



BBSRC Assessment Strategy

November 2015

BBSRC

Polaris House

North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1UH

www.bbsrc.ac.uk

BBSRC ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

Rigorous assessment, encompassing investment appraisal, on-going monitoring and ex-post evaluation, is essential to all BBSRC's key investment decisions (Figure 1). BBSRC's investment strategy is driven by its Royal Charter objectives and developed through widespread stakeholder consultation. The current Strategic Plan (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/documents/strategic-plan-pdf/>) sets out research priorities and enabling themes, including enabling innovation.

Investment decisions will be driven by the Strategic Plan and guided by expert appraisal of competing proposals against criteria of excellence, strategic relevance (relevance to the current Strategic Plan) and value for money.

All recipients of BBSRC investment funds will report emerging outputs, outcomes and impacts for the duration of the investment and for up to five years beyond, through the researchfish® on-line system. Annual monitoring by peers of major investments, including strategically supported institutes and other significant initiatives, will be carried out, including formal mid-term reviews of all strategic funding to research institutes.

Ex-post evaluation is the key component of BBSRC's assessment cycle linking performance and outcomes to priorities setting and investment decisions, and for monitoring the effectiveness and impact of the investments. BBSRC's evaluation programme is set within its broad evaluation framework (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/about/policies/reviews/funded-science/>), which details BBSRC's rigorous and logical approach.

BBSRC will evaluate its major investments to enable it to:

- Account to all stakeholders for the investments of public money made
- Inform future investment decisions
- Review and refine BBSRC policy, practice and procedures

Evaluation programmes will be set annually and include:

- Formal evaluations of major research and postgraduate training investments
- Reviews of interventions, including schemes to support knowledge exchange between researchers and research users
- Quinquennial reviews of strategic investments in research institutes

Evaluations will link with benefits realisation projects, driving and capturing intended positive benefits from the investments the Council makes in major capital projects, and will identify major achievements and successes, to be developed further through the BBSRC's impact evidence case studies programme (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/impact/>). Evaluations will provide evidence to inform BBSRC Council and Executive strategic decisions, and will therefore focus on strategic priorities. The reports will be published on the BBSRC website, and the programme as a whole will enable BBSRC to highlight major achievements and impacts, and to understand the effectiveness of its operations, across its remit set out in the Royal Charter.

BBSRC Assessment: The Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation Cycle

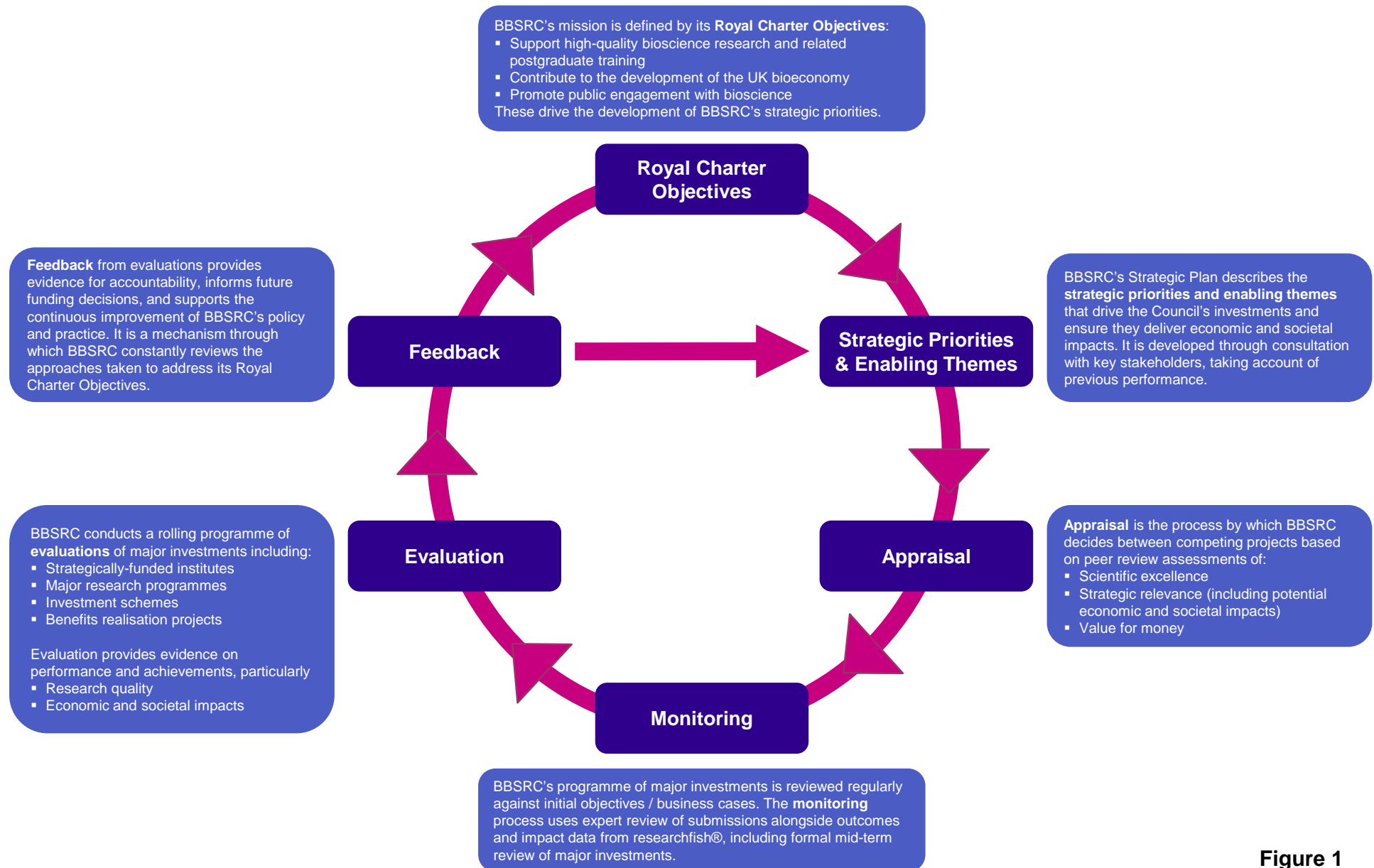


Figure 1