

IAC Guidance for Evaluation of Submissions to the UKRI Infrastructure Fund 2025

New Projects - Full Bids & Preliminary Activities

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Overview

1. The Infrastructure Fund recently closed its biennial call for Full Project proposals and received [REDACTED] project proposals, [REDACTED] preliminary activity and supplementary information for [REDACTED] as per feedback from the March 2025 IAC assessment.
2. The purpose of the summer assessment period (15 August to 29 September 2025) is for each member of the Infrastructure Advisory Committee (IAC) to form an independent opinion of the new Full Project proposals and Preliminary Activity proposal. These opinions and scores will feed into the Committee on 20-21 November 2025 to discuss these proposals, reach a collective opinion, assess fit into the existing portfolio, and agree their recommendation to the UKRI Executive Committee.
3. This document provides guidance for evaluating the Full Project and Preliminary Activity proposals.
4. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
5. Evaluations should be returned as **electronic documents** to aid accurate processing. Please do not submit written copy (posted or scanned). Please email your returns to [REDACTED]
6. The deadline for your assessments of Full Project and resubmitted proposals is **Monday 29 September 2025**.

Confidentiality & Sharing

7. The contents of this assessment pack, including all proposal forms, is confidential and should not be shared outside of the IAC membership. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the team on [REDACTED]

Conflicts of Interest

8. The IAC is governed by the UKRI Declarations of Interest (DOI) policy, available on the [UKRI website](#).
9. UKRI carries out an annual DOI exercise, covering general conflicts of interest. IAC members sitting on Councils' Councils will have completed a declaration via the UKRI DOI Portal. All other IAC members returned a manual DOI form. The general DOI exercise for 2025 is now complete and does not need to be repeated as part of the Infrastructure Fund summer assessment process unless members find themselves in the position where they have, or could be perceived to have, a new general conflict of interest to declare. In instances such as this, please contact the Infrastructure Team on [REDACTED] with an updated declaration.
10. As part of this assessment process, in addition to general Declarations of Interest, we ask members to **declare any project-specific conflicts of interests (COI)** separately. These declarations will be used to facilitate discussions at the November IAC meeting. Please use the enclosed Project-Specific COI Declaration Form and ensure that any potential project-specific conflicts of interest are categorised as either:

- a. Direct: Being associated or involved in any way as a research group or as an individual with a Full Project proposal or a Preliminary Activity proposal or would otherwise directly benefit from a decision.
 - b. Indirect: Being associated or involved in any way as a department or institution with a Full Project proposal or a Preliminary Activity proposal or would otherwise directly benefit from a decision.
11. If you have a direct conflict of interest with a Full Project or Preliminary Activity proposal (see points 9a & 9b) or would otherwise directly benefit from a decision, either as a research group or as an individual, please contact the Infrastructure Team on [REDACTED] for guidance on whether it would be appropriate to assess the specific proposal.

Questions

12. If you have any questions about the proposals, please contact us on [REDACTED]. This will ensure queries are picked up and acted upon over the summer holiday period. The team will be available throughout the summer assessment period to assist.
13. **If you require further information about a particular proposal, please do not contact the submitter or Council directly but instead use the [REDACTED] email address.** We will liaise on your behalf. This ensures that all questions and answers are shared with the full Committee and all IAC members have the same information for their assessments.
14. So that we can share responses to questions with the full committee in time to consider before making their assessments, please submit questions to [REDACTED] by **Monday 1 September 2025**. The Infrastructure Team will not contact project teams with questions after this date. Responses will be shared back to the full committee in good time before the 29 September assessment deadline.

Budget Availability

15. We are currently in the process of working through the implications of the multi-year budget settlement across government. UKRI's allocation has not yet been set, which means we do not have clarity about our future budget lines, including the Infrastructure Fund. This is normal, and it will take several more months until there is clarity. [REDACTED]
16. As the NAO recommended a process that enabled long-term strategic planning of infrastructure investment, UKRI has adopted a biennial cycle for the Infrastructure Fund. Given the long lead times for proposal development, prioritisation and subsequent business case approval, this call is going ahead as planned. This will enable us to be ready with our strategic priorities when budgets are announced. You should assess all proposals based on their merit, according to the criteria provided. We will update you on the financial situation at our meeting in November.

