



## **AHRC Annual Delivery Report 2006-07**

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## AHRC Annual Delivery Report 2006-07

### Executive Summary.;

This has been a successful year for AHRC. In only 2 years as a Council we've radically promoted **strategic research**, and introduced **internationalisation**, and **knowledge transfer** to the arts and humanities research community. We've **raised the profile** of UK arts and humanities research within Government departments (eg Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office), internationally (including USA, Germany, Europe, Brazil, India, China Region) and within our sister Councils (through collaborative funding and policy engagement). We've maintained support and **sustainability** in the sector despite budget adjustments towards the end of the year. Our new **vision and strategy**, for AHRC to be a recognised as a world leader in supporting arts and humanities research, is set out in our new Strategic Plan. And, through a programme of internal change, reprioritisation of our funding streams, and realignment of our funding processes we will deliver **extensive efficiencies** (eg over £3m through the introduction of the block grant mechanism alone).

Further information is set out in our Annual Report and our Quarter 4 scorecard. Our plans for the CSR period are presented in our draft Delivery Plan. Our Strategy and Vision for 2007-12 is set out here: [www.ahrc.ac.uk/strategy](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/strategy)

### Summary of AHRC portfolio and spend on priority areas

	2005-06				2006-07				2007-08
	Live awards	£ spent on live awards	New awards announced	£ New awards announced	Live awards	£ spent on live awards	New awards announced	£New awards announced	Projected expenditure
<b>Strategic Research</b>	65	2,804,000	57	1,779,011	152	5,018,904	84	5,499,000	12,813,493
<b>KT</b>	8	233,959	n/a	n/a	102*	1,018,000	39	n/a	2,888,700
<b>International</b>	2	188,000	n/a	n/a	25	252,413	5	766,500	465,985
<b>Responsive Research</b>	1401	32,301,000	660	39,757,366	1368	39,076,000	520	44,000,000	43,060,847
<b>PG - PhDs</b>	1808	23,242,064	859	4,853,712	n/a	26,587,000	795	6,307,662	30,952,740

\*83 dissemination awards, 19 others.

We achieved 54 of our 60 targets scorecard targets for 2006-07.

***Output 1: Healthy UK Research Base: To maximise the impact of the Research Councils investment on maintaining and improving the UK's Research base.***

***HIGHLIGHTS of progress made in 2006-07***

**Support individual & collective responsive mode research – target 1&2**

In 2004 our responsive mode success rates had decreased to 16% in our Research Grants scheme. In SR 2004 we prioritised sustained support for blue-skies responsive mode research. Two years on responsive mode success rates average 30%. Maintaining adequate levels of support in this area ensures the generation of novel research and the continued support of the academic sector as we establish ourselves as a Council and expand into new areas such as KT and strategic research. We've increased support for team-based responsive mode research from 75 to 80% of our responsive mode budget.

**Introduce strategic programmes – target 5**

Strategic Programmes provide targeted funding to generate new knowledge and to increase research capacity in the longer term in areas of intellectual urgency which also address issues of national importance beyond academia. In 2006-07 we saw a step increase in the support given to strategic programmes. In 2007-08 they will account for 23% of our research expenditure (only 8% in 2005-6). In 2006-07 we:

- Launched a Landscape and Environment Programme, to explore our relationship with the natural and built environment £5.5m over 5 years.
- Launched a programme Religion and Society programme, to address questions of belief, human culture, society and religion, £8.3 over 5.5 years (£2.8m of which is supported by ESRC).
- Initiated Beyond Text a programme to explore new means of communication, £5.5m over 5 years.
- Made the final awards in our ICT programme and our Diasporas, Migrations and Identities Programme (DMI) which is already generating considerable engagement with UK policy-making.

- Made 19 awards in Design for the 21st Century (in areas including future of the UK design consultancy, fashion design, branding, service and office design for elderly workers).
- Collaborated with EPSRC and ESRC with a new rapid response funding mechanism to support a programme on New Security Challenges.
- Collaborated with ESRC, EPSRC, MRC and BBSRC on New Dynamics of Ageing programme to contribute towards greater understanding and enrichment of older peoples lives – launched in November 2006.

