



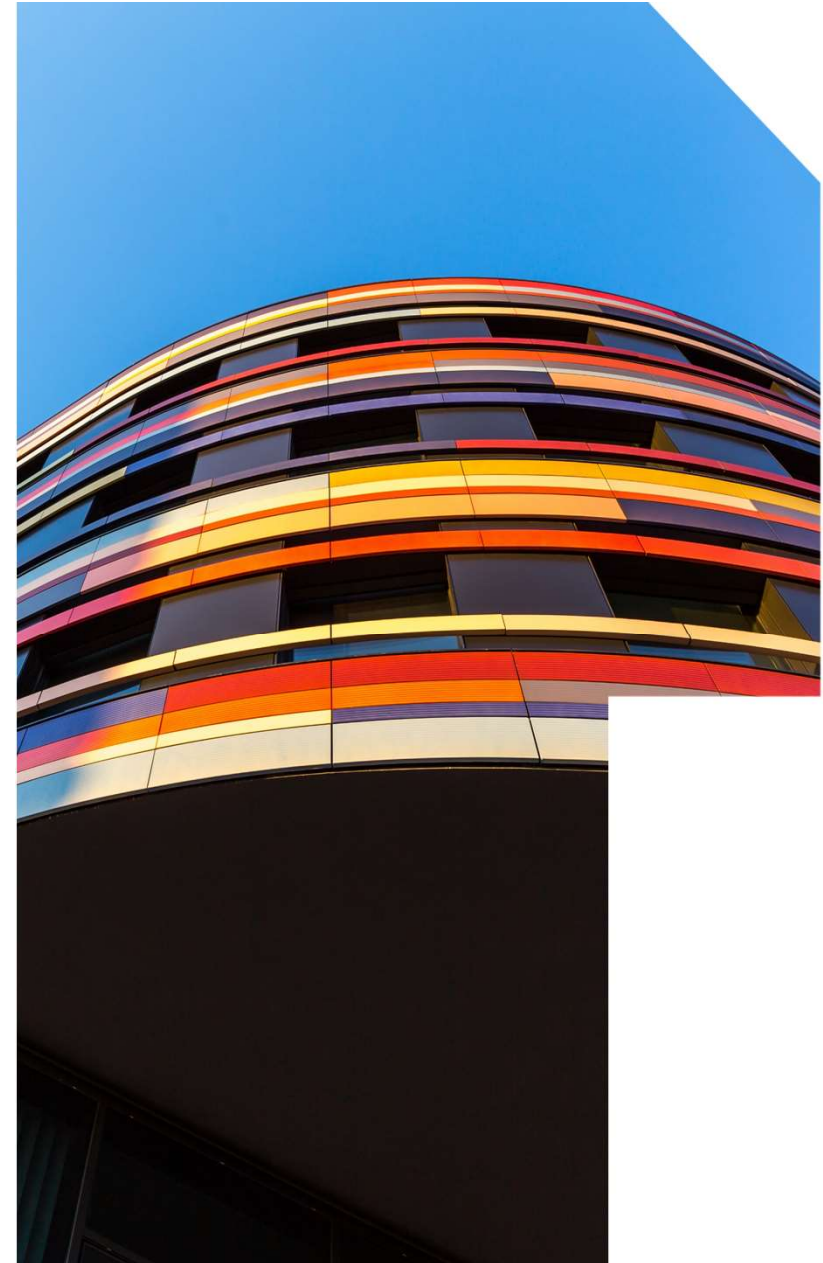
Research  
England

# Condition of the Estate (COTE) Webinar

25/03/2024 and 26/03/2024

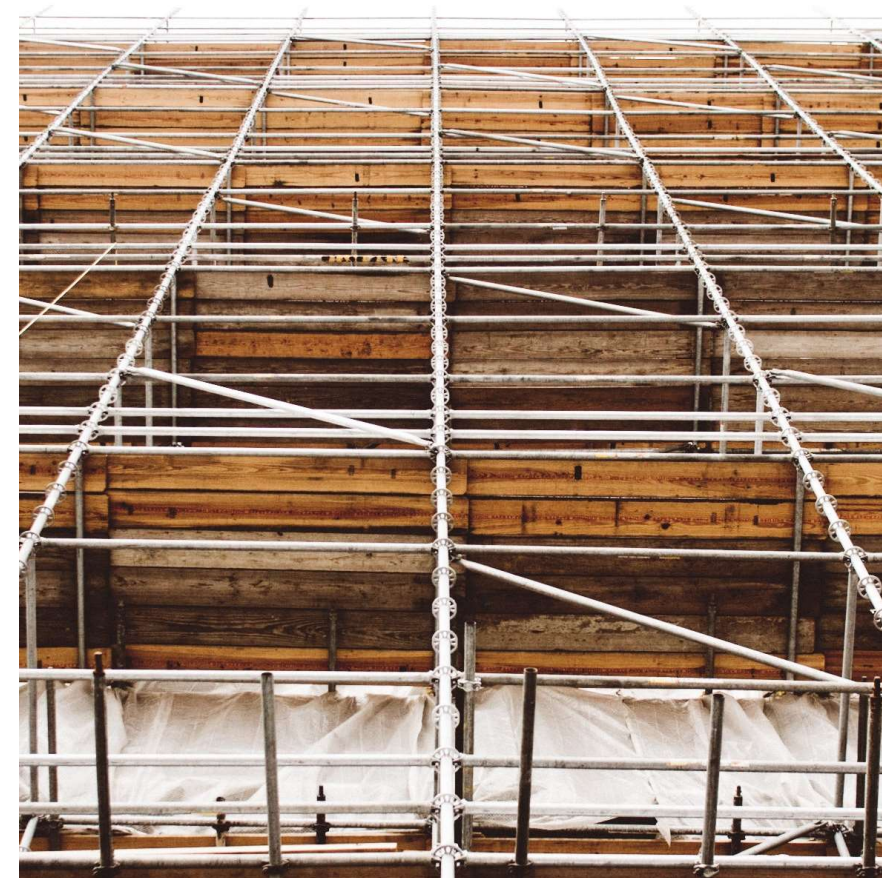
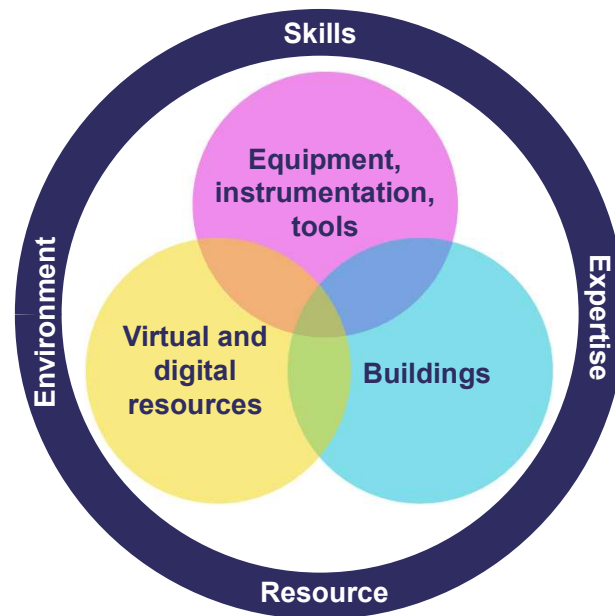
# Overview

- 1 Background and Historical Context
- 2 Condition of the Estate (COTE) development
- 3 COTE survey
- 4 Next steps
- 5 Q&A



# HE research infrastructure and estate

- An enabling and underpinning part of the HE environment
- Critical to maintaining and growing an internationally excellent and healthy research ecosystem
- Integral part of DSIT's Science and Technology Framework





# Current challenges to research infrastructure

- **Ongoing volatility** affecting the sector
- **Financial sustainability** of HEPs
- **Inflationary effects** and spiraling of costs
  - Operational
  - Maintenance
  - Construction
- **Net Zero**
- **Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC)** – at least 15 UK institutions had to close or partially close areas containing RAAC<sup>1</sup>

# Historical context – infrastructure funding

- **Study of Science Research Infrastructure** – J M Consulting Ltd, 2001
- Reviewed the past investment in infrastructure for science research in UK HEPs
- Approximately **30% of total university space attributed to research**, and approximately 34% of the costs of the HE physical infrastructure attributed to science research
- Noted that institutions were become increasingly responsible for financing their own infrastructure despite increased injection of public funds through infrastructure funding schemes
- Several recommendations provided, including that **all HEPs should be investing approximately 4% of their insured asset value on an annual basis** to allow for necessary renewal and replacement of buildings and equipment