Preliminary Activities vs Full Projects

17. The Infrastructure Fund accepts submission of investment options for:
1. Full implementation of projects (hereafter termed Full Projects)
 2. Preliminary Activities
18. Full Projects are proposals ready for full implementation (to start between 2026/27 to 2029/30).
19. Preliminary Activities apply to a clearly identified need and concept (or concepts) for a new, upgraded, or other significant change to infrastructure, but where spend is required to further

develop aspects of the proposal such as the delivery mechanism or technical design; to better understand the costs or to run a pilot which will de-risk and refine the approach before a full proposal can be developed. Examples of a Preliminary Activity could include:

- a. The drafting of concepts, architecture and engineering plans for the construction of a physical facility
 - b. Scoping study for designs for the efficient curation, preservation and provision of access to data or assets collected or produced by the future infrastructure
 - c. Refinement of budget for construction and operation, and planning on how to achieve long-term sustainability
 - d. Piloting a new data collection process
20. The distinction between Full Project and Preliminary Activity proposals is not made on cost, but instead relates to the stage of the project, but funding for Preliminary Activities are capped.

Assessing the [REDACTED] Full Project infrastructure proposals

21. Please assess new Full Project proposals in turn. Assessment forms are labelled and pre-ordered, for your convenience.
22. Please note that some information may be presented by the submitting team in more than one place on the proposal form and not just in the relevant question box. You should use evidence from the entire case, irrespective of where it is presented, alongside your own knowledge and experience to reach your conclusions.
23. You are **first asked for your views on the overall proposal**: whether it is in scope for the Infrastructure Fund, whether it should be considered for funding at this time, and whether you have any general comments you wish to record.
24. You are then asked about the Project Criteria. **All eight criteria must be met for the proposal to be eligible for the Infrastructure Fund**. Please record how confident you are that the proposal has met or exceeded the criteria. There are four options to record your confidence for each criterion, from 'not convinced' to 'very convinced'. Please record any comments you have against each of the criteria. See Annex A for further information on Project Criteria.
25. The methods to assess impact and risk are different from the other criteria.
 1. **For impact: Members are asked to compare the proposals and rank them in order of impact, from most to least, and record the position of each**. You may find it easier to complete the impact question once you have read all proposals.
 2. **For risk: Members are asked to record whether the infrastructure would be 'low' to 'high' risk on a simple scale**. This question asks for the absolute risk, not the risk relative to other proposals.

Assessing the Preliminary Activity infrastructure proposal

26. One Preliminary Activity proposal is submitted for consideration by the IAC. This preliminary project has been brought for assessment now (rather than the next Preliminary Activity round, which will be assessed in Spring 2026) due to planned Infrastructure Fund timings and a requirement by Government for an earlier decision to be made in relation to this project. The Infrastructure Fund process has always had flexibility for cases to come in outside standard timings in exceptional cases.

27. Please assess the preliminary activity against the relevant parts of Criteria 1 (Parts 1 & 2, pg. 9), and Criteria 2-4. The preliminary activity assessment form has been included after the Preliminary Activity for your convenience.
28. The methods to assess impact and risk are different from the other criteria. For impact this is also different to the approach used for the Full Project proposal assessment.
1. **For impact: Members are asked to record the impact using the scale of 1-5, where 1 is low and 5 is high.** Because the proposal is the only preliminary activity, this question asks for the absolute impact of this proposal only, not the impact relative to any other proposals. Please circle one option.
 2. **For risk: Members are asked to record whether the infrastructure would be 'low' to 'high' risk on a simple scale.** This question asks for the absolute risk, not the risk relative to other proposals.

Assessing the Environmental Sustainability Activity infrastructure proposal

29. At the IAC Meeting in March 2025, the Committee recognised that [REDACTED] was a very timely proposal that makes use of the Environmental Sustainability Activity route and has huge potential for sustainability/decarbonisation impact on particle accelerators facilities. **The IAC recommended the [REDACTED] proposal for [REDACTED]**. Therefore, a revised proposal with supplementary two-page document was to be submitted back to the IAC in Autumn 2025 addressing the following addressing the requirement for further information on:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

30. Please assess the additional information provided for the Environmental Sustainability Activity, by commenting on whether the further information against points 1-4 is sufficient and answer Yes or No to whether you are satisfied that that overall the proposal should now be recommended for funding.