Integrated strategy for research support for museums and galleries – target 9

We have been working to stimulate Museums and Galleries professionals to work with UK HEI researchers. We supported a range of networks and workshop which introduced participants and explored a range of research themes. Now museums, galleries and archives across the UK are collaborating with UK HEI researchers – particularly through our collaborative awards schemes. For example, some 70% of our collaborative doctoral awards, and 4 of our 8 KT fellowships are in partnership with museums, galleries and archives. Impact studies are already showing the potential economic contribution of such collaboration (see page 9).

Strategically important subject areas – target 6

In support of endangered and emerging areas, we co-funded, with HEFCE and ESRC, 5 centres of excellence in Language Based Area Studies, £24m over 5 years: 2 centres on Russia, Central and East European Studies; 1 on the Arab world; and 2 centres on East Asia (covering China and Japan). 42 new studentships already created. [www.ahrc.ac.uk/apply/postgrad/modern\\_languages\\_area\\_studies.asp](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/apply/postgrad/modern_languages_area_studies.asp)

56 Ring-fenced doctoral awards have been made in 5 subject areas: ancient and medieval materials and artifacts; early languages of the British Isles and their literatures; East and Central European and Balkan Studies; Literatures, histories, cultures and languages; history of architecture and the built environment; and linguistics of major European Languages.

Our Collaborative Research Training Programme has supported 3 consortia of HEIs to provide specialised training in the areas of linguistics, applied ethics, and Russian archives.

Shift to support doctoral students – target 12

In the financial year ending 31 March 2007 we supported in total over 3,000 postgraduate students. Payments totalled £37,060,667. This was in support of 2089 doctoral students (including Collaborative Doctoral Awards and doctoral students attached to Research Grants), 522 Research Preparation Master's students and 396 Professional Preparation Master's students.

In our 2006 competition we made awards to 1561 new postgraduate researchers, an increase of 1% from 2005-06 despite a 2% increase in applications.

Within our Postgraduate Support programme we continued to prioritise postgraduate Doctoral awards from 40% of our PG awards in 2004-05 to 45% in 2006-07 (50% projected for 2007-08). And, in line with Roberts' recommendations we have increase stipends to £12,300 (for PhD's in 2006).

We've introduced 4-year awards to enable students to develop specialist skills, for example, in languages, to equip them for their research.

Funding is now provided to support specialist skills training.

Our decision to introduce a more strategic block grant mechanism for funding future PhDs will stimulate HEIs to align their research, training, and knowledge transfer strategies; it will enable AHRC to allocate its funding more strategically, and it will generate an estimated £3m efficiency saving within the AHRC and arts and humanities sector.

Research careers – target 13

We initiated a programme of support with an **early research careers event**, attracting over 100 people, to alert students to available funding, explore networking

opportunities, and potential career paths with established researchers. We also launched an **early careers grants stream**, to assist new researchers at the start of their careers gain experience of managing and leading research projects. Applications are currently undergoing peer review.

A survey of the careers paths of our funded students indicates that while a majority (74%) of PhDs now work in higher education, a further 19% work in the public and not-for-profit sectors including the BBC, National Trust, Government departments. 66% of PhDs and 72% of masters students said that AHRC funding was essential to their careers.

***HIGHLIGHTS of the whole SR period 2005-07***

**Expenditure on Health of Disciplines Initiatives in SR2004 period**

Extract from the Annual Health of Disciplines report:

	2005/06 (actual £)	2006/07 (actual £)	2007/08 (planned £)
Language-based Area Studies	-	330,500	1,042,376
Postgraduate Ring-fenced Awards	1,899,701	2,023,845	* *
Research Grants (early careers)	-	-	n/k
Fellowships in the Creative and Performing Arts	2,332,000	2,657,182	2,904,958
Interdisciplinary Research - Strategic Programmes (cross Council programmes)	483,841	1,506,209	6,942,007

\*new scheme: dependent on the quality and quantity of applications.

