

The following Science Policy Priorities were agreed by the [Education and Science Policy Committee and Council](#), to be taken forward by the [RSB Science Policy Team](#) as important areas for our work to focus on.

These priorities hold the intention to meet the strategic aims of the RSB three-year [Strategic Plan \(2019 – 2021\)](#), in combination with the specific objectives of the communities involved in steering, generating and benefitting from our science policy activities:

RSB Science Policy Priorities 2020 – 2021

Central aim "Biology for a better world".

A service: enabling bioscience-related knowledge exchange between people, to encourage evidence-based policy-making for the betterment of society and the world we live in.

For example: supporting and enabling bioscience knowledge exchange between people working and studying in the biosciences and people working and studying in other disciplines across STEM and beyond, and/or decision and policy-makers, and/or the general public.

In so doing, many science policy team objectives and outputs overlap with and contribute to other Society activities.

Central objectives to factor into all our work

- 1 Positive team collaboration and motivation
- 2 Maximum sustainability in policy and practice in the face of climate and ecosystem emergency
- 3 Promotion of a diverse, inclusive and accessible community
- 4 Balanced ethical debate across topics
- 5 Accessible communication of our outputs
- 6 Regular assessment of our work (impact, lessons learned)

Strategic focus themes 2020 - 2021

To note, these generally overlap with, and should steer the focus of, pre-existing ongoing core activities in the science policy activity portfolio (such as our work on the topic of antimicrobial resistance e.g. through RSB's involvement in the work of the Learned Society Partnership on Antimicrobial Resistance, LeSPAR).

1 Use of genetic knowledge

Including outputs such as our recent workshop for fellows on genetic technologies in May 2019, where advice was that RSB focus on the topics of "trust" and "regulation" for the scientific community. Also in the context of (for example) the climate emergency.

2 UK biosecurity

Including previous responses to calls for evidence e.g. in the context of Brexit; ongoing RSB engagement with organisations such as the Food Standards Agency, The Pirbright Institute and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, among others; and upcoming activities in planning to mark the International Year of Plant Health in 2020. Focus and contexts also similar to the above.

3 Environmental policy

Focusing on ecosystem management and sustainable resource use, in the context of the climate and ecological emergencies. Previous work in this thread has included responses to recent calls for evidence on food, fisheries, agriculture and land management, and biodiversity.

4 Supporting the next generation of bioscience professionals

Including our Plant Health Undergraduate Studentships (PHUGS), events focused on support to Early Career Researchers (ECRs), support to our Science Policy Advisors Network (SPAN), and provision of UKRI Policy Internships to PhD students hosted within the team.

5 Research culture, funding and infrastructure

Including our work on open access publications policy, research integrity and reproducibility, science community immigration policy, support for diverse and inclusive communities, and cross-sector employment.

Importantly, the RSB [Strategic Plan \(2019 – 2021\)](#) also contains an aim which is specific to our Science Policy Team activity: we aim to develop a formal process to help measure the impact of science policy activity across the life sciences by 2020 (#Influence); and additionally, the RSB Strategic Plan incorporates our [#BiosciencesForAll initiative](#), under-which Science Policy Team is responsible for coordinating and advising Society-wide diversity and inclusion activity in collaboration with other RSB staff teams and structures.
