

# Motivations for 'Science in Society'

- No 'crisis of trust' in UK – 83% trust university scientists; 88% think scientists make a valuable contribution to society; and 82% think they 'want to make life better for the average person'
- Are concerns around particular issues or about speed of development of science
- Public endorsement of the purpose and direction of publicly funded research must be earned, as part of researchers' licence to practise
- As research funders, public engagement helps maximise the economic, social and cultural impact of our research

# Benefits to researchers

- Skills development and career enhancement
- New research perspectives
- Enhancing your research quality & its impact
- Higher personal and institutional profile
- Influence and networking opportunities
- Forming new collaborations and partnerships
- Enjoyment and personal reward
- Inspiring the next generation of researchers



# Obstacles to public engagement

science  
communi  
cation

# Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research

- A single, unambiguous statement of the **expectations and responsibilities** of research funders with respect to public engagement
- Provides **guidance** for those who receive our funding to better value, recognise and support public engagement
- **Briefings available** for senior managers and managers of researchers and senior managers

# The Principles

1. UK research organisations have a **strategic commitment** to public engagement

# The Principles

2. Researchers are **recognised and valued** for their involvement with public engagement activities

# The Principles

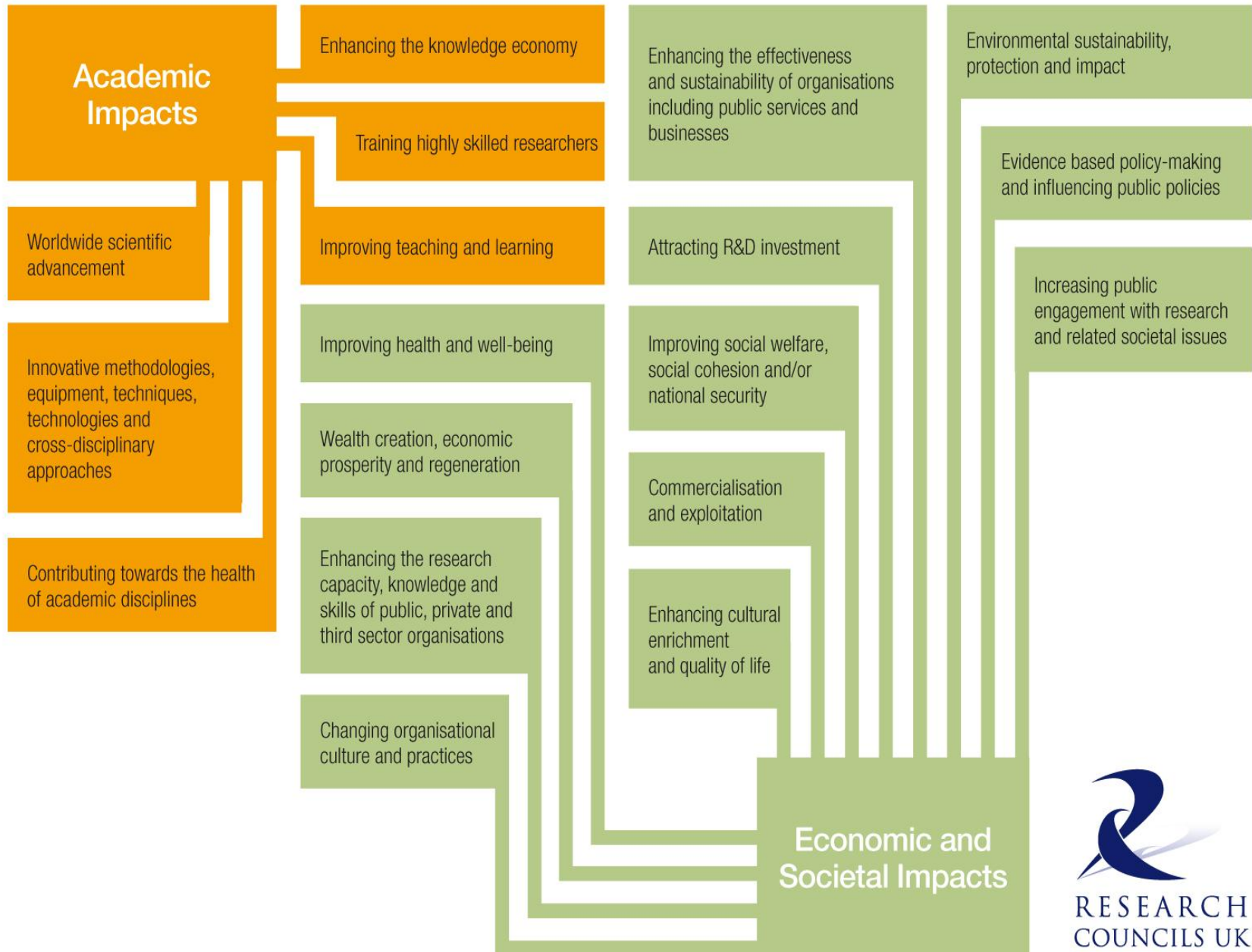
3. Researchers are enabled to participate in public engagement activities through appropriate **training, support and opportunities**

# The Principles

4. The signatories and supporters will undertake regular reviews of their and the wider research sector's progress in **fostering public engagement** across the UK



# Pathways to Impact



# Research Excellence Framework

- Outputs (originality, significance and rigour of research) - 65%.
- Impact (the 'reach and significance' of impacts on the economy, society and/or culture) – 20 %
- Environment (the 'vitality and sustainability' of the research environment ) – 15%
- Assessment framework and guidance to review panels published in July 2011
- The panels have responded with draft criteria and working methods (consultation closed 5 October 2011)