



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

## The Senate, 31 October 2018

### President & Vice-Chancellor's Report

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents a summary of key background information on recent developments, and is based on the President & Vice-Chancellor's report to Council on 9 July 2018.

The President & Vice-Chancellor will introduce the report at the meeting and will provide members of the Senate with the opportunity to raise questions on any aspect of the report.

#### 1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

##### 1.1 Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

- 1 April 2018 marked the **formal end of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)**, and on 30 March 2018 United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) was officially established. The Office for Students (OfS) is now in full operation using powers under transitional arrangements until the full regulatory framework comes into force 1 August 2019. **TUoS interest:** TUoS has submitted its application to be recognised as an official HE provider by the OfS and appear on the OFS 'Register' of HE providers. We have received acknowledgment that our application was complete and we expect to hear the outcome in July.

##### 1.2 Office for Students

- The Office for Students (OfS) has [announced](#) how it will allocate £1.5 billion of funding to English universities, with nearly £1.3 billion going to the recurrent teaching grant.

##### 1.3 UKRI

- UKRI** [published](#) its **Strategic Prospectus** in May. Operating throughout the UK with a combined budget of more than £6 billion, UKRI brings together the seven research councils, Innovate UK and Research England. Speakers at the launch event, including the Universities Minister Sam Gyimah, emphasised the important role UKRI is expected to play in delivering the UK's industrial strategy, growing the economy across different regions of the UK and reducing the productivity gap.

##### 1.4 Industrial Strategy

- The Prime Minister's 21 May [speech](#) on science and the **modern Industrial Strategy** set out the first four missions of the Industrial Strategy with one in each Grand Challenge. The PM said the UK would like the option to "fully associate" with European science and innovation programmes after Brexit– including the successor to Horizon 2020 and Euratom R&T (research and training). This would involve an appropriate UK financial contribution in return for maintaining "a suitable level of influence in line with that contribution and the benefits" the UK brings. The PM also stated that the UK "will always be open to the brightest and the best researchers" and "when we leave the European Union, I will ensure that does not change".

## 1.5 House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee

- The **House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee** has [published](#) a report criticising the HE funding system as being unbalanced in favour of full-time university degrees and offering poor value for money to individuals, taxpayers and the economy. It is particularly critical of the decline in flexible and part-time learning, with a significant negative impact on the UK's ability to retrain its workforce. Highlighting a recommendation to reintroduce pre-2016 maintenance grants, the Chair of the Committee, Lord Forsyth accused the Government of using "accounting tricks" to mask the real cost of HE with the effect of increasing debt for future generations. The current Government Review of Post-18 Education and Funding is ongoing. **TUoS interest:** TUoS has submitted joint evidence with the Students' Union to the Review.

## 1.6 Internationalisation

- The Home Secretary, Sajid Javid MP, has [announced](#) a review of the Tier 2 visa system for highly skilled workers entering the UK, with foreign doctors and nurses excluded from the visa cap, and has also said that the Government would look again at the inclusion of international students in the net migration target. **TUoS interest:** TUoS continues to lobby on these issues and raise awareness of the positive impact of an international staff and student body through the #WeAreInternational campaign.

## 1.7 Teaching Excellence Framework

- The 2018 TEF ratings have been [published](#) by the Office for Students: overall 73 providers are rated gold, 134 are rated silver and 62 are rated bronze. A further 27 universities and colleges have a rating of provisional. (Excluding those with provisional ratings, a gold award has been achieved by 27% of participants, silver by 50% and bronze by 23%.) The University of Sheffield chose not to reapply for a TEF rating in Year 3 and retains a Silver award for a further two years.

## 1.8 Pre-HE education reform

- The Education Secretary, Damian Hinds MP, has [announced](#) the first 52 colleges and other providers set to teach T Levels, which will be on a par with A levels and provide a choice between technical and academic education post 16. Courses in construction, digital and education, and childcare will be available from September 2020 with a further 22 courses rolled out in stages from 2021. **TUoS interest:** The Department for Education has accepted the application to open the Doncaster University Technical College (UTC); TUoS supports the UTC and will be represented on the local UTC Board (it is not one of the 52 colleges initially teaching T levels).
- The Department for Education (DfE) has [published](#) its response to the Schools Green Paper. Whilst the Government has dropped its proposal for universities sponsoring schools to be compulsory, the Education Secretary, Damian Hinds MP, has [announced](#) the establishment of a dedicated unit to support universities develop and strengthen partnerships with schools.
- The Government has [announced](#) the development of a new network of specialist post-16 maths schools, established by universities, to drive up standards and help more disadvantaged pupils and girls to study maths. **TUoS interest:** The University decided against participating in the new maths school programme.