# Historical context – infrastructure funding

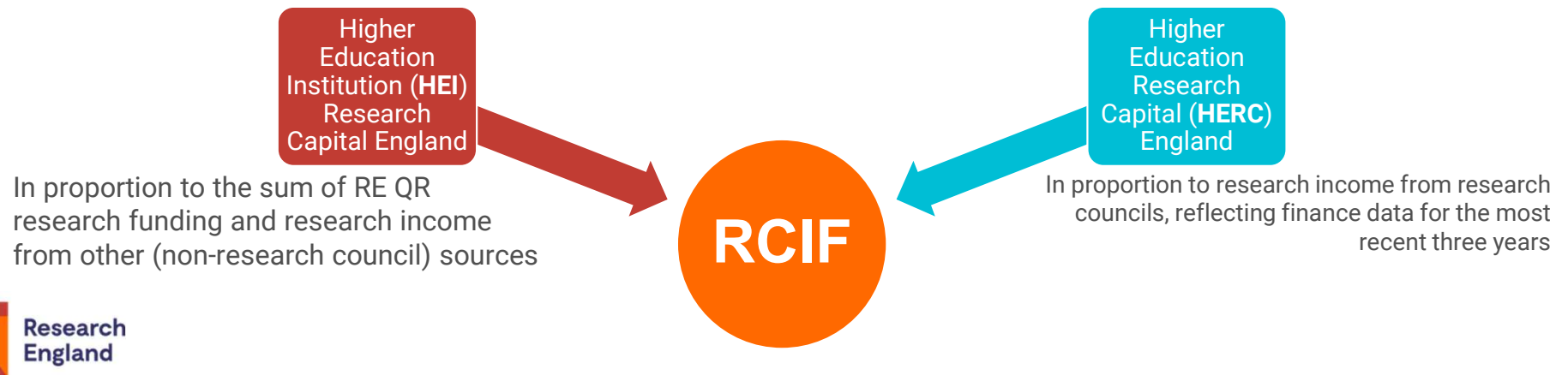
- **Future needs for capital funding in higher education: A review of the future of SRIF and learning and teaching capital** – J M Consulting Ltd, 2006
- Findings showed a spectrum of **progress towards achievement of a sustainable physical infrastructure across the sector**, including enormous improvement to research infrastructure across the UK when compared to 2001
- **Backlog remained**, and further investment was still required
- Regional disparities identified, and differences in needs between different types of institution
- Continuation and consolidation of this progress noted to be **dependent on continued public capital funding to institutions post 2008** and on how effectively institutions prioritise their spending and management their portfolios of activity and physical assets.

# RE and UKRI infrastructure funding

- Infrastructure funding from Research England is provided through various mechanisms:
  - **Research Capital Investment Fund (RCIF)** - underpinning formula-based capital funding that supports the long-term sustainability of research and infrastructure
  - **UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF)** - supporting investment in world-leading higher education facilities and infrastructure across the UK
  - Other opportunities, such as the **Expanding Excellence in England (E3)**, **Research England Development (RED) Fund** and **Strength in Places Fund (SIPF)** can provide infrastructure funding for successful bids
- This compliments wider UKRI funding for infrastructure, such as through the **UKRI Infrastructure Fund**, World Class Labs (WCL), research council equipment calls, as well as through funding **UKRI's own infrastructure**

# Research Capital Investment Fund (RCIF)

- RCIF aims to:
  - **contribute to the long-term financial sustainability** of a higher education provider's research and the supporting physical infrastructure
  - **contribute to replacement of premises or infrastructure**, improved use of space, and increased sharing and use of research equipment
  - **promote collaborative partnerships** between higher education providers, industry, charities, government and NHS trusts
  - **promote world-leading research capability** in all disciplines with the capacity to respond to developing national priorities





**What is the current picture across the sector?**

# Condition of the Estate (COTE) development



“...begin work, in 2023, to better understand the current condition and future needs of research infrastructure across English universities...”

