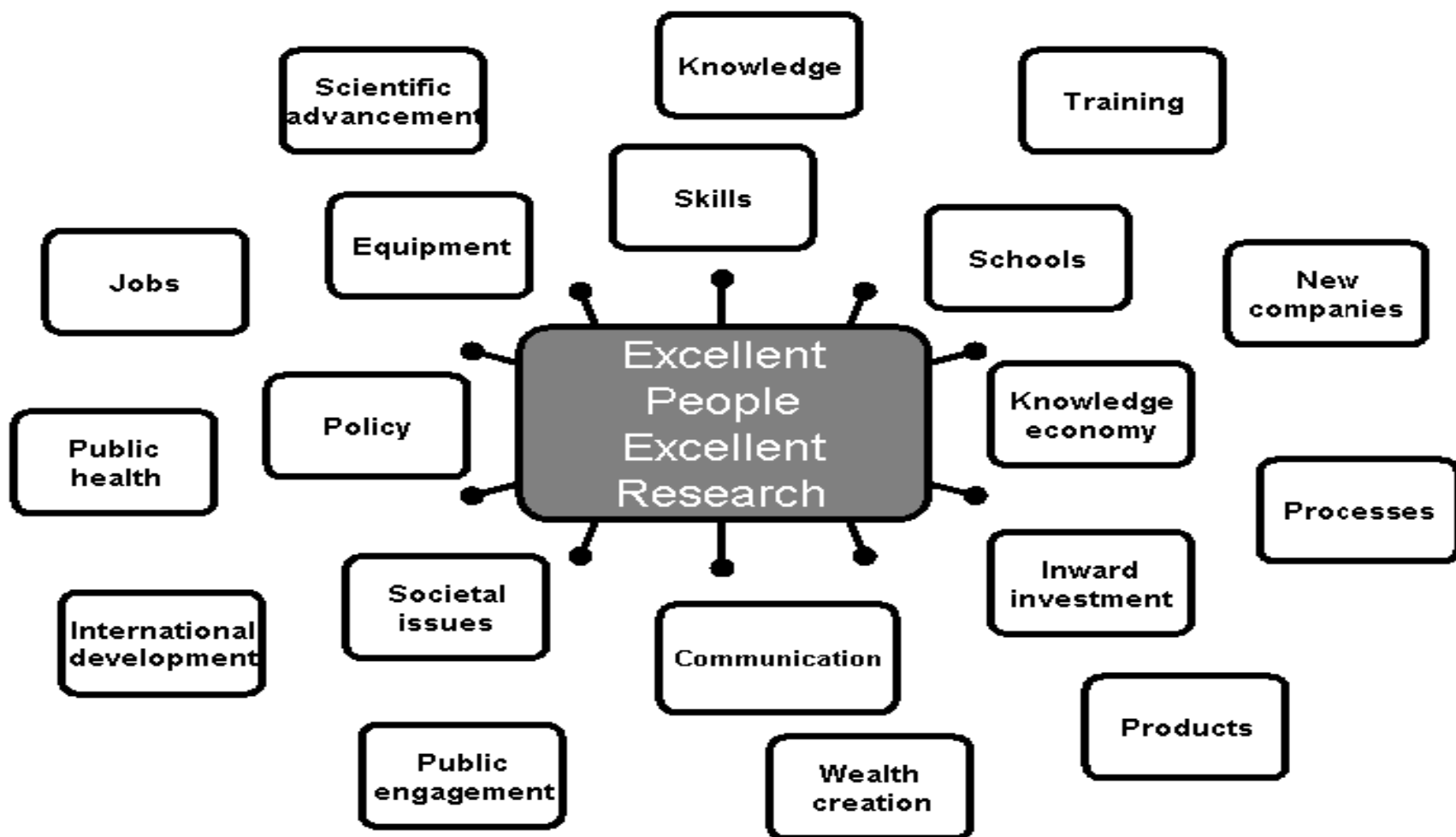
Reviewing the KE Call

- To understand the impact of KE funded under the call to date
- To understand the experience of users and academics engaged in the call process
- To recommend how future funds should be directed to ensure effective KE

Review will report at the end of 2009

Impact Plans

- Introduced for all grant schemes for all Research Councils
- The Impact Plan should detail:
 - those who may benefit from the research outcomes;
 - how they might benefit;
 - any evidence of engagement with potential users of the research prior to submitting the proposal; and
 - methods for disseminating data/knowledge/skills in the most effective and appropriate manner.
- Science excellence will continue to be the main assessment criterion – no diminution of science quality
- Involve affiliate (user) members of the NERC Peer Review College