Background: The Infrastructure Fund

31. The Infrastructure Fund supports significant time-bound investments that enable a step change in research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure through UKRI.
32. We (the UKRI Infrastructure Team) assume the majority of Infrastructure Fund investments will support larger scale projects where the cost of a bid is above the delegated limit of an individual Council (£20m), but it should not exclude funding of slightly lower cost activity that meet the core criteria where the costs cannot be met from within a Council's delegated budget.

Scope & Eligibility

33. An overview of **in scope and out of scope project types** are outlined in Table 1. The Infrastructure Fund does not support longer term maintenance needs, operational costs, or uplifts beyond the life of the proposed project.

Table 1 Examples of 'In Scope' and 'Out of Scope' projects for the Infrastructure Fund

In Scope	Out of Scope
➤ Development or design and build of new capability that enables a step change for the UK - single site or a distributed network of connected capabilities, hub and spoke ➤ Repurposing, transformative development, consolidation, or more effective use of existing capability where there is a significant cost of change ➤ Decommissioning and associated timebound liabilities	➤ Office- or estates-focused projects e.g., business incubation facilities such as science parks or campuses, support services providing business expertise etc. ➤ Proposals that replicate an existing capability ➤ Proposals that would receive funding irrespective of public-sector intervention, unless there is a clear need for additional capacity ➤ Proposals that would otherwise be funded through a Council's Business-as-Usual activities

34. The Infrastructure Fund covers applications for projects at several stages of development, highlighted in **green** on the following page. **You are assessing** Full Project proposals **which are aimed at the project implementation stage (outlined in orange in Figure 1) and** Preliminary Activity **(outlined in blue in Figure 1). There will also be supplementary information provided for** [redacted], **as per IAC feedback from the March 2025 assessment.** Stages in grey are not eligible for funding through any route by the Infrastructure Fund.

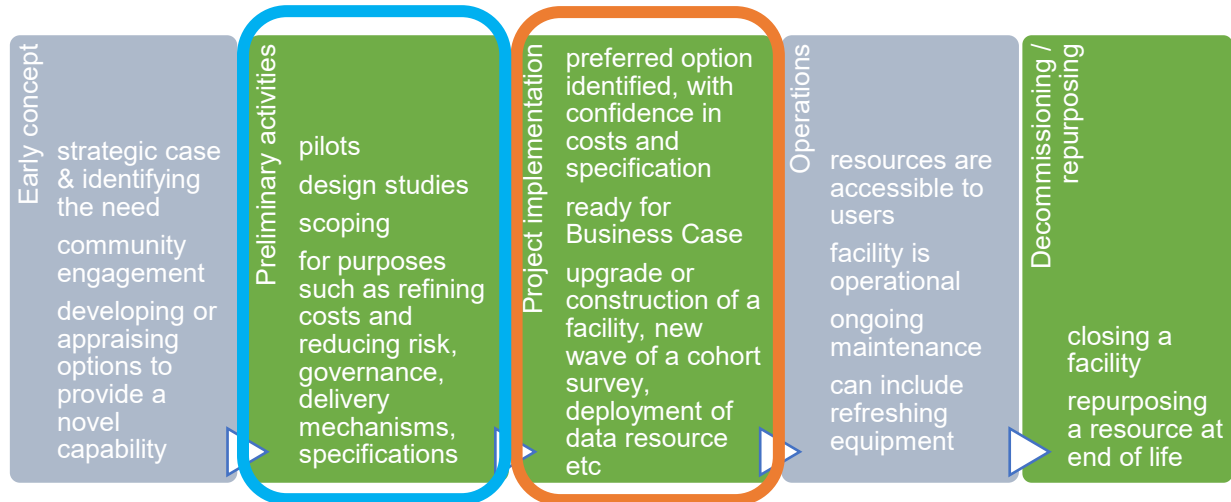


Figure 1 Eligible stages for UKRI's Infrastructure highlighted green, with an orange box about the stage you are assessing as a Full project and a blue box around the Preliminary Activity stage

35. Proposals should not span more than one stage of development or include ineligible activities. An outline of eligible and ineligible activities can be found in the table below. Proposals should follow the appropriate path for the stage of the project, e.g., a proposal that is predominantly for the implementation of an infrastructure will not be accepted through the Preliminary Activity route.