## 1.9 UCAS

- UCAS has [published](#) an analysis of all full-time UCAS undergraduate applications made by the 24 March deadline. In summary:

- The proportion of English 18 year olds applying has increased to 37.8%, the highest on record (0.3% up from 2017). There are currently 230,320 English 18 year old applicants to higher education (HE), this is 3,000 (2%) fewer than at this point last year but this reflects a 2.3% fall in the number of 18 year olds in the population.
- There are now 46,040 EU applicants (up by 2% from last year), and the number of applicants from other overseas countries has increased by 8% to 65,440, the highest on record.
- There are now 43,700 applicants to nursing courses (10% less than this time last year). Among these, 31,750 applicants are English, 14% lower than at this point in 2017.
- There has been a [decline](#) in applications from older UK domiciled students.
- An update on the University's application figures is provided below (section 3.7)

### 1.10 Sexual violence, harassment and hate crime in HE

- There is ongoing interest in the issues of **sexual violence, harassment and hate crime in HE** e.g. National Union of Students (NUS) Women's Campaign and 1752 Group joint report, on the student perspective on professional boundaries between staff and students in HE; UUK has [published](#) '*Changing the culture: one year on – An assessment of strategies to tackle sexual misconduct, hate crime and harassment affecting university students*', which concludes that universities are making progress in tackling student sexual misconduct, but more must be done. There have also been a number of reports on racism in HE including a case involving a Varsity game in Sheffield. The DfE also made a point of stating that hate crime should remain a priority for action for the OfS in its grant letter to OfS. **TUoS interest:** The University/Students' Union have launched the Ask, Care, Tell [campaign](#) to raise awareness of these issues and the support available, funded by OfS Catalyst safeguarding funding. A final report will capture lessons learnt and the University and Students' Union's commitments to future work.

### 1.11 Freedom of Speech

- The Universities Minister Sam Gyimah continues to comment on the issue of free speech and has [announced](#) the development of new guidance on free speech. This is the first government intervention of its kind since the free speech duty was introduced in the 1986 Education (No. 2) Act. The report of an inquiry by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, '[Freedom of Speech in Universities](#)' concludes that a [number of factors](#) limit free speech in universities and sets out recommendations to address them. It states that there is "not a pervasive problem" with students restricting free speech at universities, which should not be exaggerated.

### 1.12 Research Excellence Framework

- Research England [announced](#) a pilot study, led by the University of Sheffield and Cardiff University, for a real-time Research Excellence Framework (REF) review. The Pilot aims to find out whether the changes introduced for REF 2021 following the Stern Review successfully reduce the burden of the REF and improve the way it is administered and experienced by researchers and institutions. The study was launched in Spring 2018 with the results available by early 2019. **TUoS interest:** TUoS is a lead University in this project.

## 2. ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

### 2.1 Submission of Statutory Returns

- **Access and Participation Plan 2019/20:** the University is responding to initial feedback from the Office for Students (OfS) on the 2019/20 Access and Participation Plan.
- **Institutional Profile Return:** the annual IPR return has been submitted to the OfS which confirmed the structure of the University and which will be used as the framework for statutory reporting in 2018/19.
- **HESA Student and HESA Staff Returns:** preparations for the Staff and Student HESA returns are ongoing in preparation for the 31 July census date.

## 2.2 Receipt of the OfS and Research England Grant Letters

- The University has received its first Grant Letters from the OfS and Research England. The allocations are based significantly on previous decisions made by the HEFCE Board before the launch of the OfS.
- The total teaching grant has decreased by £249k (-1.0%) mainly due to a reduced targeted allocations element. Notable changes include a £284k reduction in the Postgraduate Taught Supplement (-31.5%) which is broadly in line with the reduction to the national budget for this allocation (-29.8%). The Nursing and Allied Health Supplement has increased by £175k (138.0%) having been extended to postgraduates at a higher rate and now applying to two cohorts.
- In the July 2017 grant letter, mainstream QR increased by £303k (with £1,324k of this ring-fenced for separate distribution as the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)). The 2018 mainstream QR has decreased by £2k (-0.01%) when GCRF is excluded. The QR Charity Support Fund and QR Business Research Element have decreased by £83K (-3.4%) and £171k (-6.5%) respectively because of a decrease in the rate of funding as pence per pound. QR RDP Supervision Funds have increased by £596k (7.5%).