\* \* these awards are now rolled into the main PG doctoral scheme

- 1654 new responsive mode research awards made since 2005. £40m allocated for responsive mode awards in 2007-08.
- We've increased support for team-based research from 75 to 80 percent of our responsive mode stream.
- We have increased strategic team-based research programmes. The proportion of our research budget in this area will increase from 8% 2005-06 to 23% in 2007-08. Since 2005 we've supported in excess of 140 new awards targeted in areas of national and intellectual importance.
- Ring-fenced Doctoral awards in 5 priority disciplinary areas have supported 163 new PhD students over the past 3 years at £6.14m.

***HIGHLIGHTS of forthcoming year 2007-08***

- Delivering the first awards under the new Beyond Text programme.
- Delivering final awards under Museums and Galleries programme – research to underpin exhibitions – the lynchpin of this programme.
- Delivering awards under the New Security Challenges initiative.
- Expanding the Religion and Society programme to address Youth by £4.5m (subject to Council approval).
- Revitalising conservation science through the proposed Heritage programme.
- Language-based area study centres will provide funding for around 30 postdoctoral awards lasting 2-3 years.
- Publication of research findings from phase I Design in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

***Output 2: Better Exploitation: To increase the contribution made to improving the exploitation of the research base to meet national economic and public service objectives***

***HIGHLIGHTS of progress made in 2006-07***

Support entrepreneurship among arts and humanities researchers (target 4 & 14)

Knowledge Transfer is one of the main areas of growth arising from SR04. AHRC has quickly established itself as a trusted KT broker and arts and humanities research is now recognised as an innovation driver. Our leadership has resulted in a huge change in culture in the academic community. And, through the development of extensive networks with the creative industries, we've established ourselves as a leading-authority on research-based KT and innovation in the creative economy. With SR funding, within the last year we have launched a **portfolio of KT schemes** which is receiving an enthusiastic welcome from our community and organisations in the public and private sector: a **Knowledge Catalyst Scheme targeted at SMEs** has engendered an appetite for research-based innovation in previously hard to reach SMEs; a **BBC Future Media and Technology collaborative R&D partnership scheme** –projects for which aim to generate policy recommendations in areas ranging from archive usage, to audience engagement from childhood to older audiences, to user generated content; **Knowledge Transfer Fellowships** to enable researchers and organisations beyond the HEI sector (e.g. commercial partners, national museums, local authorities and prisons) to collaborate to realise KT benefits of research outputs; and a **Research Exchange Network** to promote KT among Arts and Humanities Researchers and potential users; 13 awards through a **Nature of Creativity Programme** to investigate the nature of creativity and its relationships with innovation and risk;

Our **Collaborative Doctoral Awards** scheme has generated 58 new research partnerships with organisations such as national museums and galleries, national theatres, the National Trust, and the BBC.

In response to the challenges set out in the Warry report *Increasing Economic Impact of the Research Councils*, we commissioned PwC to conduct a series of **Impact studies** to explore the nature of impact of AHRC investment in arts and humanities research on the UK economy, culture, and society . These revealed some significant findings, including :