Table 2 Examples of 'Eligible' and 'Ineligible' Infrastructure Fund Activities

Eligible Activities	Ineligible Activities
➤ Major upgrades to estates infrastructure which are directly essential for an investment's function e.g., a major, one-off investment in power infrastructure for a new data centre, extending a building to accommodate an additional scientific facility, refurbishment of clean rooms ➤ Building costs, or a proportion of, to house new equipment or instrumentation because of the new infrastructure ➤ Upskilling of operations personnel for the new infrastructure to reach required operational levels, where these skills cannot be bought in ➤ R&D required to design and develop a technical specification for an infrastructure	➤ Estates costs, where there is no direct link to research or innovation infrastructure e.g., office buildings, meeting facilities, car parks, general laboratory space, local facilities etc ➤ Operational costs ➤ Long-term maintenance needs ➤ Uplifts beyond the life of the proposal project ➤ Ongoing user training ➤ Staff costs, scholarships, fellowships, or studentships e.g., Business Development Managers, PhDs ➤ Activities to understand if a capability is needed or how it could be achieved ➤ Activities to understand the market need for a capability (this should be confirmed prior to applying for funding)

36. Projects can be single or multi- or inter-disciplinary, spanning any or all of UKRI's interests. They can be UK-focussed or cover UK participation in international collaborations. Investments may cover the cost of UKRI's contribution to a wider partnership, but the Fund does not cover the costs of non-UKRI organisations.
37. Bids are invited from each of UKRI's Councils and the Large Multidisciplinary Facilities (via the Facilities Strategic Advisory Group). Projects that span and involve more than one Council are equally valid to single-Council proposals.
38. Underpinning compute or data infrastructure projects that deliver the Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI) Strategy are expected to be developed by the DRI Committee (DRIC) and incorporated into the DRI programme. These tend to be underpinning, cross-cutting and broader than a specific discipline. Proposals for these projects should not be submitted through the Infrastructure Fund process.
39. Infrastructures with a significant DRI component, that serve a specific discipline area or sector, are eligible through the Infrastructure Fund process. For these bids, the views of the DRI governance team have been sought on aspects such as fit with the landscape, feasibility, and alignment with the DRI Strategy. The feedback from the DRI governance team has been sought and has been provided below the DRI question of in the proposal.

Definition of Research & Innovation Infrastructure

40. We use the UKRI infrastructure roadmap programme definition of infrastructure as set out below. This drew on definitions used by the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) and the Horizon 2020 Programmes covering research infrastructure and technology infrastructure.

'Facilities, resources and services that are used by the research and innovation communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields. They include major scientific equipment (or sets of instruments), knowledge-based resources such as collections, archives and scientific data, e-infrastructures, such as data and computing systems and communication networks, and any other tools that are essential to achieve excellence in research and innovation'

41. Infrastructures can be a single-site (a single resource at a single location) or distributed (a network of distributed resources or a hub and spoke model). They can be accessed in-person, remotely (e.g., if samples are sent to a facility for remote processing) or virtually (e.g., if the service is provided digitally). The Infrastructure Roadmap programme and Infrastructure Fund focusses on infrastructure providing an international- or national-level capability.

Project Criteria

42. All Full Projects and Preliminary Activities funded via the Infrastructure Fund need to meet all core Project Criteria. A full description of each of the criteria from the guidance that was supplied to proposal developers is provided in Annex A. Please refer to this when assessing the new Full Project proposals and the Preliminary Activity where relevant (e.g. Criteria 1-8 for Full projects and Criteria 1-4 for Preliminary Activities).

Annex A: Applicant Guidance for Full Project Criteria Questions

Please note: Due to the stage of maturity of ideas, where a criterion is required for a Preliminary Activity, it may not be as well-defined as those developed for a Full Project proposal.

Criteria 1: Excellent research and/or innovation

(1, 2 and 3 required for Full Project proposals, 1 and 2 only required for Preliminary Activities).

