



# - Our Purpose -

## Knowledge

## Impact

Advancing knowledge in all areas of human and social activity

Promoting its use for people in the United Kingdom and the wider world



## Guiding Principle on Impact

'No-one has the right to take public money for research unless they are prepared where appropriate to communicate that research for the benefit of the economic development and quality of life of the people of the UK and beyond.'



# -Our principles -

## Quality

## Relevance

## Independence

Quality	Funding research and training of the highest quality by world standards
Relevance	Focusing on areas of major national importance and key policy areas
Independence	Ensuring independence from political, commercial or sectional interests



# The ESRC's Work

Three Strategic and Overlapping Areas

Research

Capacity

Engagement



# Research

Funding cutting edge and excellent research  
in a global research world

***Seizing opportunities*** in responsive mode

***Creating opportunities*** in directed mode



## Response Mode Research

- Blue skies research bubbling up from the research community
- Critical and required to ensure new ideas
- Need to engender a culture of exploitation amongst researchers

BUT

- Cannot guarantee to fill strategic gaps
- Does not systematically address capacity issues



## Research Programmes

- Directed at key research areas where there is a need for concerted and aligned work.
- Opportunity to systematically address capacity
- Led by senior researcher charged with engagement
- Linked to policy areas

Examples of partnerships

TLRP, transport, Scotland's demography



# TLRP

- Partnership with DfES, HEFCE and other UK governments
- Fundamentals
  - Only impeccably world class research
  - Total commitment to engagement



# TLRP

- Broad areas, decisions based on science
- Now challenge of translation

Future:

Fill in strategic gaps



## Some ESRC Lessons

- 1 Users involved from Day 1
- 2 Academics need to be committed from Day 1
- 3 Reward and recognition in HEIs must acknowledge translation
- 4 Role for interlocutors