## 2.4 Annual Planning Cycle

- The University Executive Board has reviewed and recommended a draft action plan for 2018/19 for approval by the President & Vice Chancellor. The planning discussions have been used to inform the financial forecasting process and to inform where investment should be targeted. The corporate plan will be considered by Council in July.

## 2.5 National and International University Performance Tables

- The following table shows the University's ranking in a number of league tables published since the last meeting of Council:

<b>Complete University Guide (CUG) (published 25 April 2018)</b>		
<a href="http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings">www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings</a>		
2019: 30 <sup>th</sup>	2018: 32 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ten measures are used, including student satisfaction, research quality, entry standards and graduate destinations.</li> <li>▪ Overall score decreased by 6%, consistent with the change in scores across the sector.</li> <li>▪ Due to suppression of the NSS data there are no results for Sheffield (at an institution level as well as some subjects) for the Student Satisfaction metric. To calculate overall score the NSS results from 2016 were used and adjusted by the average sector change from 2016 to 2017.</li> <li>▪ Entry Standards have changed since last year to reflect new UCAS tariff.</li> <li>▪ There were two subjects in the top 10% in their table: Architecture and Communication &amp; Media Studies.</li> </ul>

<b>Guardian University Tables (published 29 May 2018)</b>		
www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2018/may/29/university-league-tables-2019		
2019: 39 <sup>th</sup>	2018: 40 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Intended as a guide to first-time students, the tables do not include measures relating to research. Nine teaching-focused measures are used, including those relating to student satisfaction, career prospects and entry tariff.</li> <li>▪ Overall score has increased by 7.3%, lower than the sector average of 8.7%.</li> <li>▪ A new metric showing continuation rates has been added for 2019.</li> <li>▪ Where suppression of the 2017 NSS data resulted in no satisfaction scores, results from 2016 have been used and adjusted within each subject by the average sector change from 2016 to 2017.</li> <li>▪ There were five subjects in the top 10% in their table:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Architecture</li> <li>2. Building &amp; Town &amp; Country Planning</li> <li>3. Criminology</li> <li>4. Journalism, Publishing &amp; Public Relations</li> <li>5. Sociology</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>QS World University Rankings (published 6 June 2018)</b>		
www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings		
2019: 75 <sup>th</sup>	2018: =82 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The methodology uses six measures and is heavily weighted towards an academic reputation survey (40%) and employer reputation survey (10%).</li> <li>▪ Overall score has declined by 3.3%, slightly below the average change in score for the top 100 institutions (-3.2%).</li> <li>▪ Metric rankings for Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, and Citations per Faculty have all increased. These have a higher weighting in the methodology but are harder to influence as they are based on opinion surveys and academic citations.</li> <li>▪ Faculty/Student Ratio, International Faculty Ratio and International Student Ratio have declined. These are based on HESA data and the international metrics have a lower weighting (5% each) in the methodology. The trend for the actual data suggests that the Faculty/Student Ratio (worth 20%) is particularly volatile as the actual variance is small compared with the larger decline seen in the 2019 ranking.</li> </ul>

## 2.6 Data Warehouse Project

- The University has embarked on a project to develop and deliver a new data warehouse which will ensure the University delivers effective and trustworthy management information and business intelligence from disparate sources of corporate data to meet changing requirements. The project will run until 2021 and is aligned with the Student Lifecycle Project and Student System Implementation Project. It has been identified as one of the 5 key corporate IT/CiCS risks and will have oversight from the Strategic Change Office and UEB IT Sub-Group.

## 2.7 Student recruitment

- Applications for 2018-19 entry are as follows (with percentage change compared to the same date last year shown in brackets):

<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>15 June 2018</b>	<b>(15 June 2017)</b>
UG home applications	27,239	(+2%)

UG overseas applications	6,613	(+15%)
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- Sheffield has maintained its application position, ahead of the sector (-2.41%) and slightly ahead of our closest competitors ((Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, Birmingham, Newcastle, Liverpool) +0.52%) throughout the cycle. This overall figure includes an increase (+1.29%) in UK applications despite the sector (-3.98%) and competitors (-1.13%) seeing a decrease in this area. Alongside this, the University is seeing increases in EU applications (+5.54%), and international applications (+14.4%).
- The number of Home undergraduates firmly accepting offers is very similar to last year, with an emerging strike rate of 22% in the context of fewer applicants overall and greater numbers receiving offers from all 5 universities to which they have applied.
- There has been a 29% increase in firm acceptances from Overseas applicants, although this group tends to have a lower rate of moving from accepted offer to registered student. The focus is on supporting these applicants to encourage them to register with us in September.