- Research Grant: [Polynesian visual arts: meanings and histories in Pacific and European cultural contexts](#). This unique project brought together objects and documents from the 1760s to the mid-nineteenth century, amassing a register of over 1,300 artefacts from various surviving collections. It was disseminated through workshops, symposia and conferences, journal articles and a book, as well as two major exhibitions: **Pacific Encounters: Art & Divinity in Polynesia 1760 – 1860** at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts (21 May – 13 August 2006), receiving 21,000 visitors; **Power & Taboo: Sacred Objects from the Pacific** at the British Museum (28 September, 2006 – 7 January 2007), receiving 120,000 visitors. PwC estimate that these exhibitions had an impact of **£8.1millions** on the UK economy, including **£3.9millions** for the London economy; and **£270,000** for the Norwich regional economy.
- AHRC's Research Centre for Studies in Intellectual Property and Technology Law. University of Edinburgh: Protecting intellectual property and developing the knowledge economy has become a vital issue for government economic policy, and research produced at this AHRC Centre is crucial to underpinning new legislation on areas such as e-commerce, IT, biotechnology and medical ethics. Centre staff were influential in the very significant Gowers review (commissioned by HMT) of international property, and provide expert chairs for ethical healthcare governance committees for Wellcome Trust, Scottish Executive, and the NHS. A recent PwC study found that the Centre has made a net additional economic impact of **£300,000** from consultancy and research income, including multiplier effects. Looking ahead to 2031, the total economic income from training activities will be equivalent to **£8.3-£11millions** and the likely total net lifetime earnings economic benefit will be **£8.6-£11.3millions**.
- Two linked Research Grants investigated open loop solutions for recycled glass for use in public art and architectural design - sustainable regeneration was at the heart of this research. The developed composite material was subsequently licensed to a local manufacturer under the trade name TTURA™. TTURA™ is an attractive, durable material typically consisting 85% recycled glass, including previously 'difficult' waste from consumer, building and automotive waste streams. This research generated a spin out company 'EightInch'. As well as winning many prestigious awards, TTURA™ has

been used in a series of public art works, such as the Newcastle 'Blue Carpet', and is sold as worktops and flooring in domestic and commercial settings, receiving excellent reviews in design and home interior magazines. There are many impacts arising from these projects, including environmental benefits. According to PwC, the economic impact of commercialisation activities includes a projected Gross Value Added from the companies selling TTURA™ in the range of **£2,355,295** to **£3,202,663** over 25 years; and projected income streams from intellectual property royalties ranging from **£530,170** to **£929,478** over 25 years.

In 2006 Philip Esler took up the leadership of the RCUK Knowledge Transfer and Economic Impact group (**RCUK KTEIG**).

#### Public and stakeholder engagement (targets 16 and 17)

Public engagement into the non-academic arena is another new area of activity for the AHRC.

Our public engagement programme has focussed on developing links with a range of non-academic stakeholders including UK government. Our British Library Seminar Series on **Religion** was topical and well attended. The AHRC's strategic programmes are early in their development yet are already beginning to influence public policy: our **Diasporas** Programme Director was commissioned by the **Home Office** to write a report on arts and humanities research and literature relating to terrorism and security. AHRC staff have applied their expertise of the creative industries to assist the **TSB** in the planning and support mechanism for that sector as well as advising the **DCMS** on the forthcoming Creative Economy green paper.

The **House of Lords Science and Technology Committee** has recommended that AHRC lead the Research Councils in the **co-ordination of UK heritage research**, an area where the UK has an opportunity to rejuvenate and exploit its potential world-leading position in areas such as conservation science.

See Science in Society on Page 19.

## Improving International Engagement (target 15)

EU funding is increasingly important in the humanities. AHRC has been pressing for the inclusion of the humanities in the major 50Bn euro EU R&D funding programme FP7 – the largest publicly-funded R&D programme in the world. Now, three of the twelve FP7 programme themes have humanities content. AHRC staff sit on the management committee for the theme: 'socioeconomic and the humanities' and will ensure its accessibility to our academic community. AHRC has alerted the UK research community to this opportunity and an estimated ¼ of the applications received to FP7 are in the humanities area. Brussels has recognised AHRC's expertise in this area through the secondment of our international officer Carl Dolan to work at the centre of this development.

