

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Feedbacks research programme

The view from NERC

Vicki Norton
Programme Manager

- Drivers behind developing the programme
- NERC's aims and desired outcomes of the programme
- Relationships with existing NERC portfolio and 2013

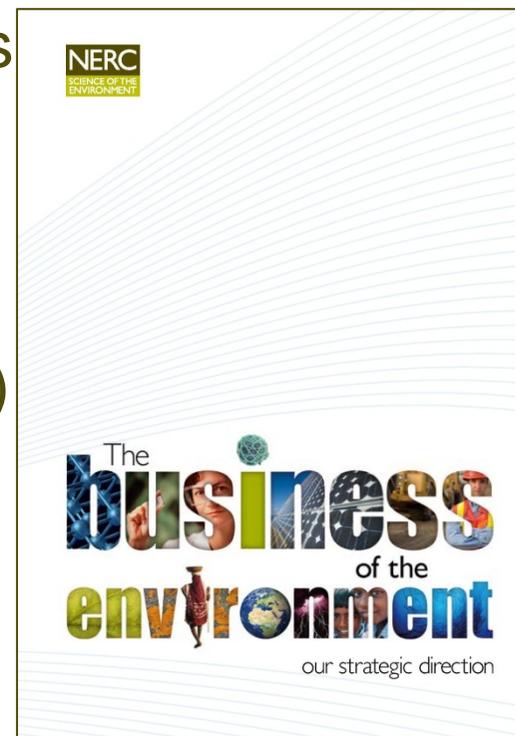
Strategy

- Future activities

- Specific challenges/research gaps within NERC themes:
 - Increase knowledge of carbon cycle
 - Understand biogeochemistry driving the Earth system
 - Inform on mitigation strategies
 - clear pathway to impact and **strong research user links**
 - Support large-scale observations requiring novel methods
- Other key drivers
 - Exploit UK-led advances in community's ability to observe and explain climate variances
 - Fund science to underpin long-term development of UK research capability

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- Overarching aim:
 - Develop capability to measure and predict sources and sinks of the major anthropogenic greenhouse gases
 - Goals:
 - Improve top-down methods of estimating GHG sources and sinks
 - Integrate knowledge from different budget estimation methods to deliver improved inventories and predictions
 - Define requirements for a sustained UK GHG observing network for both monitoring and policy purposes and ongoing research
 - More general NERC objectives:
 - Science excellence
 - Engagement with users

- Links with existing NERC programmes
 - Earth System Modelling Strategy
 - RAPID-WATCH/AMOC
 - Carbon Capture and Storage
- New NERC strategy (November 2013)
 - Focused on delivery to users
 - Societal challenges
 - Benefiting Natural Resources
 - Resilience to Environmental Hazards
 - **Managing Environmental Change**
 - Increased community (academic and user) engagement in development of strategic research priorities
 - Quicker delivery of science, especially when working with partners
 - New strategic research funding model....



Strategic research – three funding mechanisms



1. Strategic Programme Areas

- For large scale complex programmes that take time to develop and deliver. Similar to current large Research Programmes (e.g. *UK Shelf Sea Biogeochemistry* programme, *RAPID* programme) costing in region of £5-20m