<b>Postgraduate</b>	<b>15 June 2018</b>	<b>(15 June 2017)</b>
PGT home applications	3,431	(-7%)
PGT overseas applications	27,271	(+26%)
PGR home applications	1,943	(-14%)
PGR overseas applications	3,658	(+5%)

- Home PGT applications are slightly behind last year, but with a smaller decrease in acceptances (-5%). Applications are expected to continue, e.g. through later interest from current final year undergraduates considering options for the coming year.
- Overseas PGT continues to be positive with acceptances up 33% following an increase in applications and offers made. Although the majority of applications (98%) had been received at this point last year, the latter part of the cycle traditionally sees applications from a range of late markets that help to support diversity.
- Notably, the number of students who have accepted a place on the English Language Teaching Centre's pre-session summer school is up 30% on the previous year's total (predominantly overseas PGT students).
- The PGR Home position is mixed. Although the number of applications has decreased, the number of offers made has not decreased by as great a rate (-10%) and the number of Home applicants accepting their offers is the same as this time last year. PGR acceptance is based significantly on funding availability.
- Overseas PGR applications have increased and, although slightly fewer offers have been made, acceptances have increased (+4%) due to strong conversion. Science in particular is seeing a welcome increase in all areas.

## 2.8 Strategic projects and bids

- A Catalyst Fund project which looked at the transition of students to HE with qualifications other than, but equivalent to, A levels has completed. The [Report](#) by the University of Sheffield calls for action to address the barriers these students may face entering university. The University partnered with local schools and colleges to undertake practical activities to better understand students with equivalent qualifications, primarily BTEC students. These students tend to suffer

poorer degree outcomes compared to A level only students and can face different assumptions and perceptions about their ability. Challenging those assumptions and perceptions is important to support student success.

- TUoS also responded to the:
  - Review of Post-18 Education and Funding's [Call for Evidence](#).
  - DfE consultation on [subject-level TEF](#) (Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework) – the Government is aiming to introduce subject-level TEF in 2019/20. University subject-level provisional data has been shared with Faculties to support enhancement of the student teaching and learning experience.

### **3. FINANCE**

#### **3.1 Financial results to 30 April 2018**

The financial results for the quarter ended 30 April 2018 were circulated on 18 June 2018.

The financial headlines for underlying activities are as follows:

- The results for the nine months to 30 April 2018 show an underlying surplus of £9.3m (+1.9% of underlying income) compared to a budgeted deficit for the year to date of £8.5m (-1.8% of underlying income), an improvement of £17.7m.
- The improvement of £17.7m in the underlying operating deficit compared to budget includes:
  - Additional tuition fee income compared to budget of £5.0m, based on 1 December census,
  - Faculty core expenditure underspend of £5.3m (3.9%), with variable positions by individual faculty: Engineering and Social Sciences are reporting underspends, with the other faculties reporting overspends,
  - AMRC core expenditure underspend of £1.0m (11.0%),
  - Professional Services underspend of £3.4m (6.9%),
  - Shared costs underspend of £5.1m (4.4%), which includes overspend of £1.9m on overseas agents' fees linked to the additional recruitment of overseas PGTs, offset by lower spend in CiCS £1.2m (30.0%) less than budget and EFM £3.3m (5.9%) less than budget and exchange gains of £0.8m,
  - Shortfall of £0.8m in the contribution from Residences, Catering and Conferences, largely arising from the shortfall in undergraduate recruitment,
  - Net patent and licence income (primarily Lynparza) which is £1.7m ahead of budget

Outturn review – underlying results:

- The latest outturn forecast indicates that the underlying surplus for 2017/18 is expected to be £9.0m (+1.4% of underlying income) compared to a budgeted deficit for the year of £4.3m (-0.7%). The improvement of £13.3m reflects additional income of £9.1m (1.9%) and an expenditure underspend of £4.2m (0.6%).
- The positive income position includes extra tuition fee income of £5.0m, mainly due to healthy PGT recruitment, which is offsetting the shortfall in the recruitment of undergraduate students. The benefit of the additional recruitment is seen mainly in 2017/18, with strong recruitment in the Faculty of Social Sciences.
- The income forecast also reflects higher levels of patent and licence income (£7.8m). This relates to the Lynparza agreement and a one-off payment for the



signing of a sub licence, which is partly offset by related expenditure.

