

LWEC Societal Challenge Steering Group

To understand the role of government, business and society in enabling all to live with environmental change

Terms of reference (revised 28 Mar 2011)

The Societal Challenge Steering group will:

1. Report, via the Chair (or named alternate), to the LWEC Delivery Group, on progress at quarterly meetings and present to the Partners' Board at decision stages
2. Keep under review the identification and engagement of research into policy, business, society and communities in relation to Societal Challenge framework and LWEC objectives and look for a suitable method of sharing information
3. Develop a vision for success (for funders, policy, business and society) and a strategic framework and implementation plan for the challenge that will include, where appropriate, SMART goals and targets, and ensure effective, timely delivery of them through:
 - Provision of, or reworking of, existing knowledge
 - Identification of the need for new activities - for example, developing plans for new research, observation, tool development, and stakeholder engagement
 - Relevant engagement, knowledge exchange or communication activities that bring together communities of practice and teams to address specific targets
4. Review progress against the strategic framework and implementation plan and update these when appropriate
5. Develop an impact plan for the Societal Challenge (to include communication, KE and PE) to identify and promote the contributions that work under this challenge is making to society and the economy
6. Report on progress towards achieving the impact plan and prepare materials to highlight this
7. Work with the other LWEC Challenge groups to raise awareness of cross-cutting research undertaken under the Societal Challenge Framework and to support inter- and multi-disciplinary research. This will:
 - Ensure research undertaken across all LWEC challenge groups considers wider societal and policy issues which may arise from their findings including for example social justice, well-being and implications for individuals and communities thereby maximising impact and value
 - Encourage movement towards multi- and inter-disciplinary research with a view to working towards stimulating innovation that works for real people in a real world
8. Liaise with the Public Engagement Strategic Advisory Board, the Knowledge Exchange group and the Business Advisory Board

Way of working

1. Small steering groups will be developed for each of the 6 challenges comprising:
 - A limited number of relevant senior representatives from relevant partner organisations, from which a rotating chair should be agreed
 - A significant business stakeholder
 - Someone able to represent societal needs e.g. an NGO or local authority
 - Directorate leads for strategy, enhanced delivery and enhanced impact as needed
 - Secretary for meetings to be provided by members
2. Meetings will mostly be virtual and the Group will only meet on an as needs basis to deliver the responsibilities outlined in the Terms of Reference.
3. The Challenge Steering groups can set up sub-groups, as needed, to lead more detailed consideration of specific issues, ensuring the engagement of relevant experts and beneficiaries, and maintaining strong linkages with these sub-groups to ensure that activity within the entire challenge is managed and driven effectively