1. **How has the research or innovation area been prioritised?** Please tick option(s) as appropriate. This question covers the broader topic rather than the infrastructure itself, e.g., biodiversity versus a seed bank and sequencing hub proposal.
2. **How has the proposal been endorsed as a priority for the Council(s), Team, or community?** Please tick option(s) as appropriate. Proposals for full investment must be endorsed by Council's Council. Please note that by endorsing a proposal the Council(s) involved in the project is/are confirming its fit with strategic priorities and are signaling ongoing support for future operating costs through core budgets where appropriate.
3. A form of independent review is required for all Full Project proposals before submission.
 - a. The role of independent review is to provide assurance to the IAC:
 - i. The excellence of the proposal, rather than UK's capability in the wider science or technology area
 - ii. The potential feasibility of successful delivery of the project, as described in the proposal
 - iii. The appropriate magnitude of costs, and whether they are in balance with the project's aims
4. **Provide details of the background and expertise of those who have provided independent review of the project.** Please provide a summary of the characteristics of the individuals who provided independent review of the proposal idea. Individual reviewer names are not required but please include a brief description of the panel composition (number of experts, their expertise/affiliation) and qualifying criteria for inclusion on the panel. You should also include information whether there are providing a national or international perspective, and any conflicts of interest that could impact the independence of their advice.
5. The independent review process cannot include individuals involved in the development of the proposal, advisory bodies that have input to the project, UKRI employees or known or likely beneficiaries of the resulting project. Ideally it should not include a Council's advisory bodies, or subsets thereof, unless it can be shown that this was truly an independent view and is a proportionate approach to smaller proposals (proposals valued at under £20m). In such cases we would expect reviewers to be willing to put their name to their review as individuals, that assurance has been provided against points i-iii.
6. There is no prescribed process but should be appropriate based on the ambition and scale of the project, and the discipline area. A panel of three to five external reviewers with expert subject knowledge including one or two internationals, has been recommended by the IAC

for higher cost proposals, unless there is sufficient justification as to why international reviewers would not be suitable.

7. **Briefly describe the process by which independent review has taken place, including reasoning for this process.** Please provide a brief summary of the process followed for the independent review. You may wish to highlight how information was shared (e.g. in advance, as part of a discussion or roundtable), how feedback was provided (e.g. reviewer comments, panel meetings) and the justification for the appropriateness of the approach taken. Where challenges exist in performing an independent review according to the above guidelines, for example due to commercial sensitivities, please explain the issues and how you have assured the quality of the proposal.
8. **Please provide a summary of the feedback received following independent review. Describe how this input has been addressed ahead of submission to the IAC.** You should use this space to explain the key feedback received from the independent reviewing of the project and demonstrate how the submitted Full proposal reflects or addresses the independent review panel's suggestions. If ethical approvals are required, please comment on whether these have been obtained or the plan to do this in this section.

Criteria 2: Strategic drivers.

(Required for all proposals)

As a minimum, the investment option is clearly aligned to one or more strategic drivers.

1. Examples of such drivers include:
 - Council Delivery Plan or relevant subject/technology/sector strategy
 - UKRI strategy or thematic priorities. The thematic narratives are:
 - Building a Green Future
 - Creating Opportunities, Improving Outcomes
 - Health, Ageing and Wellbeing
 - Secure and Resilient World
 - Tackling Infections
 - Strategic government priority areas or a specific government commitment. For instance:
 - areas under the Plan for Change:
 - Kickstarting a Growth Economy
 - Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower
 - Safer Streets
 - An NHS Fit for the Future
 - Break Down Barriers to Opportunity
 - recent government strategies such as the government's Innovation Strategy or national technology strategies including the National AI strategy, National Vision for Engineering Biology, UK Wireless Infrastructure Strategy, National Quantum Strategy and National Semiconductor strategy and the UK's modern industrial strategy.
 - critical technology areas e.g. AI, Advanced Communication Technologies Engineering Biology, Quantum Technologies, Semiconductors

- International strategies such as the European Strategy for Particle Physics, European Strategy Forum Research Infrastructure (ESFRI) Roadmap, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).
 - International diplomatic or leadership considerations
 - UK business need (including where priority business sector for UK)
 - Local or Place-related factors
 - Creation or development of a strategic partnership
 - Legal or regulatory obligation
2. Please indicate if the investment option will map onto an Infrastructure Roadmap. If not, please describe why not.
 3. The drivers with which the investment option aligns should be described and evidenced. Highlight if your proposal is instrumental in addressing a goal within a major government strategy, for instance a mission in the Plan for Change or cross-UKRI thematic priority. Where a proposal suggests there is alignment to an industrial sector, government priority, strategic partnership etc, there should be endorsement of that from the relevant party (or a plan to seek that endorsement). Written evidence of the endorsement does not need to be provided but may be requested by the IAC.
 4. General rationale or statements around “*to underpin the plan for growth*” or “*for Global Britain*” without specific evidence on how that line of sight is achieved are insufficient. These statements do not adequately distinguish the strategic importance of the project from the general case for investment in R&I.
 5. The IAC will not question or reopen whether a Full Project is a strategic priority for that Council or discipline, they will focus on whether a clear line of sight has been articulated. They may also challenge on whether a case has been made to any of the broader strategic drivers cited, or if all strategic opportunities have been identified. This will be particularly relevant where infrastructures support strategic priorities across multiple Councils or where projects may have been suggested through routes other than Councils.

