

Knowledge Exchange Framework: KE Concordat

- This paper invites RKEC to comment on the first draft of the Research England led Knowledge Exchange Concordat. RKEC is invited to recommend some high-level feedback for the KEF Concordat Task and Finish Group, and to discuss the potential impact of the concordat in relation to the future development of the UIF.

Recommendations

- Discuss the first draft of the KEF Concordat and recommend some high-level feedback to SFC to consider as part of its informal feedback to the Task and Finish Group.
- Discuss the potential impact of the KEF Concordat in relation to the future development of the UIF.
- Note that the annexes to this paper should be treated as confidential and will not be published as they contain information intended for future publication.

Financial implications

- None.

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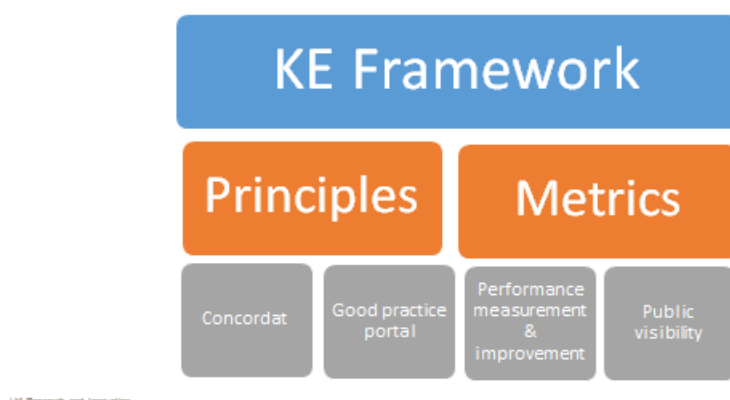
Purpose

1. This paper invites RKEC to comment on the first draft of the Research England led Knowledge Exchange Concordat. RKEC is invited to recommend some high-level feedback for the KEF Concordat Task and Finish Group, and to discuss the potential impact of the concordat in relation to the future development of the UIF.

Background

2. The UK Government has asked Research England to lead on developing a knowledge exchange framework. Professor Trevor McMillan, the Vice-Chancellor of Keele University, acts as the KE framework champion, overseeing the programme of work from the perspective of university leadership.
3. The KEF will comprise two pillars – ‘principles’ and ‘metrics’¹. Under the ‘principles’ pillar it is intended that a KE Concordat will be established to describe a set of principles for the leadership and management of knowledge exchange in universities that will enable:
 - the identification and exchange of good practice;
 - the improvement of practice through a process of self-review and analysis;
 - the development of partnerships and collaboration/mutual understanding between universities, funders and officials.
4. The indicative timescale is as follows:
 - First Draft of Concordat - June 2018
 - Discussions with key stakeholders - Summer 2018
 - Consultation with sector - Autumn 2018
 - Launch of Concordat - January 2019

¹ Discussed at RKEC on 17 May 2018 – slides attached at annex B for information. An oral update on progress with KEF metrics will be given at the meeting.



Draft KEF Concordat

5. A KEF Concordat Task and Finish Group, chaired by Trevor McMillan, has been set up to develop the concordat. We received a copy of the first draft in confidence in July (attached at Annex A) which we invite RKEC to comment on. The views of RKEC will be incorporated into an early, and high-level, response from SFC which we will send to the group for consideration prior to the planned consultation in the autumn.
6. The University Innovation Fund was introduced in AY 2016/17 to bring SFC's long-term formulaic investment in the knowledge exchange, innovation support and outreach capacity of universities into an outcome-focussed, collaborative framework compatible with the Outcome Agreement approach around which our support for universities is structured.
7. Continuous improvement and the sharing and adoption of good practice are at the heart of the UIF approach therefore, there is potential for overlap and, perhaps, collision. The future development of the UIF will be discussed at this meeting of RKEC and the KEF (principles and metrics) forms part of the policy context.
8. As was the case with the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) it would be for individual universities in Scotland to decide on whether to sign up to the concordat. However, ensuring complementarity with the UIF approach should be a priority for SFC.

Risk assessment

9. There is a low level of risk associated with this paper as it relates to proposals which will be consulted on.

Equality and diversity assessment

10. An assessment is not required for this paper.

Financial implications

11. None.

Recommendations

12. RKEC is invited to:

- Discuss the first draft of the KEF Concordat and recommend some high-level feedback to SFC to consider as part of its informal feedback to the Task and Finish Group.
- Discuss the potential impact of the KEF Concordat in relation to the future development of the UIF.
- Note that the annexes to this paper should be treated as confidential and will not be published as they contain information intended for future publication.

Publication

13. This paper **but not its annex** (which is intended for future publication) will be published on the SFC website.

Further information

14. Contact: Keith McDonald, tel: 0131 313 6674, email: kmcdonald@sfc.ac.uk.