## AUDE

Together, for excellent university estates & facilities

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY DIRECTORS OF ESTATES

### Higher Education Estates Management Report

Summary, insights and analysis of the 2021/22 academic year



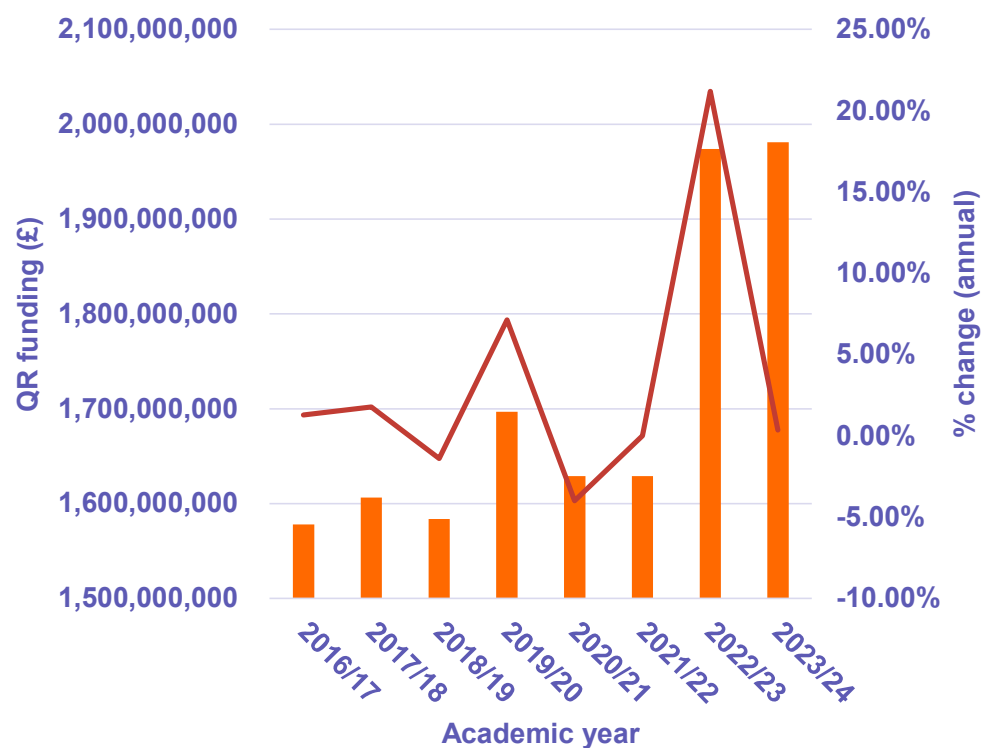
Cover image:  
STEAMhouse, Birmingham City University

# Condition of the Estate (COTE) development

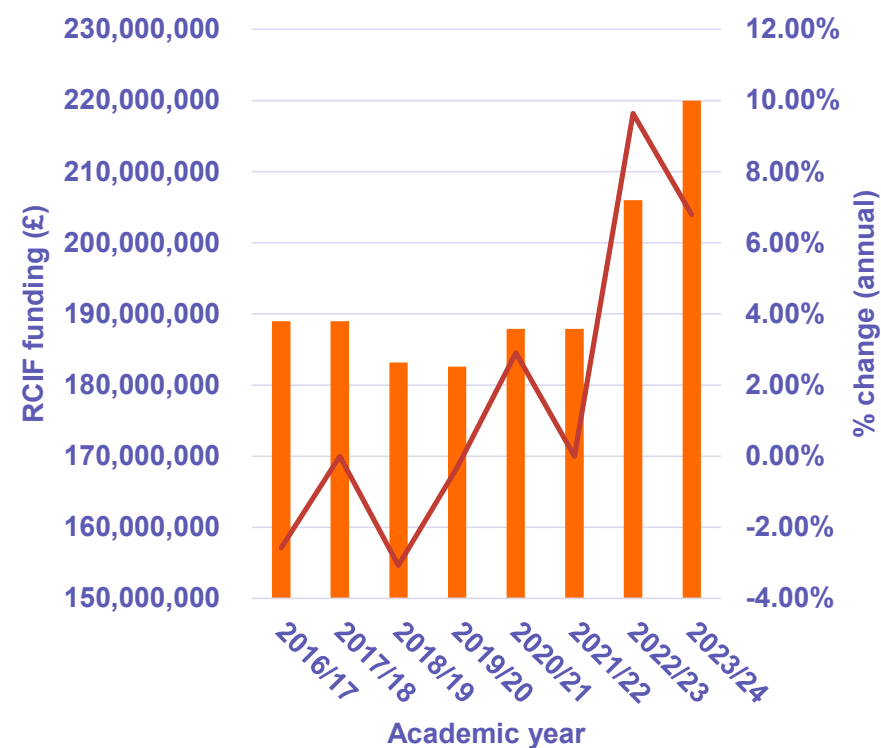
- **Desk-based research** – What data is available already? What information can be leveraged to mitigate burden? What anecdotal information persists across the sector?