Criteria 3. Benefits and impacts.

(Required for all proposals)

Comment or expand on direct and potential indirect benefits of the investment option where this has not already been covered in the overview.

1. A ‘benefit’ is considered to be a positive outcome or advantage that results from implementation of the project, or aspect of the project. Benefits can typically be quantified to demonstrate value (social, economic etc).
2. An ‘impact’ can be a positive and negative consequence. It encompasses the broader effects that the project, or aspect of the project will have, and is therefore difficult to quantify.
3. These could be **economic (including benefits to industry), social, environmental, health, cultural, public service, or policy** improvements.
4. **Be specific. Do not use general statements** e.g., about the benefit of R&D to the UK.
5. The impacts or benefits should reflect the nature of the infrastructure. For example, for a more basic research-focused project it may not be reasonable to expect speculation on ‘spin out potential’ or similar close-to-market activity, but it would be reasonable to expect an understanding of the potential user base, breadth of user base and how research might link into user priorities.

6. Impacts and benefits might accrue from the construction/project implementation phase (short-term) or be a consequence of the outputs over the longer term.
7. Submissions should distinguish between:
 - a. Impacts and benefits arising from the construction/upgrading of the infrastructure. This could be because it's a novel infrastructure and its construction could advance knowledge and yield innovations/new products (e.g., [REDACTED] [REDACTED]) or increase knowledge/skills. Maybe the infrastructure leverages foreign direct investment which has no opportunity cost. Maybe UK suppliers gain expertise in building something which will enhance their international competitiveness. Maybe UK companies win contracts or generate novel intellectual property.
 - b. Impacts and benefits of the research/innovation produced later on by the infrastructure as a consequence of the research it facilitates or people it trains. Could research/innovation at the infrastructure produce UK economic benefits and how? In which industrial sectors? Who would be the users of the infrastructure? What areas of research or innovation will it cover? What is the business need and what would be the market impact? Is there an expectation of economic benefits beyond the immediate users of the infrastructure?
 - c. If relevant, the case should cover how the infrastructure would attract research and innovation activities that otherwise would likely not be undertaken by private or charitable actors, providing the justification and legitimacy for public intervention. This includes market failures and a more active market 'co-creation' framework.
8. If available, flag references to any evaluations or existing evidence or estimates of impact, particularly if the proposal is related to upgrades where it is reasonable to expect some assessment of previous activity will have been done. There is no expectation of economic modelling and analysis to be conducted at this stage, but please include any relevant data if this has been undertaken.

Criteria 4. Step change (transformation) in infrastructure capability and fit into the existing landscape.

(Required for all proposals)

1. Proposals should explain concisely how the infrastructure demonstrates or provides a step-change in capability from the status-quo. What will be different if this is funded? Why is the step change significant? Please consider the research or innovation enabled, as well as technological step change where relevant. Step change could be delivered through providing new capability, consolidation, or more effective use of existing capability, or sunsetting existing capability (recognising the cost of change).
2. Evidence for the step change could include, for example, the need for specialised or skilled expertise in the technique, a new technique that is still at the early stages, unique capabilities (rather than just extra capacity), and efficiencies of scale.
3. Additionally, less tangible step changes might include the creation or increased connectivity of new intersectional or inter-disciplinary communities, or a cultural shift within a research community to foster greater efficiencies and/or the building of new research ecosystems. Step changes in these areas, while more difficult to demonstrate, are encouraged to provide measurability criteria to track the step change over time.
4. Innovation infrastructure proposals are encouraged to consider the step change in impacts that would be delivered (e.g., what significant advances in industrial output might occur, what new technologies will be facilitated that could be further developed by UK industry, what

makes this a tipping point business sector where this infrastructure would make a step change to existing barriers in that sector, why there is a market failure and the counterfactual argument i.e. the consequences of failing to invest)