Summary & Conclusions

BIS | Department for Business
Innovation & Skills



HM TREASURY

Government driver:
Impact, not activity

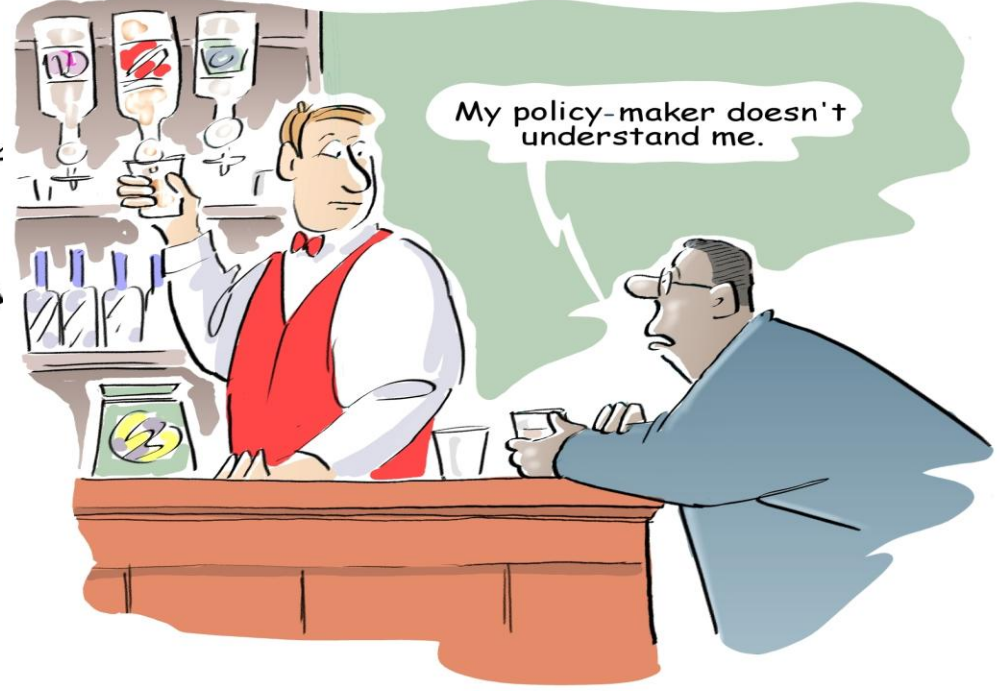
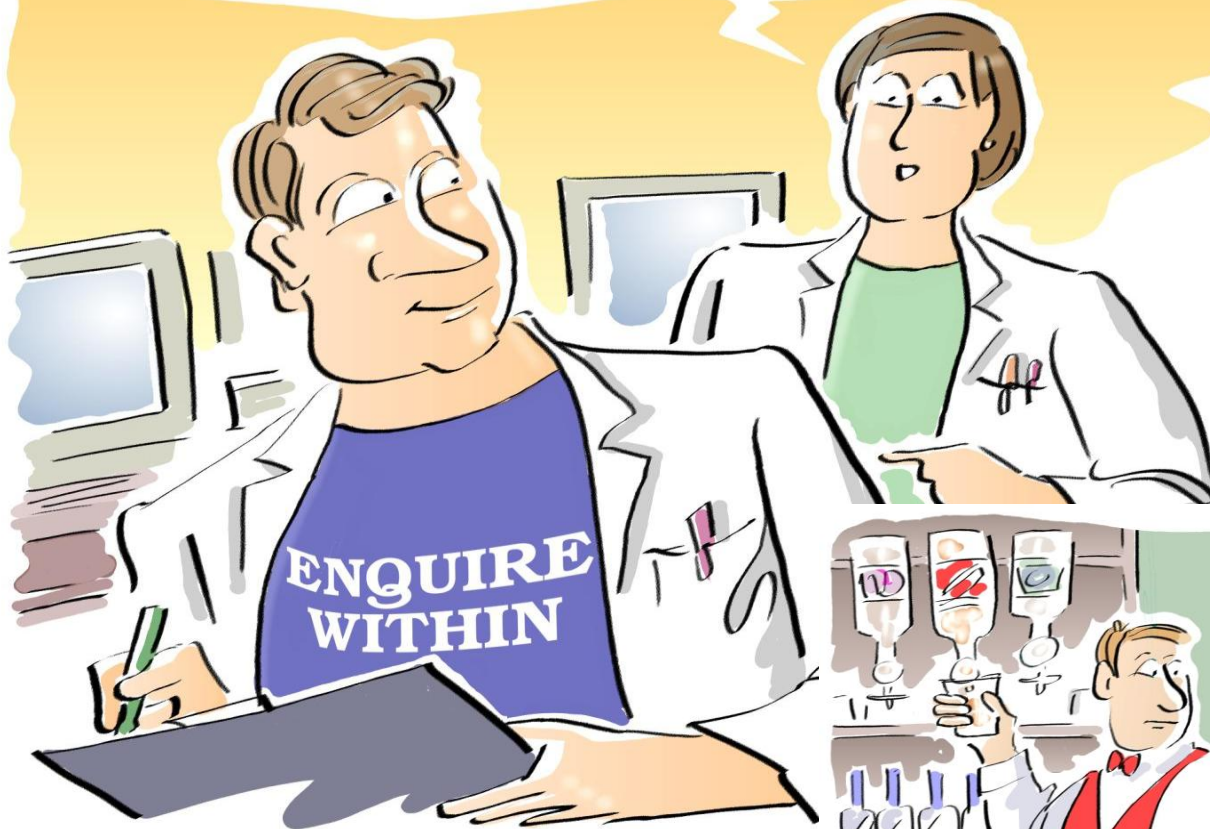
Societal driver:
One planet living



Knowledge Exchange:

- a dialogue, not a monologue
- pervasive throughout the NERC community

That chap from DEFRA is asking for you again - you've clearly made some kind of impression there...



Thank you
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