During 2006-07 AHRC officers have initiated contact and developed working relationships with a range of international research funding agencies and formalised arrangements which promote transnational collaborations between researchers by introducing mechanisms which reduce the barriers to international research – particularly double jeopardy in peer review. In 2006 we established relationships with;

- Europe – leadership of a HERA project on impact and quality assessment principles which were disseminated at an international benchmarking conference in January, and chairing HERA from 1 March 07; support for the EUROCORES LOGICC programme; influence of FP7 humanities themes; and development of an ERA-net on cultural heritage.
- Germany – the initiation of a formal agreement with DRG.
- USA – formal agreement with NSF to foster collaboration in the areas of : linguistics, cultural anthropology, cultural geography, and archaeology of the Americas. Co-funding with the Library of Congress that is supporting 22 UK scholars to utilise US research resources and raise the profile of UK research overseas.
- China region – formalised agreement with the Taiwan National Science Council, and South Korea to stimulate research particularly in the areas of conservation studies, museums and galleries and digitisation of archives

where the Taiwanese have a strong programme of research. Generous participation in RCUK China Office.

- Brazil – working with the UK Foreign and Commonwealth office to support the Year of Science in Brazil in September 2007 including a knowledge exchange event “Research, knowledge and creativity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”. RCUK Executive Group approved Philip Esler’s proposal to establish a collaborative funding partnership between the UK Research Councils and the Brazilian Research Funding Office.

***Output 2: Better Exploitation: To increase the contribution made to improving the exploitation of the research base to meet national economic and public service objectives***

***HIGHLIGHTS of the whole SR Period 2005-07***

- We have introduced KT to a new swathe of Researchers through new schemes, opportunities for collaborative engagement and incentives, and national policy development.
- We have established an impressive portfolio of contacts and engagement with the creative industries and SMEs.
- We've improved the profile of arts and humanities research in Europe and beyond, and increased the opportunities and reduced the barriers, to enable UK researchers to work collaboratively with colleagues and resources overseas.

***HIGHLIGHTS of forthcoming year 2007-08***

- Build on the pilot Knowledge Exchange programme with the BBC to engage other partners in this acclaimed model of collaborative R&D.
- Embed good opportunities within our wider portfolio of research and PG programmes.
- Highlight exemplars of good practice to increase the appetite for research-based innovation among our research community, the public and private sectors.
- Work closely with the new Technology Strategy Board to launch a Knowledge Transfer Network for the creative industries.
- Through HERA, AHRC has been working on development of 2-EU thematic calls on the themes of 'Humanities as a source of creativity and innovation' and 'cultural dynamics' funding for which will depend on the outcome of CSR07.

## *Progress in management*

### *HIGHLIGHTS of progress made in 2006-07*

A new Vision and Strategy for 2007-2012

We have just launched a **New Vision and Strategic Plan** which reflects our new remit as a Research Council, the increasing importance of knowledge transfer and promotion of the impact of arts and humanities research in economic, social, policy and cultural terms, the rapidly developing international agenda, and the drive towards greater efficiency in the way in which we operate.

Organisational Development Programme concluded and Investor in People status achieved

Our Organisational Development Programme concluded with a programme of leadership training for staff. The 2006 Staff Survey demonstrated significant improvements since 2005 in many areas including **leadership** and **internal communication**. These activities contributed to the attainment of **Investors in People status**.

Shaping the Shared Services Centre (SSC) and redesigning the AHRC  
– Forging our Future

Despite our small scale we have devoted significant staff resource to the development of the **Shared Services Centre**. We have contributed actively to the development of the business plans, and are represented on all of the SSC work-streams, including for example the system supplier decision-board.

We recognise that the development of a shared services facility will offer us the potential to focus on more strategic value-added activities post-SSC, so we have initiated a "Forging our Future" programme to co-ordinate all our change processes and to redesign the organisation to be fit for purpose, and more outward looking, engaged and influential with a wider range of stakeholders.

## Improving the efficiency of our core business activities

We've initiated a project "AHRC imaginary for organisational design" to assist with the restructuring of the AHRC organisation. And we have reviewed and revised some of our most central activities, including our **postgraduate funding mechanism** and **peer review process**, to introduce important innovations in both in terms of policy which will also make efficiency savings when fully implemented. A new block grant postgraduate funding mechanism has been developed to direct funding more strategically in new and emerging subject areas, to facilitate interdisciplinary research, and to promote integration of HEI PG, research and KT strategies. The Block Grant Mechanism and small residual scheme will be introduced in 2008. The change will generate an estimated £3m efficiency saving in the sector.