# Condition of the Estate (COTE) development

## QR



## RCIF



# Condition of the Estate (COTE) development

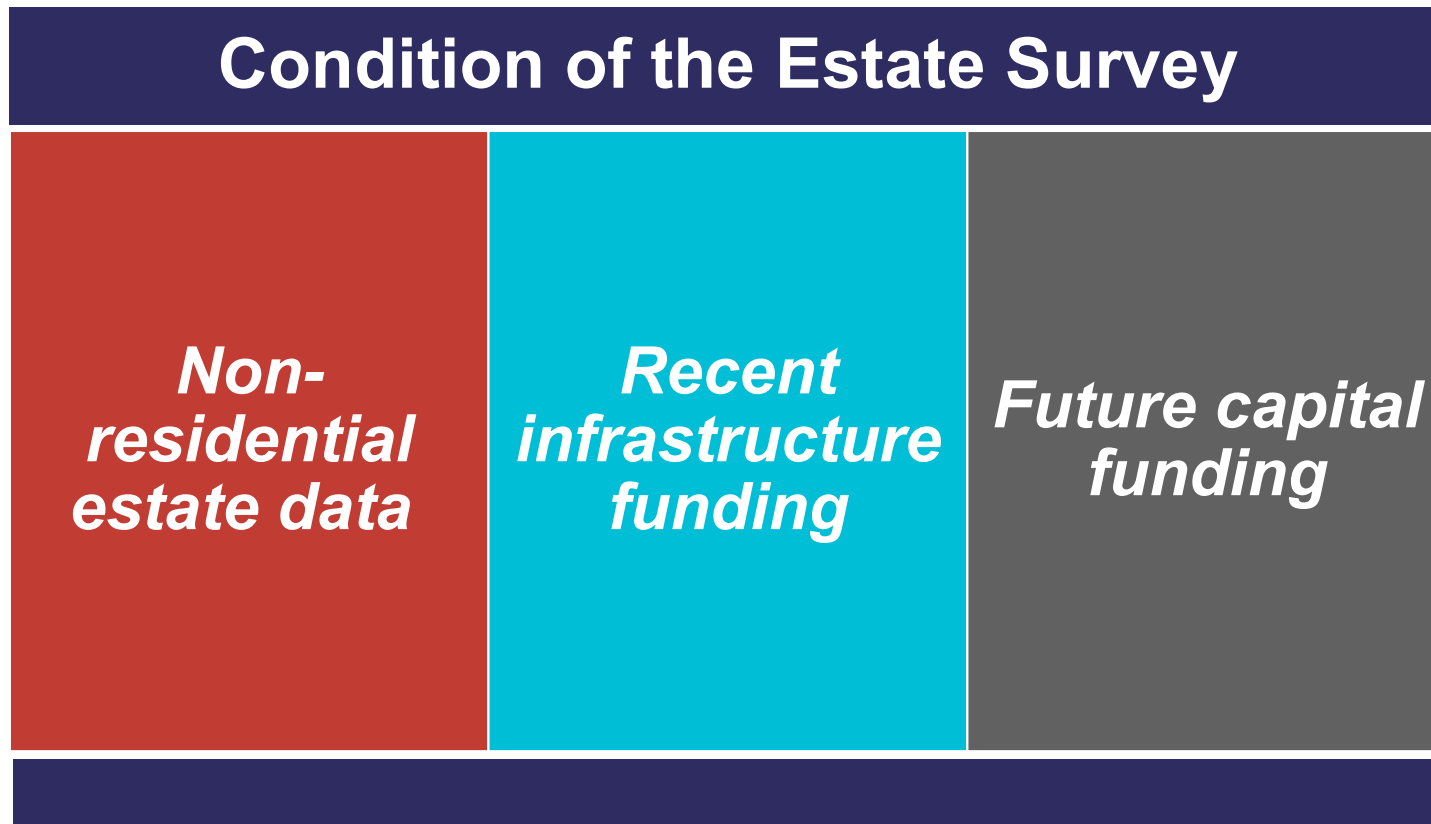
- **Desk-based research** – What data is available already? What information can be leveraged to mitigate burden? What anecdotal information persists across the sector?
- **EMR data analysis** – What is the integrity and the robustness of the data? What gaps are present? Has making EMR submission non-mandatory degraded the data to a point where we cannot effectively use it?
- **Views across the data** – What lenses can we use to look across the available data to provide insights into the state of the sector?
  - RCIF
  - Other RE funding streams (e.g. QR)
  - Other UKRI funding streams
  - TRAC grading
  - Place/region

