Research impacts can become manifest at any stage in the research life cycle and beyond, often stemming from unexpected/unintended outcomes. The Impact Summary and Pathways to Impact Statement are designed to encourage researchers to start thinking about potential beneficiaries and pathways to impact whilst planning your projects.

Potential impacts can be generated through a range of diverse pathways, can take many forms, can become manifest at different stages in the research process and beyond and can be promoted through many different mechanisms.
Writing a Je-S Impact Summary

The Impact Summary is separate from your Case of Support and Pathways to Impact Statement; text is directly inserted into the Je-S application submission form. Your Impact Summary should be tailored and relevant to the specific nature of your research project; it is helpful to first explore what is reasonable and/or expected for research of this nature.

Impact Summary (4000 characters ie about 1 side of A4)

Content should cover potential economic and societal impacts and the pathways towards realising these by addressing the following key questions:

- Who might benefit from this research?
- How might they benefit from this research?

Types of Economical & Social Impact
Impact is NOT necessarily synonymous with early exploitation; it can take many forms over widely varying timescales. It might involve developing/creating a commercial product, service or new technology, but it could also be about improved medical or health care or contributions to national planning or social policy. Potential examples are listed in the table below.

- Enhancing cultural enrichment, quality of life, health and well-being.
- Contributing towards evidence based policy-making and influencing public policies and legislation at a local, regional, national and international level.
- Shaping and enhancing the effectiveness of public services.
- Transforming evidence based policy in practice and influencing and informing practitioners and professional practice.
- Improving social welfare, social cohesion and/or national security.
- Changing organisational culture and practices.
- Contributing toward environmental sustainability, protection and impact reduction.
- Enhancing the research capacity, knowledge and skills of businesses and organisations.
- Contributing to increasing public awareness and understanding of science, economic and societal issues.
- Contributing toward wealth creation and economic prosperity i.e. the creation and growth of companies and jobs; enhancing business revenue and innovative capacity.
- Enhancing the efficiency, performance and sustainability of businesses/organisations including public Services.
- Attracting R&D investment from global business.
- Contribution to regeneration and economic development.
- The commercialisation and exploitation of scientific knowledge, leading to spin out companies, and the creation of new processes, products and services,
- Training of skilled people for non-academic professions.

Important Note
The Impact Summary may be published to demonstrate potential impacts of Research Council-funded research. Please ensure confidential information is not included in this section.
Assessment Criteria

Reviewers will consider the:

- potential for the proposed activities and outputs to enhance the value and impact of the base research.
- extent to which the project delivers benefits to all the partners.
- level of engagement with target audiences or users and the extent to which their needs have informed the development of the proposal.
- likelihood that the project will meet those needs and have a lasting transformative effect.

Writing a Pathways to Impact Statement

The Pathways to Impact Statement is separate from your Case for Support; unlike the Impact Summary it is uploaded as a separate document onto Je-S ie an attachment up to 2 sides of A4.

The Pathways to Impact Statement should continue on from the 2 questions addressed within your Impact Summary but specifically address the following:

What activities, strategies and interventions do you intend to adopt to:

- ensure that potential beneficiaries have the opportunity to engage with your research.
- encourage your research to contribute to or facilitate the realisation of potential economic and societal impacts.

Your Pathways to Impact Statement should be:

- project-specific and not generalised.
- flexible and outcome-driven.

Specifically your pathways ie strategies and interventions should consider ways in which you could:

- identify and actively engage relevant users of the research and stakeholders (outwith academia) at appropriate stages throughout the life cycle of the project.
- articulate a clear understanding of the context and needs of potential users and consider ways for the proposed research to meet these needs or impact upon understandings of these needs.
- outline the planning and management of associated activities, including timing, personnel, skills, budget, deliverables and feasibility.
- contain evidence of any existing engagement with relevant end-users.

Important Notes

Academic beneficiaries should primarily be addressed in the Academic Beneficiaries section of Je-S. You can apply for resources of up to ~5% of the total funding requested to support your pathways to impact strategies; these enabling resources must be fully justified.
Assessment Criteria

Reviewers will consider the dissemination strategy and Pathways to Impact Plan including:

• The extent to which the programme of work will result in high quality public output(s).
• How appropriate, effective and justified the Plan is for facilitating impact given the nature of the research proposed.
• Whether sufficient attention has been given to whom the beneficiaries might be and appropriate ways to engage with them throughout the project.
• How appropriate the collaboration arrangements are.

Reviewers will not expect to see tangible deliverables, direct return on investment or detailed routes to exploitation in making your assessment, but will assess how well-considered your Pathways to Impact Plan is in helping to realise such impacts.

Useful Links

Please see the RCUK Pathways to Impact website, Impact Requirements Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and the Impact Summary section for further guidance.

Please refer to the individual Research Council FAQs for further specific information on what is required from the funding Council(s):

AHRC: www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundedResearch/Pages/ImpactAssessment.aspx
BBSRC: http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/impact/funding-impact-index.aspx
MRC: http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Fundingopportunities/Applicanthandbook/PathwaystoImpact/index.htm
EPSRC: http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/preparing/economicimpact/
ESRC: http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/guidance/applicants/iii.aspx
NERC: http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/howtoapply/pathwaystoimpact/pathwaystoimpact-policy.pdf
STFC: www.stfc.ac.uk/About/Stats/EI/ElinPRFAQ.aspx