Our **international agreements** with Taiwan, Korean, USA, Germany and Brazil will overcome the barrier of double jeopardy – initiating the concept of international peer review and opening up international research opportunities to the UK research community.

We undertake regular **Evaluations** of our investments to ensure that our funding schemes are meeting their aims and objectives, so that strategic decisions can be made concerning reprioritisation.

Such reviews have enabled Council to take key decisions to conclude the following programmes: **Responsive Research Enhancement, Arts and Humanities Data Service, subject reviews**, and generate substantial efficiency savings.

### **HIGHLIGHTS of the whole spending review period 2005-07**

- Research Councils have redefined their subject areas to enhance opportunities for interdisciplinary projects
- AHRC streamlined its Research Grants Schemes in 2005-06
- Responsive-mode Research Centres scheme is now concluded and phase I Centres are being sunsetted.

## **HIGHLIGHTS of the forthcoming year 2007-08**

The withdrawal of £5.3m from our EYF, about 5% of our anticipated expenditure in 2007/8, posed a significant risk to the delivery of activities in 2007-08. As a result, our strategic Research Resource programme has been postponed; our Research Leave scheme has been reduced by some £2m, in turn reducing our support for individual research from a target 25% of our responsive mode budget to approximately 18%; and our Museums and Galleries Programme research round to underpin exhibitions has been postponed.

### Management and efficiency highlights:

- Launch new Postgraduate Block Grant Funding Mechanism in 2008 (first awards in 2009).
- Review of peer review decision-making system in 2007-08 – to be implemented in 2008 if approved.
- Completion and approval of the SSC Full Business Case (FBC) in the summer 2007- move to implementation phase post FBC including migration planning.
- AHRC organisational redesign in 2007-08.

## Progress to date against targets and milestones

It has been a very productive and successful year for the AHRC. A majority, 51 of 65 activities, were delivered within the year. A further 3 were delivered in the first quarter of 2007-08. Highlights are presented above. Of the 11 activities that were not delivered:

### Re-prioritisation and changes following the EYF reductions

The EYF adjustments resulted in the decision to postpone progress on the **Museums and Galleries Research Programme** competition to underpin research (target 9); to postpone indefinitely the new **Strategic Resource Enhancement programme** (target 8);

Our decision to create savings by reducing the success rate for **Research Leave** will reduce our support for **individual researchers** to 18% of the responsive mode budget in 2007/08.

Investment in a new postgraduate initiative to support **career development** (in collaboration with the British Academy) has also been postponed pending the outcome of CSR.

### Planned delays and slippage

**Beyond Text Programme**, target 5 (3 milestones) – A revised timetable was approved by Council and there was further slippage by quarter 4. However, progress has been swift in the early part of 2007. A director has been appointed and consultation events have informed the development of a draft specification.

**ICT E-Science Awards**, target 7 – A very slight delay as awards were delivered in May 07 rather than March 07.

**ICT Review**, Target 7 – the delivery of the final report slipped to the end of March 07.

Delivery of **KT Task Group report**, target 14 – a planned delay pending publication of the government’s Creative Economy Programme report. However the majority of the task group’s recommendations have already been implemented during 2006-07. A current summary statement will be presented by the task group to accompany the Creative Economy Programme Green Paper.

Issues affecting effective delivery

**LOCI fellowship scheme**, New Target 8: – the uptake of this new programme which enables UK researchers to use research resources in the US has been low despite an additional round which was launched to fill untaken places. The issue will be reviewed in 2007.

**Public Engagement Training**, Target 16: – planned change in scope. Further AHRC’s media training courses were postponed as public engagement activities will now take place through HEFCE Research Councils’ Centres for Public Engagement.

Further information is provided in the quarterly scorecards which are published on our website. [www.ahrc.ac.uk/about/delivery\\_plan.asp](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/about/delivery_plan.asp)

## Science and Society

In 2006 we delivered a series of policy seminars at the House of Commons on the themes of Religion and Society and on the contribution of arts and humanities to security challenges, commissioned by the Home Office.