- The forecast expenditure underspend of £4.2m, includes an underspend in Research expenditure of £6.6m. This is offset by a comparable shortfall in research income. Other forecast underspends include Professional Services (£1.7m) and Shared costs (£1.8m). Faculty forecasts indicate an overspend of £1.5m against the latest budget, although the positions are variable across the faculties. The Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Social Sciences are predicting underspends, whilst the other faculties are predicting overspends, the largest being in the Faculty of Science.
- The current rate of monthly expenditure within faculties and Professional Services suggests that the outturn may be better than currently forecast. This is a trend we have seen in recent years. However, it is clear that containing expenditure within budgets continues to be challenging, with the challenges varying by Faculty and department. These areas will be subject to further review as the budgets for 2018/19 are determined as part of the current forecasting cycle.

Cash:

- Cash generated from operations remains strong at £92.2m for the period ending 30 April 2018, with liquidity days of 30, compared to the minimum acceptable limit of 15.

Capital Expenditure:

- Capital expenditure for the year to date is c. £35.0m less than included in the financial forecasts approved in July 2017 due to a combination of projects delays and planned deferral of projects into future years. It includes the planned deferral of the Social Sciences Hub and the Psychology development. Key projects where spend is behind profile include: Royce Discovery Centre (£7.2m), Student Lifecycle project (£4.6 m), Heart Space – glass roof (£5.7m) and IT infrastructure projects (£3.4m). Other projects on hold include Hendersons (£1.2m) and 23 Shepherd Street (£2.7m).

## **4. STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

### **4.1 Programme Level Approach (PLA)**

- PLA Leads and Heads of Department have reported on progress in taking forward this strand of the Learning and Teaching Strategy. Engagement across departments has been positive in reviewing where Sheffield Graduate attributes are developed in undergraduate programmes and in developing plans for engaging with students in moving to a PLA. The new Strategic Change Office will provide support for the implementation of PLA from 1 August 2018, further raising the profile of this critical piece of work.

### **4.2 Widening Participation (WP)**

- The 'Sheffield Student 2013' longitudinal tracking project concluded this month. The project followed a sample of 2013 entrants through their studies and explored the range of higher education transitions, predominantly on the themes of academic, social and financial transitions, wellbeing and career planning, based on yearly interviews and administrative data. The findings of this work have informed the University's provision of financial support for WP and have been disseminated to inform national debate on the relationship between student finance and the university experience.
- The Widening Participation Research and Evaluation Unit (WPREU) has published a [book](#) to mark 5 years of researching and evaluating widening participation issues. It is structured around a series of reflections by WPREU members and includes an



overview of work to date. The book discusses the relationship between equality and diversity and WP, inclusive learning and teaching & student finance, as well as a series of think pieces on appropriate evaluation and research methodologies.

### **4.3 Student Support Services**

- In March, Sheffield was ranked joint 10<sup>th</sup>, out of 115 universities, for Good Support and Welfare in the THE Student Experience Survey 2018. A feature article highlighted the introduction of the new mental health service, SAMHS (Student Access to Mental Health Support), and included a case study from a Sheffield student praising the work of the Disability, Health and Central Wellbeing teams.
- A 10-year anniversary conference on the theme of Student Mental Health was held in April 2018 celebrating the 'Supporting the Supporters' training and development programme and attended by 130+ staff. The external keynote speaker, Dr Dominique Thompson (Buzz Consulting spoke on the trends and causes of changes in student mental health presentations and challenges for universities in addressing them. The Supporting the Supporters programme runs over 100 short sessions every year on a wide range of topics including mental health, support for international students, supporting disabled students, the personal tutor system and support for skills development.
- The Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDSS) ran its client survey in April and received a satisfaction rate of 90% from clients who responded. 2641 students are registered with DDSS.
- The Multifaith Chaplaincy has agreed to change the name of the service to the Chaplaincy Centre.
- A joint Task and Finish Group Tackling Racism on Campus has been established by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, meeting for the first time on 14 June. It will consider specific actions to tackle racism including student induction and orientation, reporting routes and awareness-raising. The group includes representation from Student Support Services, the SU, staff and student BME networks, security and HR.

### **4.4 Student Code of Conduct**

- A new [Student Code of Conduct](#) has been produced in response to the UUK Changing the Culture report. The Code was jointly produced by a Working Group established to tackle Sexual Violence and Harassment and is available on the website under Our Commitment. It is being made available to departments for use in student induction and handbooks from 2018-19.