# COTE survey aims

- **Two main objectives:**
  - to garner greater understanding of the current physical condition of HEPs' research infrastructure, its useability, safety, environmental sustainability, and effectiveness in enabling research to take place, and how this has changed over time.
  - to identify how much is spent on research infrastructure within HEPs, how needs are prioritised, what the needs specifically are, and the sources of funding to facilitate this
- Gather **necessary evidence** the research infrastructure landscape in English HEPs for spending reviews to make a compelling case for increased infrastructure funding
- Highlight **the importance of investment into research infrastructure** as a fundamental and underpinning element of the wider research ecosystem



# COTE survey structure



# COTE survey structure

## *Non-residential estate data*

- Develop a baseline level of understanding about the proportion of HEPs' non-residential estate that is used for research activities, its current occupation and physical condition
- **5 core questions** and 5 optional questions

## *Recent infrastructure funding*

- Develop baseline data to understand the HEPs' spending on its research estate and the sources of funding that are used to facilitate these activities
- **6 core questions** and 9 optional questions

## *Future capital funding*

- Develop a detailed understand HEPs' future research infrastructure funding needs
- **4 core questions** and 3 optional questions

# COTE survey

URL: <https://engagementhub.ukri.org/re-researchinfrastructure/conditionoftheestatesurvey>



## Research England

### Condition of the Estate Survey

#### Overview

#### Condition of the Estate (COTE) Survey

At Research England, we are undertaking a piece of work to better understand the current state of research infrastructure (buildings and capital equipment) across the English higher education sector. This work, termed the Condition of the Estate (COTE), aims to gather valuable evidence from across the English HEP landscape to highlight the importance of investment into research infrastructure as a fundamental and underpinning element of the wider research

Closes 14 May 2024

Opened 7 Mar 2024

#### Contact

Alex Oliver

(Senior Policy Adviser)

Research Infrastructure, Research England

07564047971

[researchpolicy@re.ukri.org](mailto:researchpolicy@re.ukri.org)



**2.1. Of the HEP's non-residential estate, approximately what is the proportion that is used for research-related activities?**

(Required)

This should include any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met. Please base this on gross internal area of the space (GIA, m<sup>2</sup>). Please provide the figure as a percentage.

**2.2. What is the current overall value of the HEP's research estate?**

(Required)

This should include any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met.

# COTE survey

URL: <https://engagementhub.ukri.org/re-researchinfrastructure/conditionoftheestatesurvey>

2.5. How would the HEP assess the current physical condition of the HEP's research estate?

Excellent (EMR A) (Required)

Above average (EMR B) (Required)

Below average (EMR C) (Required)

Extremely poor (EMR D) (Required)

The research estate relates to any infrastructure (both buildings and capital equipment) that is used for research purposes for at least 25% of the time. This is including mixed-use spaces that are used for both teaching and research, so long as the minimum 25% threshold is met.

Please provide figures as a percentage for each of the available option to the nearest 5% using the EMR definitions for condition assessment. HESA EMR condition assessment definitions are outlined [here](#). The collated total for all options should equal 100%.

3.5. What funding streams or sources, other than its Research England research infrastructure funding, does the HEP use to supplement paying for maintenance or refurbishment its existing research-related infrastructure?

