

Sector impact assessment

Name of policy/initiative/project:	Innovation and Transformation Fund
1. What are the aims of this policy/initiative/project?	The Innovation and Transformation Fund (ITF) is a joint initiative of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE) and HEFCE, with each partner providing £500,000 of the total £1 million that will be made available in the early months of 2012. It is intended to encourage innovation and transformational change in the HE sector, particularly following up on that outlined in the report of the UUK task group, chaired by Professor Ian Diamond. Dissemination and sector-wide learning are intended to be key deliverables from this funding stream.
2. At what stage of the development process is this assessment being undertaken?	Before the launch of the fund on 25 January 2012 at the Future Proofing HE conference. Expressions of interest will be invited and projects developed using those expressions as a starting point. Specialist support will be given to projects.
3. Do existing data sources enable us to provide evidence of impact? If not, how should we best gather evidence?	Demonstrating impact of funding is acknowledged to be a complex issue, which has usually been undertaken by means of an evaluation by independent consultants. We will need to ensure that each ITF project has a robust evaluation strategy with clear success criteria so that a robust evaluation of the overall funding stream can be undertaken in due course.
Regulatory impact assessment	
4. Will this policy/initiative/project require higher education institutions to perform or commission more work than we already expect from them?	Access to the fund will involve universities and colleges in extra work, but institutions will have the option not to participate if they choose, and there is potential for them to benefit not only through improved internal efficiency, but also in reputational gain.
5. If so, are the benefits of delivery sufficient to outweigh this regulatory impact? Describe these benefits.	The projects will bring efficiency gains which will enable reinvestment to enable universities and colleges to deliver their mission more effectively in the new funding and regulatory environment. We expect that many of the projects will build on existing initiatives, so the ITF will present an opportunity for universities and colleges to develop existing potential.
6. Please explain with supporting evidence how you have arrived at this judgement.	We have considered similar exercises undertaken by the Council, such as the University Modernisation Fund, the LGM Fund and its two subsidiary initiatives, Leading Transformational Change and Leading Sustainable Development in HE.
Equality and diversity	
7. Which of the people with the protected characteristics specified in the 2010 Equality Act are likely to be affected by this policy/initiative/project, and how?	Potentially all the protected characteristics could be affected by ITF projects, since there could be an impact on all members of the HE community. We anticipate that efficiency gains will deliver resource which can be delivered to student-facing activity, including in the areas of widening participation and may give institutions more resource to deliver their own equality and diversity objectives, such as specialised support for disabled learners.
8. What evidence have you used to ascertain whether there will be an impact (or not) on these people?	We have considered the effects of similar efficiency projects, supported by the University Modernisation Fund, the LGM Fund and its two subsidiary initiatives, Leading Transformational Change and Leading Sustainable Development in HE.

<p>9. Which negative impacts have been identified during the development of this policy/project/initiative, and what actions have been taken to mitigate the effect?</p>	<p>Efficiency projects have historically tended to have greatest impact on lower paid and part-time workers which might lead to a disproportionate impact on women workers and those from ethnic minorities. In finalising the selection process we will ensure that equality and diversity issues are taken into consideration by building them into guidance for the assessment panel.</p>
<p>10. What actions will be taken to ensure that this policy/project/initiative promotes both equality and diversity?</p>	<p>We will ensure that applicants are asked how their proposals could contribute to the achievement of the equality and diversity objectives of their institution and we emphasise the need for an impact assessment to be undertaken.</p>
<p>Sustainable development</p>	
<p>11. What are the likely impacts of this policy/initiative/project on sustainable development? How have you arrived at this judgement?</p>	<p>Some efficiency projects may have a significant positive impact on sustainable development (social, economic or environmental). Securing efficiency savings for reinvestment may release resource that can be devoted to sustainable development activity or to institutional sustainability in general. We have evidence of this from previously LGM fund/UMF supported developments, such as the centralised teaching laboratories of the University of Liverpool, which are both more efficient and have allowed for the introduction of more sustainable laboratory practice.</p>
<p>12. Which negative impacts have been identified during the development of this policy/project/initiative, and what actions have been taken to mitigate the effect?</p>	<p>Negative impacts are those related to the administration of the fund: (for example, use of paper, travel time and we will address these in the development of the fund process).</p>
<p>13. What actions will be taken to ensure that this policy/project/initiative promotes sustainable development?</p>	<p>We will ensure that applicants are asked to consider the implications of their project for sustainable development and we will seek to ensure that any events held in connection with the fund are managed to optimise sustainability. The jointly managed fund presents a further opportunity for us to influence a related body on sustainable development issues.</p>

Privacy impact assessments	
14. Will you be using information or data about individuals?	Not directly, though it is possible that individual projects may be centred in the area of student records handling.
15. Will you be combining or matching data about individuals with data from other sources?	As above.
16. Will you be sharing data about individuals with third parties (such as consultants, other funding bodies)?	As above.

Certification by Director

This is a fair assessment of the impact of this policy/initiative/project on the higher education sector, taking into account the regulatory burden imposed. The policy/initiative/project has been appropriately designed to meet our equality, regulatory and privacy obligations as well as promote equality and diversity and sustainable development. This assessment is ready for publication.

Signed

Date