## **5. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

### **5.1 Research awards**

- New awards for the 12 months ending 31 May 2018 are £175.4m. This is a decrease of £16m (8.4%) on the value of awards to May 2017 (£191.4m). Included in the value of awards to May 2017 was a £12m Capital equipment award for the Sir Henry Royce Institute and a £9.3m award for the III-V centre. If capital grants are excluded from the figures, the decrease is 2%.
- The value of new awards for the 12 months to May 2018 has shown a small rise in the Charities, EU Framework and Industry Sponsor Categories with a larger rise of £9.7m in UK Government awards compared to the 12 months to May 2017. The value of new awards for Overseas and RCUK sponsor categories has fallen by £8.7m and £22.9m respectively.
- Since February 2018 there have been 11 new awards for over £1m with 4 of these being for over £2m, the largest being £6.8m to the Nuclear AMRC from Innovate UK representing their 2018/19 Catapult funding (out of a total of £8.3m to the Nuclear

AMRC for Catapult).

- The number of new grants opened for the 12 months ending May 2018 was 909 compared with 915 for 12 months to May 2017. The biggest fall is from the Charities sector (-39) whilst the number of UK Government awards has increased (by 27).
- As at May 2018 research Work in Progress (Research Order Book) stands at £272.3m an increase of £10.9m on 31 May 2017 (£261.4m).

## **5.2 Research development**

- The GCRF draws down £1.5bn of Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding over 2016-2021 to contribute to realising the ambitions of the UK aid strategy and support global efforts to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The GCRF is a significant opportunity for researchers and requires partnerships in ODA countries with research questions co-created and aims including building capacity and a legacy beyond the research itself. The University is developing its understanding of what is required and how to support researchers, increasing its success rates to 35%, including an award of c. £2M to Professor Anumba for work on pre-term birth in South Africa.
- The external environment for PhD students is undergoing significant change in terms of funder expectations and recruitment challenges, particularly international students. The University is reviewing its offer, including training, scholarships, to remain well placed to attract high quality students and maintain vibrant departmental postgraduate research communities.
- The PSRC has invited full bids for its third round of Centres for Doctoral Training, which provide significant funding for PhD research in areas of 'national need'. Sheffield will bid for 6 as lead and 11 as partner, with a deadline at the end of July.

## **5.3 Research Excellence Framework**

- The University is undertaking its annual REF stock-take exercise to assess preparedness for the submission in 2020. Research England, on behalf of the Funding Councils, will publish Guidance on Submissions and Panel Criteria and Working Methods for consultation in July 2018, which will shape our final submission.

## **5.4 Impact, innovation and knowledge exchange**

- The University of Sheffield has led a successful bid for a new £4.9m, three-year collaborative project, entitled Promoting the Internet of Things via Collaborations between HEIs & Industry (Pitch-In). The project involves the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Newcastle and industrial and health sector partners and is funded by Research England's Connecting Capability fund (CCF). It will investigate the barriers to successful Internet of Things take-up, trial solutions, and capture and share good practice and learning outcomes.
- The University has completed an internal process to identify opportunities for the forthcoming Strength in Places Fund (SIPF), led by UKRI. SIPF is a new competitive funding scheme that takes a place-based approach to research and innovation funding, to support significant regional growth. Initial Expressions of Interest (Eoi) are bidding for up to £50k to provide a foundation to apply for funds up to £50m. A working group, chaired by Vice-President Research & Innovation, is leading on the development of our proposal, which builds on the High Value Manufacturing Science and Innovation Audit (SIA) produced in 2016. The group includes representatives from the LEP and Sheffield Hallam University along with partners from the North-West.
- The University has supported the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) led by Sheffield and Rotherham councils to become a 5G technology testbed. If

successful the Government will make available £100m for the delivery and use of a 5G network, and £50m to incentivise provider participation.

- As part of this year's Sheffield's Doc/Fest, the international documentary festival, academics from three faculties took part in a 'How to Pitch Your Academic Research' event to a panel of six TV commissioners and documentary makers. The academics were selected earlier this year to receive training prior to the event, which was open to the public.
- Research related to migration has been showcased as part of Sheffield's Migration Matters Festival in June. Video and photographic exhibitions as well as talks and workshops are part of the five-day festival to celebrate Refugee Week.