5. Details should be provided on the complementarity of the proposal within the existing landscape, national and international. Does the project provides new infrastructure capability? What similar capability already exists in the landscape, if any? How is it not a duplication of existing capability? How does this proposal fit into the wider landscape? Can the outcomes of this proposal be achieved by using existing capability in a different way? And if not, why not?
6. If a project is scalable, comment on how the proposed scale might impact on ability to create a step change. It is mandatory to provide an option to deliver the preferred capability, which is net zero, or as close to net zero as is feasible as part of Scalability& Options.

Criteria 5 & 6. Feasibility and Delivery, and Risk.

(Only required for Full Project proposals)

Proposals should have assessed feasibility and risk in proportion to the stage of delivery of the proposal. Full Project proposals should provide best available information on costs, delivery model, necessary stakeholder engagement, governance, and implementation resources of the project according to the following:

1. Overview of delivery approach and why this was chosen (e.g., a new facility, a facility hosted within another institution, a new partnership).
2. Describe the proposed governance model and project management approach (and SRO if known). Indicate if these are standard practice for such interventions or a novel approach.
3. If relevant describe what options analysis has been undertaken to decide on this approach. There is no need to include full details, but the IAC can request these if required.
4. Where the infrastructure is based around a technology, please indicate why this technological approach was chosen over alternatives and whether the technical feasibility has been externally assessed. There is no need to include full details, but the IAC can request these if required. If this assessment is yet to be completed briefly comment on the plan to do this.
5. Please describe who the key delivery partners are (if relevant)? Has their involvement already been secured? What is the nature of their contribution e.g., funding, in kind, permissions? IAC may ask for evidence that partner involvement has been secured such as a letter of support but there is no requirement to submit this unless requested.
6. Proposals should describe the top risks and challenges to delivery (excluding lack of funding and uncertainty over source of running costs)
7. What are the major delivery dependencies and assumptions, e.g., regulatory alignment, dependency on medical licences, interface with complementary projects, seasonal scheduling?

Criteria 7: Accessibility.

(Only required for Full Project proposals)

A key criterion for projects funded through the Infrastructure Fund is that the infrastructure must provide **access, resources, or related services to the wider, UK research and innovation**

community outside the infrastructure institution itself (e.g., the host institution and the funding partners). This does not necessarily need to be cost-free to the end user.

1. Proposals should describe how they provide access, resources, or related services to the wider, UK research and innovation community. How access is managed will and should vary with the nature of the activity (some activity will be easier to make fully open than others – see the Landscape Analysis for further details). If there are existing access models that will be followed or used as a framework, please mention.
2. Please briefly indicate how Equality, Diversity and Inclusion has been considered.
3. If there is a plan to actively expand the user base or bring in new communities, particularly business users, please mention and describe how if this has been decided (this might include raising awareness through to active training of new users or dedicated support staff).
4. The IAC will be asked to consider if the proposal is considering a wide enough user base and if plans are likely to encourage this, but specific models of access will not be required. No common assumptions will be made about proportions of users from outside the institution or from different target groups (e.g., business, international).

Criteria 8: Impact on environmental sustainability.

(Only required for Full Project proposals)

Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered environmental sustainability.

1. **Environmental Impacts of the Infrastructure.** Proposals should identify the material environmental aspects related to the infrastructure. Material environmental aspects are outputs from activities that could have a notable impact on the natural environment (e.g., carbon emissions), through contribution to climate change or use of resources precipitating greater extraction of raw materials. It is mandatory to provide an option to deliver the preferred capability, which is net zero, or as close to net zero as is feasible as part of **Scalability& Options.**
 - a. The list of environmental aspects in Question 17.a. is limited to common activities. If project teams have identified additional aspects, please tick the 'Other' box, and provide further details. Examples might include the use of radiation or noise-generating activities. Please only include key environmental aspects, an exhaustive list is not required.
 - b. Environmental aspects can cause harm or benefit the natural environment. Where proposals have identified aspects that benefit the environment, such as 'green roofs', please tick the 'Environmental benefits of outputs' box and provide further information under Question 17.b.
 - c. Further external guidance on screening for environmental aspects can be found here:
 - i. [ISO 14001 environmental aspects: 4 steps in identification \(advisera.com\)](https://www.advisera.com/ISO14001/environments/4-steps-in-identification/) EMP04
 - ii. Environmental Impact Screening and Scoping | ASEMS Online (mod.uk)
2. **Mitigation Measures for Environmental Impacts.** Proposals should briefly describe the measures already 'designed in' to infrastructures to reduce harmful environmental impact and increase environmental benefit. Examples of mitigation measures are presented below.
 - a. To reduce harm: Actions to reduce overall energy demand; renewable or low carbon heat and power supplies; actions to reduce waste generation; wildlife protection; water conservation measures.

