

## COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT/ ADRODDIAD DIWEDDARU'R RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Date of last meeting/ Dyddiad y cyfarfod diwethaf: 9 June 2025

Quoracy/ Cworwm: Met

Report by/ Adroddiad gan: Mark Henwood, Chair

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### KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND MATTERS FROM THE DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING/ PWYNTIAU TRAFOD ALLWEDDOL A MATERION I'W HUWCHGYFEIRIO O'R DRAFODAETH YN Y CYFARFOD:

**Alert<sup>1</sup>** (may require discussion)/ **Rhybuddio** (efallai y bydd angen trafodaeth)

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee (R&ISC) wish to **alert** members of the Digital, Data and Innovation Committee that:

- The Research Delivery Funding (RDF) from Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) has now been allocated, with an approximate cost pressure to Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) of £300k. While it is anticipated that that this will reduce throughout the year and will not present a pressure to the wider Health Board, a meeting with HCRW will take place to clarify the position, notify of any potential risks, and request a review. The Research and Development (R&D) Division is currently undergoing an Organisational Change Process (OCP), designed to address the financial deficit and support recovery over the medium to long term. In the short term, research Investigator capacity building funds are supporting wider R&D Division costs, , although this approach unsustainable beyond 2025/26. The R&ISC has requested a detailed financial management plan for the final two quarters of 2025/26 to be presented at the R&ISC on 15 September 2025.
- The RDF position for 2025/26 has since been recalculated as discussed at the R&ISC meeting and the Month 2 return to HCRW confirmed as a variation of £159k end of year forecast.

**Advise<sup>2</sup>** (to monitor)/ **Cynghori** (i fonitro)

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee Committee wish to **advise** members of the Digital, Data and Innovation Committee that:

- Members approved Policy 822 – Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Training Policy, V3. This will now be presented for approval at the Clinical Written Control Document Group on 3 July 2025.
- An update on the Centre for Social Innovation was received from both collaborators in University of Wales Trinity Saint David and HDdUHB. The collaboration is progressing well with staff in post. The finalised business plan, financial reconciliation and update on project priorities will be presented at the

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<sup>1</sup> There is a lack of confidence that any action in place is sufficient to address the issue satisfactorily and/or within the scope of the operational team or executive to resolve. Engagement, action or intervention required.

<sup>2</sup> There are areas of concern where assurance has been taken on actions in place but requires close monitoring. An early warning of an emerging and potentially serious concern.

R&ISC meeting on 15 September 2025. Meeting this three-month timeline was considered essential to determining the ongoing viability of the centre.

### **Assure<sup>3</sup> (to note)/ Sicrhau (i nodi)**

Research and Innovation Sub-Committee wish to **assure** members of the Digital, Data and Innovation Committee that they:

- Noted and were assured by the R&D site activity performance, recognising a positive recruitment figure to date for 2025/26.
- Noted the progress with the R&I Strategic Plan 2025-30 and the upcoming soft launch in June 2025, with a proposed full launch in Autumn 2025.
- Noted and were assured by the activities of the Research Quality and Sponsorship Group (RQSG).
- Noted and were assured by the update relating to the Novel Technologies research study. The technology has now been licenced to a commercial organisation and HDdUHB anticipate receiving royalties from sales, should the technology be a success.
- Noted the positive feedback from the HCRW annual review on 7 March 2025.
- Noted and were assured by the close-down report from the 2021-24 R&I Strategy, which highlighted that the majority of objectives had been achieved and those outstanding are long-term goals and are reflected in the new Strategic plan 2025-30.
- Noted the update on applications to the Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines, Pricing and Growth (VPAG) scheme, and that the respiratory bid had been successful.
- Noted the university partner updates on activity and the upcoming signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), with a HDdUHB executive present at each to confirm priorities going forward.
- Noted and were assured by the TriTech and Innovation (T&I) financial position.
- Noted and were assured by the T&I activity report.
- Noted and were assured by the T&I progress against the business plan and were advised that Key Performance Index (KPI) 9 (Intellectual Property (IP)) was not met, due to recent contracted projects not including new IP. This KPI will be reviewed in line with the new business plan.
- Received assurance on national developments for both Research and Development, and TriTech and Innovation.
- The Pentre Awel project has been delayed, with expected occupancy for Research and Innovation now moving to quarter 1 of 2026/27.
- Receive assurance on university partnerships and noted the intention for new signed Memoranda of Understanding to be in place with all university partners by September 2025.

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<sup>3</sup> There is confidence that actions are robust and will be sufficient to address the issue or generally operating effectively. Routine monitoring.

## **Review of Risks/ Adolygiad o Risgiau**

The R&ISC reviewed the one Research & Development risk that is aligned to it. The score for risk 1492 (Research Delivery Funding) remains the same since the previous meeting. The risk is being addressed through an ongoing OCP and is expected to be removed following clarification of the RDF allocation with HCRW.

The R&ISC also reviewed the two TriTech and Innovation risks that are aligned to it. There were no changes to the scores for risk 1511 (regulatory climate) and risk 1508 (lack of clinical leadership).

No new or emerging risks were identified.

## **Recommendation/ Argymhelliad**

The Committee is asked to:

- Respond to the items that they are being alerted to
- Note the items the Committee is advising them of
- Be assured on the items that the Committee is providing assurance on

**Date of next meeting/ Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf:** 15 September 2025

Agenda, papers and minutes are available on request.