## **6. GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

### **6.1 President & Vice-Chancellor: developing global opportunities**

- In April the President & Vice-Chancellor led a University visit to China focused on partnerships between the Faculty of Science and the universities of Jilin and Xiamen, signing an institution wide Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Jilin. It is envisaged that the partnerships will involve collaboration in a number of areas including student and staff exchange and research. In June the President & Vice-Chancellor hosted a return visit for the President of Xiamen University, during which the two Presidents signed an institution wide Memorandum of Understanding.
- The President & Vice-Chancellor held high-level meetings in Beijing with Tsinghua University about potential partnership with China's leading Future Lab around AI and Manufacturing, and ahead of an institutional partnership to be signed by the two Presidents in August. There were also meetings with the Chinese government in relation to research collaboration and technical education.
- In May the President & Vice-Chancellor and Provost attended the University of Sheffield in America Board meeting in Boston. The President & Vice-Chancellor also hosted alumni events, and met with Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham together with Sheffield alumnus and Nobel laureate Sir Rich Roberts and Professor Tony Ryan. The President & Vice-Chancellor also visited MIT Business School to discuss work on industrial strategy and productivity which is currently informing UK policy.
- **China 100, Smart Data and Tsinghua University Future Lab:** Following meetings in Beijing, the University hosted a week-long visit by a top level Chinese science and business delegation interested in collaborating with Sheffield in key areas of computer science, engineering and advanced manufacturing. The visit also allowed for the formal signing of an MOU with the top-rated Tsinghua University's prestigious Future Lab.
- **Google AI:** The President & Vice-Chancellor also hosted the Head of AI and Machine Learning at Google and Director of AI research at Stanford University in the USA, Dr Fei Fei Li, building on previous discussions in Beijing about how AI might be used to create jobs and opportunities which deliver public benefit. Dr Li visited the AMRC and Mindsphere and offered advice on greater integration.

### **6.2 Going Global**

- In May the Director of Global Engagement attended the annual Going Global conference in Malaysia, meeting agents, current and future partners and competitors. He also visited the South East Asia Office both on student recruitment and partnership activities and hosted a dinner for senior alumni on behalf of DARE.

### **6.3 Worldwide Universities Network Conference and AGM**

- A delegation led by the Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor represented the University at the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Conference and AGM, hosted by the University of Western Australia (UWA) in Perth, this May. Individual meetings were held with target WUN partners with a view to establishing closer strategic links. Further inbound and outbound visits and academic workshops are being planned to continue these discussions.

#### **6.4 Chevening**

- In April, Global Engagement and the Grantham Centre hosted a successful workshop for 50 Chevening Masters Scholars from around the UK, exploring the subject of 'Sustainable Futures' and the range of actions needed to address the global challenges facing us today. Chevening is the UK government's international awards programme.

#### **6.5 Visit of the Marshall Commission and the National Association of Fellowship Advisers (NAFA)**

- In June, the University hosted a group of 36 NAFA member advisers from the US, as part of a tour of several Russell Group universities in the UK. As a follow-up to the visit, the University will attend the NAFA biennial conference in the US in 2019.

#### **6.6 Montana State University**

- The University has an institutional student exchange agreement with Montana State University. In May, the University hosted a group of students from Montana State University's College of Agriculture that was exploring agricultural and trade policy and parallels with the UK.

#### **6.7 Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India**

- In June, the University hosted a delegation from Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India, led by their Vice-Chancellor, to discuss opportunities including research, student recruitment to Sheffield and staff engagement. Collaboration already exists between Manipal and the School of Clinical Dentistry and the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology.

#### **6.8 TETFund Visit**

- In May of this year, the University hosted a visit from TETFund (Tertiary Education Trust Fund). TETFund is funded through corporate tax in Nigeria and supports academic staff in state and federal universities at PGT and PGR Level. It is a major sponsor of Nigerian students at the University of Sheffield.

### **7. HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **7.1 New senior appointments**

- Dr Andrew Barron has been appointed as Leverhulme Visiting Professor within Computer Science with effect from 16 April 2018. Dr Barron was previously an Associate Professor at Macquarie University.
- Professor Ataur Belal has been appointed as a Chair in Accounting within the Management School with effect from 26 April 2018. Professor Belal was previously a Professor at Aston University.
- Mr Christopher McHugh has been appointed as Dry Fibre Development Manager at the AMRC with effect from 4 June 2018. Mr McHugh was previously a Group Technical Manager at James Dewhurst Ltd.
- Mrs Melissa Conlon has been appointed as Commercial Director at the AMRC with effect from 14 June 2018. Mrs Conlon was previously the Commercial Director at Magma Digital.

## **8. CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS**

### **8.1 Reputation and communications**

- The University generated 8,127 pieces of coverage in the media between 29 March 2018 and 19 June 2018. International coverage was achieved in countries such as the US, India, China, Germany and Canada. Recent examples include:
  - Researchers from the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have developed an algorithm that provides more informative and effective monitoring of the way MS patients walk in real life. This was covered internationally in outlets such as the Hindustan Times, Medical Xpress and the Yorkshire Post.
  - A new camera (HiPERCAM ) which can take more than 1,000 images per second and will revolutionise scientists' understanding of stars and black holes has gone live on the world's largest optical telescope. This was covered nationally in outlets such as the Daily Mail, The Times, and The Metro.
  - A revolutionary neck collar designed to ease pain and make everyday tasks such as eating and communicating much easier for patients living with motor neurone disease (MND) is now available to healthcare professionals and individuals across the world. The Head Up collar is the first of its kind and resulted from an innovative five-year University project. This was covered nationally by BBC Online, the Yorkshire Post, and BBC Look North.