(Required)

- ☐ Quality-related (QR) funding from Research England
- ☐ Other Research England funding schemes (e.g. E3, UKRPIF)
- ☐ Pan-UKRI grants (e.g. SIPF, Infrastructure Fund)
- ☐ Research grants from other UKRI councils (including InnovateUK)
- ☐ Research grants from business and charities
- ☐ Cross-subsidisation of other income streams (e.g. teaching income)
- ☐ Commercial/investment income
- ☐ Donations and endowments
- ☐ Loans and finance
- ☐ Other non-UKRI UK funding bodies
- ☐ Non-UK funding bodies
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other income streams not listed

If other, please provide additional information

# COTE survey

URL: <https://engagementhub.ukri.org/re-researchinfrastructure/conditionoftheestatesurvey>

4.5. What is the HEP strategically prioritising to spend its research infrastructure budget on over the next 5 years? Please select 5 of the following options in order of priority.

New buildings

-- Please Select -- ▾

General maintenance of buildings

-- Please Select -- ▾

Complete refurbishment/repurposing of buildings

-- Please Select -- ▾

Replacement of buildings

-- Please Select -- ▾

New equipment

-- Please Select -- ▾

General maintenance of equipment

-- Please Select -- ▾

Complete refurbishment/repurposing of equipment

-- Please Select -- ▾

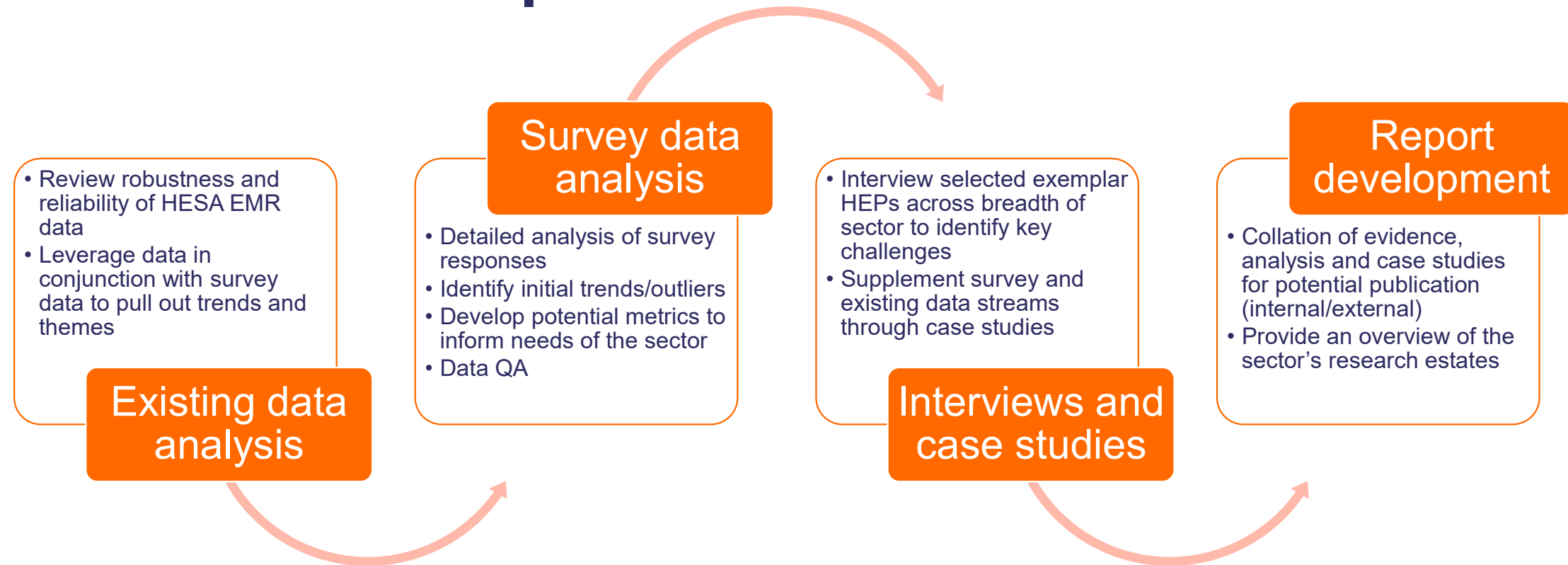
Replacement of equipment

-- Please Select -- ▾

4.7. Please provide any relevant additional details in relation to this section (future capital infrastructure funding) as appropriate.

Please ensure you reference relevant questions in your response, as necessary. In particular we would be extremely interested in summaries of any key considerations your HEP may face in relation to the future funding needs and the financial sustainability of its research estate.

# COTE - next steps





# Q&A



Research  
England

[researchpolicy@re.ukri.org](mailto:researchpolicy@re.ukri.org)

