Fast Track Engagement Fund
A University of Sussex ESRC IAA funding scheme

Objectives
The ESRC IAA Fast Track Engagement Fund is designed to provide short-term, quick turn-around funds for Sussex faculty to generate additional impact from their research. It will provide support for engagement with external, non-academic stakeholders.

The scheme will support engagement that builds and strengthens relationships, and which seeks to accelerate the impact being generated from research projects. This might involve building relationships to understand users’ needs and co-produce grant proposals, supporting relationships between grant-funded activities, and continuing impact after a grant has ended.

Funding could be used for a range of activities, including but not limited to:

- Developing policy recommendations and documents with an external partner
- Collaborative meetings or events meant to address joint issues between academics and non-academics
- Developing and delivering research-based training for external partners
- Support from the short-term employment of a research assistant to enhance impact (e.g. stakeholder mapping, dissemination to meet specific collaborator requirements)

The upper limit of funding applications is £3,000. Funding will normally be for a period of up to six months.

This fund is not intended to underwrite conference organisation or other initiatives with a primarily academic audience. If applying for a researcher to support the project, please appoint at appropriate grade, and contact the Sussex IAA to help with costing.

Review Procedure
This funding scheme is intended to be light touch, allowing for a swift response. Requests for funds may be submitted at any time using the Fast Track Engagement Fund application form, and will be considered by the IAA Secretariat and if applicable, member(s) of the IAA Steering Committee. The Director of the IAA may also invite applications.

Review Criteria
- Evidence of need by non-academic partners (evidenced by letter, invitation, etc.)
- Evidence of how the proposed activity fits within a planned, sustained and strategic approach to engagement.
- Demonstration of additionality (that no other sources of funding are available).
- Research falls within the ESRC remit.

Reporting requirements
Successful applicants will be expected to submit a very brief report on progress and outcomes to date. Reports will be expected after six months (or at the end of the funding period if this exceeds six months).

Further information
If you would like to discuss your application please contact:
- Megan McMichael, ESRC IAA Project Manager, m.mcmichael@sussex.ac.uk, x8178
- Nora Davies, ESRC IAA External Partnerships Project Manager, n.davies@sussex.ac.uk, X8178