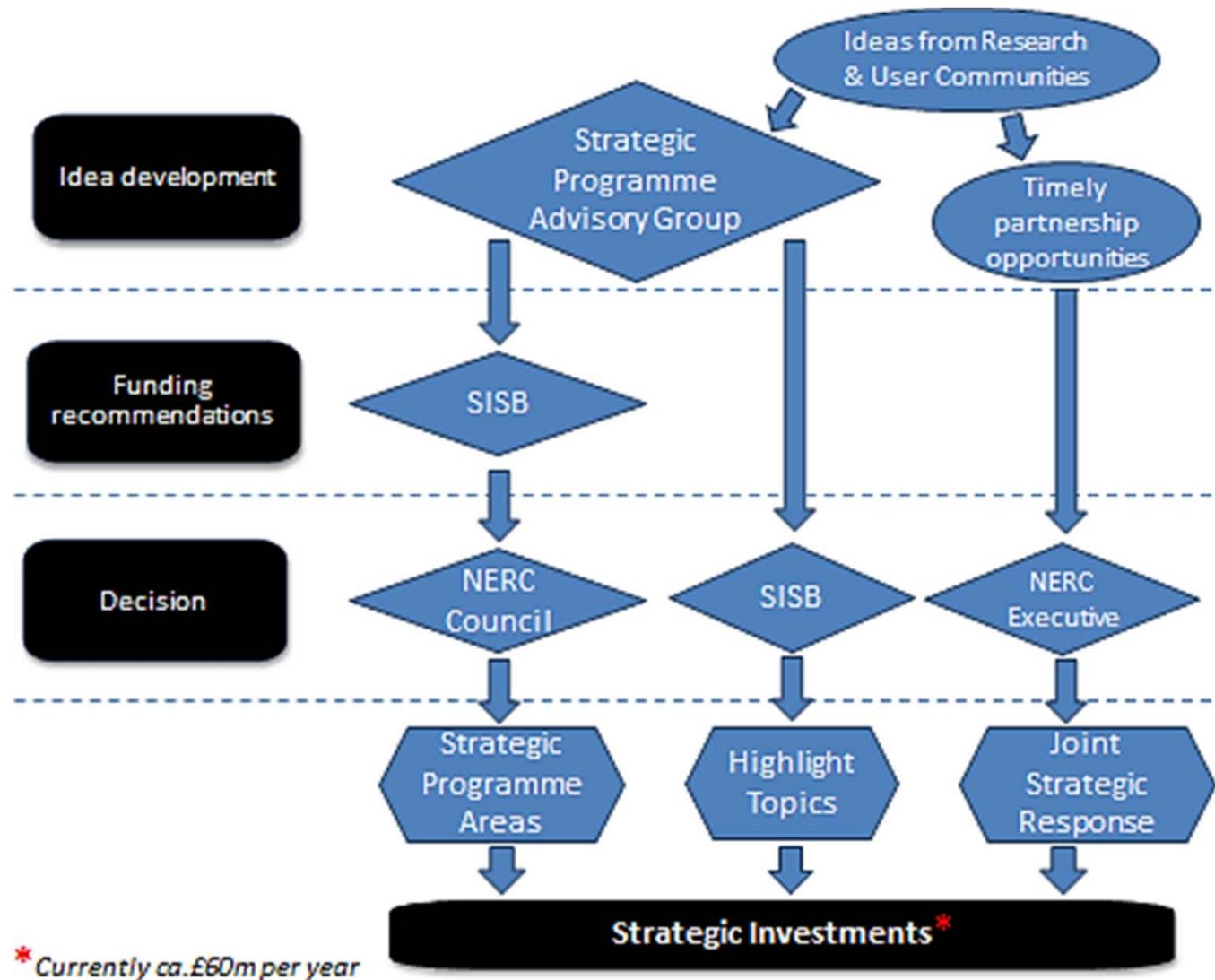
2. Highlight Topics

- For smaller scale programmes, similar to current Research Programme large grants (e.g. *Coastal Sediment Systems* programme, *FASTNET*) costing in region of £1-4m

3. Joint Strategic Response

- For investments with partners to be agreed over shorter timescales. Most likely in response to opportunities presented by partners to allow NERC to join initiatives (e.g. *Insect Pollinators* and *Marine Renewables* programmes)

Strategic research – three funding mechanisms



Strategic research – ideas process



For **Highlight Topic** and **Strategic Programme Area** ideas:

- Community (academic and user) encouraged to generate ideas
- Ideas filtered and prioritised by the Strategic Programme Advisory Group (SPAG)
- SPAG = around 12 academic/user members
- Call for Ideas opens shortly

For **Joint Strategic Response** ideas:

- Community (primarily users) encouraged to explore potential ideas with NERC Executive Officers
- Ideas must have new science that is timely and delivered in partnership (co-designed/co-funded)
- New ideas will be considered for funding by the NERC Executive every 3 months
- First funding decisions in early 2014

Thank you

SPAG membership application closing
date **19th March**

For more info, visit:

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/news/ao-spag.asp>