**ESRC Strategic Delivery Plan 2022-2025**

**Vision and principles for change**

ESRC’s purpose is to create a more prosperous, healthy, sustainable and secure society. They will embed the principles of diversity, resilience, connectivity and engagement across all their work, to drive change and create the conditions for an outstanding research and innovation system.

**Strategic Objectives**

These provide the framework for how ESRC will achieve their vision and realise their principles, through world-class:

1. ***People and careers***: Sustaining a world-class, diverse and inclusive social science research base that supports talent across the entire research career through:
   1. Talent, skills and leadership
      1. Launch a new Postgraduate Training Strategy
      2. Launch a new £250 million DTP call
      3. A new pilot initiative to strengthen leadership capabilities at the mid-career stage.
      4. Invest up to £28 million in their Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme
   2. Equality, diversity and inclusion
      1. Launch a new EDI Caucus to support the UKRI EDI Strategy
      2. Implement an EDI Action Plan
      3. Collaborate with the Academy of Social Sciences to embed good EDI practices
2. ***Places:*** Enabling social science to flourish in all places across and beyond the UK, delivering research, data and partnerships through:
   1. Research institutes and centres
      1. Invest up to £36 million in a new round of ESRC Centres
   2. Data infrastructure
      1. Boost investment in ADR UK
      2. Launch rounds 16-18 of data collection for the Understanding Society longitudinal study
      3. Launch a pioneering new ‘Digital Footprints’ infrastructure
   3. International collaboration
      1. A new round of the Open Research Area scheme
      2. Invest in major international strategic initiatives such as NORFACE and T-AP
   4. Impact and engagement
      1. New knowledge exchange programmes, placement and fellowship schemes
      2. A new IAA competition
      3. Create new thematic hubs to inform scrutiny, legislation and debate
   5. Place-based initiatives
      1. Launch Local Policy Innovation Partnerships
      2. Implement UKRI’s ‘Places Toolkit’
3. ***Ideas:*** Capturing and catalysing diverse and excellent ideas across all disciplines, schemes and research career stages, creating new scientific knowledge and real-world impact through:
   1. Research grants
      1. Invest over £40 million a year in the Research Grants, New Investigator Grants and Secondary Data Analysis Initiative schemes.
      2. A new Large Grants call (£10 million)
   2. Research methods
      1. Push forward the frontiers of methodological research through a new collaborative research initiative
   3. Horizon scanning
4. ***Innovation:*** Providing a powerful evidence base which drives innovation across different organisations, sectors and regions to achieve UK-wide growth and prosperity through:
   1. innovation research and evidence
   2. commercialisation
   3. knowledge exchange
5. ***Impacts:*** Ensuring that the full power of UK social science is brought to bear in tackling the most pressing global, national and local challenges through **new strategic priorities** in:
   1. Net Zero, environment, biodiversity and climate change
      1. Invest in ambitious new interdisciplinary programmes on climate change mitigation and adaptation
      2. Launch a major multidisciplinary programme on finding solutions to climate change, including through the International Initiative for Research on Climate Change (IIRCC).
   2. Digital society
      1. Invest in a £5 million programme exploring peoples relationships with digital technologies
      2. A new European programme with AHRC on digital transformations (CHANSE)
      3. Launch a new education research programme (£6 million)
   3. Health and social care
      1. Commission Population Research UK in partnership with MRC (£9 million data infrastructure investment)
      2. Launch a £450,000 programme of food system research trials
   4. Security, risk and resilience
      1. Invest in research that aims to improve human security
      2. Develop new policy-facing research on global trade
   5. Understanding behaviour
      1. Establish a new £15 million national capability in behavioural research
      2. Create a new £5.5 million interdisciplinary CDT in behavioural research
6. ***A world-class organisation***: building an inclusive and diverse workforce empowered to deliver sector-wide leadership by catalysing new ways of working and bringing people together.