### **8.2 Success and achievement**

- The University of Sheffield ranked in the top 50 most international universities in the world by The Times Higher Education. The University of Sheffield was ranked 42nd out of the 800 leading universities worldwide, in turn helping to attract the very highest calibre of staff and students.
- A University of Sheffield spin-out company, Diurnal Group plc, has been granted its first licensed treatment in Europe for children with chronic hormonal diseases. Diurnal was formed based on research by Professor Richard Ross, Department of Oncology and Human Metabolism.
- In the largest study of its kind, nine novel genes for osteoarthritis have been discovered by University scientists and their collaborators. The results, published in Nature Genetics, could lead to new targeted therapies.
- The University' annual Exploring STEM for Girls event welcomed 600 local female school pupils to the Octagon Centre to learn about how they can transform the world through science, technology, engineering and maths.
- The Industrial Strategy Commission – an independent joint initiative by the Universities of Sheffield and Manchester – has been shortlisted for a prestigious Guardian University Award.
- The University of Sheffield has launched the largest ever population study on the impact of TB and HIV interventions in sub-Saharan African communities. The £12.9 million project has been launched to measure the impact of combination TB and HIV intervention when delivered to the population of 14 urban, high prevalence communities in South Africa and Zambia.
- The University's world-leading Information School is jointly hosting the iSchools' annual international iConference, which is being held in the UK for the first time, with the iSchool at Northumbria University.
- The University of Sheffield's new multi-million-pound electron microscopy facility was officially opened recently with a visit by Dr Richard Henderson, winner of the

2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

- The President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Keith Burnett has received the Made in Sheffield Special Recognition Award.
- The University has established its first UNESCO Chair in Media Freedom, Journalism Safety and the Issue of Impunity. Professor Jackie Harrison, Joint Head of the Department of Journalism Studies at the University of Sheffield, was awarded the prestigious Chair on the 25th annual UN World Press Freedom Day.
- A study, conducted by researchers from the University's School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR) in collaboration with health and wellbeing charity Sheffield City Trust (SCT) and Sheffield City Council, led to a 30 per cent reduction in the sales of sugar sweetened beverages.
- The Sheffield Scanner Appeal to bring the first MRI-PET facility to the region has reached the £1.5 million milestone. More than 7,500 people have donated to the £2 million Appeal.
- A scheme, Cool to be Clever, promoting academic excellence and aspiration amongst some of the most disadvantaged pupils in Sheffield has been highlighted as good practice in a government report. Pupils from deprived areas attend sessions led by students and staff at the University, Sheffield High School and Arbourthorne Primary to boost their learning and aspiration.
- The Students' Union and University have introduced the first ever coffee cup return scheme to run on a UK campus. The scheme will help to reduce the 600,000 disposable cups thrown away every year at the University and Students' Union.

## 9. DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

### 9.1 Funds raised

- Cash received since 1 August 2017 with a comparison to 2016-17:

Description	Timeframe	Value
<b>Cash Income received 2017-18</b>	<b>1 August 2017 to 14 June 2018</b>	<b>£6,110,975</b>
Cash Income received 2016-17	1 August 2016 to 14 June 2017	£7,729,933

- Funds secured since 1 August 2017 with a comparison to 2016-17:

Description	Timeframe	Value
<b>Funds Secured 2017/18</b>	<b>1 August 2017 to 14 June 2018</b>	<b>£6,280,985</b>
Funds Secured 2016/17	1 August 2016 to 14 June 2018	£10,999,953

## 10. REPORTABLE EVENTS

- In its role as principal regulator of HEIs, the OfS requires that serious incidents have been appropriately notified under registration condition F3(i). Reports are made on behalf of Council, and it is therefore appropriate that Council should be informed on a regular basis about incidents reported to the OfS. The OfS defines a reportable event as 'any event or circumstance that, in the judgement of the OfS, materially affects or could materially affect the provider's legal form or business model, and/or its willingness or ability to comply with its conditions of registration'.
- Details of any reportable events notified to the OfS will be notified to Council through this Report.
- No reportable events have required notification to the OfS during the period since 16 April 2018.