- b. To maximise benefits: Green roofs; creation of new biodiversity areas; rainwater harvesting; enablers to encourage good environmental behaviours e.g., EV charging.
 - c. Please note: Carbon offsetting is not currently permitted as a mitigation measure by UKRI. Project teams with proposals agreed for development into FBC will be able to access expert technical support to further develop mitigation plans.
 - d. Further external guidance on common mitigation measures can be found here:
 - i. [Green Building Council guidance](#)
 - ii. [SWECO Green Infrastructure guidance](#)
 - iii. [Sustainable IT Infrastructure guidance](#)
 - iv. [Build with Nature Guidance](#)
3. **Operational Carbon Emissions Forecast.** UKRI has engaged a technical advisory company - [REDACTED] - to work with project teams to produce carbon forecast(s), RAG ratings, and rationale statements. To use this service, please contact [REDACTED]
- a. Proposals are asked to provide operational carbon emission (tCO_{2e}) forecast(s) for the lifetime of the infrastructure. Forecasts should be expressed as a minimum to maximum carbon range (tCO_{2e}) and be based on operational carbon emissions only (do not include figures for embodied carbon).
 - b. Up to three options should be presented, as provided in the Options table in Question 48 Scalability. The options with the least and most CO₂ equivalent should be included and, if your preferred option is neither of these, your preferred option. Providing a net zero option is strongly encouraged but not mandatory.
 - c. Forecasts should be accompanied by a level of confidence and short rationale for this confidence level. The confidence level should be a RAG rating based on the following descriptions. Please select the RAG with statements that best describe your project.

Green	Amber	Red
➤ Good level of certainty in the carbon range. ➤ The proposal is simple in design with standard operational carbon generation profile. ➤ There is clear and accepted guidance on generating carbon forecasts for this e.g., estimated building power consumption.	➤ There is some understanding of the carbon range, but this comes with some caveats and some estimated data. ➤ The proposal is somewhat complex which generates some uncertainty in the forecast e.g., proposals which include non-standard components. ➤ There is some accepted guidance on carbon forecasting, but this is not universal.	➤ There is little or no certainty in the carbon range. ➤ The complex nature of the proposal makes carbon forecasting difficult. ➤ There is little or no acceptance guidance on carbon forecasting for this type of proposal.

- d. **Technical Advisory Service.** The technical advisory service will be provided by [REDACTED]. Please allow at least two working weeks for generation of your carbon forecasts. [REDACTED] will liaise directly with project teams during the generation of infrastructure carbon forecasts. They will also recommend the RAG rating and

provide a rationale for this. [REDACTED] will not complete Question 17. This is to be completed by project teams based on the information provided by [REDACTED]

The IAC will use carbon forecasts to inform their recommendations and they will be provided to ExCo to inform their decision-making.

Within the team, information on 'Longer-term Funding Implications and Assumptions' is used for financial *modelling*. Due to the importance of financial sustainability, this information will be provided to yourselves, as IAC members:

- Longer-term funding implications post cessation of Infrastructure Fund project
- Assumptions on how UKRI's contribution to longer-term funding will be met
- Are any future decommissioning costs associated with this activity?

Annex B: Additional Information for Full Projects, Available on Request

We can provide, on request, any of the additional information noted below for Wave 4 Full Projects in this assessment round.

Clearance and handling

- Setting up a new legal entity?
- Does UKRI need to sign a new MoU?
- Is a request to deviate from pay and procurement frameworks likely?
- Is Ministerial or central government agreement of action needed for reasons other than finance?
- Has a UK Government Minister publicly made this a priority or already announced this? This could be a domestic project or an international agreement