We organised a series of briefings for journalists on security related issues as part of the 2006 BA Science Festival.

A 'Meet the Media' event in May 06 facilitated exchange between AHRC's academic community and the media.

We agreed to contribute £149k to RCUK HEFCE Beacons for Public Engagement Centres which will receive a total of £8m over 4 years. This programme will tackle barriers to public engagement and deliver public engagement activities. 12 of the 86 bids received have been asked to submit a final bid. Funding announcements will be made in September 2007.

## The Gershon efficiency programme

In 2006-07 we met 95% of our Gershon savings target and made a substantial contribution to the Councils' collective Gershon Targets:

<b>Saving Type</b>	<b>Target for 2006-07</b>	<b>Achieved in 2006-07</b>	<b>% target achieved</b>
Admin costs	£75k reduction	£45k	61%
Reprioritisation	£3.308m reprioritised	£3,167m	96%
Co-funding	£25k Increase	£9k	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,408k</b>	<b>£3,221k</b>	<b>95%</b>

In 2007-08 we aim to increase the profile of Gershon within the AHRC to maintain the momentum of savings generated. We are investigating ways of capturing savings that we know that we are generating but not currently recording.

## **Future targets/milestones on Objective 1 and Objective 2**

Highlights for objective 1 and 2 areas are provided in the sections above. In summary the AHRC's priorities for 2007-08 are:

- Maintaining momentum of our strategic programmes
- Developing leadership among research councils for heritage research
- Introducing the new PG Block Grant Mechanism
- Embedding Knowledge Transfer
- Developing a policy function within the AHRC and making stakeholder engagement a core driver for our work
- Delivery of core business during a period of substantial organisational change

## **Key risks**

These risks will be reviewed in 2007.

1. That we fail to demonstrate the value of investment in arts and humanities research to government.
2. That insufficient public funding is provided to enable AHRC to deliver its core strategic aims and operate effectively
3. That there is a loss of faith in AHRC by the arts and humanities research community.
4. That we fail to understand and engage with Government requirements concerning accountability, reporting etc. undermining their confidence in our ability to manage ourselves.
5. That we fail to derive adequate benefits from our engagement with RCUK and other Research Councils, and in particular from the shared services centre.
6. That our governance and management processes and system of internal control do not effectively support delivery of our strategic goals.
7. That financial and other resources are not effectively deployed, utilised or controlled.
8. That we fail to recruit, develop and retain staff with appropriate skills to support achievement of our strategic goals.
9. That we do too much and fail to deliver core business.

**A summary financial table**

*Council may refer to the annual accounts which are submitted for information.*

*OSI will be provided with the figures in the same format as the monthly DEL reports to OSI.*

**AHRC's deliverables for spending review 2004.**

SR deliverable	Output 1 Healthy UK Research Base	Output 2 Better Exploitation	Management
1. Sustain support for team-based and collaborative research	√		
2. Sustain support for individual researchers	√		
3. Research programme development informed by a regular series of subject reviews	√		
4. Support entrepreneurship amongst researchers in the Arts and Humanities		√	
5. The establishment of strategic research programmes	√	√	
6. Sustain the health of strategically important subjects (including language-based area studies)	√		
7. Enhance the ICT infrastructure and facilities to support research in the Arts and Humanities	√		
8. Enhance opportunities for interdisciplinary research	√		
9. Establish the first-ever integrated strategy for research support in Museums and Galleries	√	√	
10. Research and Knowledge Transfer programme development informed by a regular series of sector interaction studies (SIS)		√	
11. Enhance links between the HE and private and public sectors through Collaborative Doctoral Awards		√	
12. Shift resources within the	√		

postgraduate budget to focus support on students preparing for and undertaking Doctoral research.			
13. Support the development of career paths for academic researchers in the arts and humanities	√		
14. Strengthen links between the creative industries (CIs) and the arts and humanities research base		√	
15. Provide support for interdisciplinary research at the international level and improve the co-ordination of arts and humanities research at the European level.	√	√	
16. Enhance activities for public engagement in the context of our interpretation of Science and Society			√
17. Enhance our stakeholder engagement programme to ensure that key non-academic stakeholders are covered as well as the academic community			√
18. To work towards the agreed cross-Council efficiency targets for 2007-08			√
19. New for 2007-08: Manage a period of significant organisational change			√

