

**Meeting Assurance Report to  
the Council of Governors**

<b>Name of Committee / Group</b>	Research and Innovation Committee
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	17 February 2025
<b>Chair</b>	Dean Royles, Non-Executive Director and Committee Chair
<b>Lead Officer</b>	David Black, Chief Medical Officer (Development)
<b>Meeting Administrator</b>	Moyosore Orioye, Business Manager, Chief Executive's Office

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide in summary an update on the key discussions and outcomes of the above meeting.

**Agenda items covered at the meeting**

The agenda included the following items:

- Board Assurance Framework Deep Dive Review into Research and Innovation Strategic Risk (DB)
- Research and Innovation Performance and Insights (WB)
- Research and Innovation – Allocation of research funding (WB)
- Academic Health Science Partnership Update (to confirm next steps and timeline for implementation) (DB)
- Review Objectives for 2025/26 and Progress against 2024/25 Objectives (DR)

**Matters to highlight**

Specific areas to highlight are as follows:

- Reviewed and discussed the Borad Assurance Deep Dive. Noted and welcomed the good progress made on improving governance. Noted ongoing issues regarding barriers and requested that Research Executive Committee review actions and prepare a plan to resolve the issues to be presented to a future R and I committee. Received updates on Issues in CCTC including funding model and culture and alignment with CRF. Agreed that assurance remained 'Limited'
- Received and noted the Performance and Insights Report. Highlights included continued progress on improved governance, directorate accountability, improved governance and management structures. Finance review is underway and reporting back in June. NIHR will be a 5% reduction with mitigating actions taken. Discussed drop in performance on recruitment targets with improvement anticipated. Discussed commercial portfolio performance and will agenda an item on industry links. Welcomed the focus on developing innovation metrics.
- Work is underway on reviewing the allocation of research funding and overheads with a paper to be presented to the next committee.

- Received a positive update on the development of an Academic Health Partnership. Meetings taking place over the next 6 to 8 weeks. Action plan and timelines to be presented May meeting of Research and Innovation Committee.
- Reviewed Committee Objectives for 2024/25 and noted actions taken. These had been appropriate for the establishment of a new Committee. Agreed to review 2025/26 objectives to be presented to next meeting. Agreed a broader discussion with committee chairs on including VFM elements.

Documents approved were: None

**New significant issues / concerns escalated including proposals on the next steps to address this**

New areas which the Committee / Group wishes to escalate as potential areas of non-compliance, that need addressing urgently or escalating: None

**Implications**

<b>Aim of the STHFT Corporate Strategy</b>		<b>✓ Tick as appropriate</b>
1	Deliver the Best Clinical Outcomes	✓
2	Provide Patient Centred Services	✓
3	Employ Caring and Cared for Staff	✓
4	Spend Public Money Wisely	✓
5	Create a Sustainable Organisation	✓
6	Deliver Excellent Research, Education and Innovation	✓

**Recommendations**

The Council of Governors is asked to NOTE the update provided.