## Annex 2: AHRC strategic research programmes:

- **Cultures of Consumption:** With ESRC £5m 2002-2008.  
To deepen our understanding of consumption and consumers by exploring the dynamics of consumer cultures, past and present, and by highlighting political, economic and cultural implications for the future.
- **ICT Programme:** £3.8m 2003-2008  
To build national capacity in the use of ICT for arts and humanities research,
- **Design for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:** with EPSRC, £6.5m, 2005 to 2009.  
To support leading-edge design research that explores new modes of design thinking suitable for the challenges of designing for 21st Century society
- **Landscape and Environment Programme:** £5.5m, 5 years, 2005-2010.  
To explore our relationship with the natural and built environment.
- **Diasporas, Migration and Identity:** £5.5m 2005-2009. To research, discuss and present issues related to diasporas and migration, and their past and present impact on subjectivity and identity, culture and the imagination, place and space, emotion, politics and sociality.
- **New Dynamics of Ageing:** £1m from AHRC to £20m cross-Council programme. 7 year 2006-2013. Aims to develop practical policy and implementation guidance and novel scientific, technological and design responses to help older people enjoy better quality lives. Builds on AHRC's Stages of Life Initiative.
- **Language Based Area Studies Centres:** 2006-2011.

**Centre for East European Language-Based Area Studies (CEELBAS)** led by Dr Robin Aizelwood at UCL. The other key partners are Oxford and Birmingham. Total budget of £5,600,000.

**White Rose East Asia Centre (WREAC)** led by Professor Victor King at the University of Leeds. The other key partner is Sheffield. Total Budget of £4,000,000.

**Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW)** led by Professor Robert Hillenbrand at Edinburgh. The other key partners are Manchester and Durham. Total Budget of £4,929,794.

**British Inter-university China Centre (BICC)** led by Dr Frank Pieke at Oxford. The other key partners are Manchester and Bristol. Total Budget of £4,979,612.

**Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies (CRCEES)** led by Richard Berry at Glasgow. The other key partners are St Andrews and Nottingham. Total Budget of £4,663,950.

- **Museums and Galleries Research Programme.** £3m, 2006-2011.
- **New Security Challenges.** £2.5m with ESRC and FCO 2007-2009.  
It will produce an informed and critical assessment of the diverse causes of 'radicalisation' and transnational political violence.
- **Countering terrorism in public places:** AHRC, ESRC, EPSRC and NSAC have allocated £2 million to co-fund projects 2007-2010. AHRC £350k.  
To explore long-term ideas for understanding and deterring terrorist behaviour; designing and developing technologies and environments to combat the devastating impact of terrorist attacks in public places.
- **Religion and Society Programme,** £8.3m over 5.5 years. 2007-2013.  
To address questions of belief, human culture, society and religion,
- **Beyond Text,** £5.5m over 5 years 2007-2012.  
To explore new means of communication.
- **Phase 2 Research Centre for Studies in Intellectual Property and Technology Law at Edinburgh University.** £4m 5 years 2007-2012.  
This Centre will examine the relationship between law, policy and technologies in the areas of intellectual property law and information technology law together with work on media law, medical law & ethics, and forensic evidence.
- **Phase II Research Centre for Musical Performance as Creative Practice,** Royal Holloway 2009 – 2014 £1.7m.  
Focusing on live performance and creative music-making aiming to foster intellectual exchange internationally.

Others:

- Beacons for Public Engagement (Science in Society) 4 years 2008 – 2012.
- Nature of Creativity Programme (KT)
- Heritage – under development
- Extension to the Religion and Society to address Youth – under development