

Institution: Sheffield Hallam University
Unit of Assessment: 16 Architecture, Built Environment and Planning
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Research activity focuses on the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) in the Faculty of Development and Society (D&S), where the majority of UoA16 Category A staff included in this submission are located. CRESR is a self-sustaining research centre which seeks to have an impact on policy and practice through contract research. Contract research provides a rich source of empirical data underpinning the intellectual contribution the Centre makes to academic debates. CRESR actively collaborates with Category A staff in the Department for the Natural and Built Environment (DNBE) whose research interests align with those of the Centre. Research activity takes place across a range of research clusters: regeneration; housing and the built environment; labour markets and welfare reform; voluntary and community sector studies; migration and cohesion; and disadvantaged groups. Boundaries between clusters are permeable, with activities open to all, thus ensuring the integration of ideas and thinking from different subject areas and perspectives, and hence creating fresh academic insights.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The research strategy supports an interdisciplinary approach to the pursuit of excellence in the development of new intellectual insights, by maximising synergies between academic knowledge production and problem-focused, policy-orientated research. Staff simultaneously engage in both academic debate about the way things are, and might be, but also applied research seeking to promote positive change within society by bringing expertise and knowledge to bear on contemporary challenges facing public policy. CRESR is a flagship component of the University's research strategy, by virtue of it securing substantial levels of income, enhancing research excellence, and achieving an academic profile of international significance. Success is evidenced by progress against strategic objectives identified in RAE2008. Key achievements are summarised immediately below, with further details provided in later sections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <i>sustain and enhance CRESR's profile for undertaking and widely disseminating policy relevant, cross-disciplinary research</i>: success is evidenced by the delivery of more than 120 research projects to more than 40 different funding bodies (see Section 4), and the dissemination of findings to policy, practitioner and academic audiences; authorship of monographs and articles in international journals of repute (see REF2); editorship of collected volumes and journal special editions; and strong links between CRESR's research outputs and user activity (see REF3a). (ii) <i>ensure a growing international profile</i>: evidenced by a notable increase in outputs in international academic journals (more than 90% of outputs included in this submission), collaborations with international colleagues, and invitations to speak at international events (see Section e). The development of international networks has been supported through the strategic targeting of research support funding, enabling staff to visit overseas HEIs (for example, in China, France, Spain and the Netherlands) and to develop relations resulting in joint seminars, journal articles (e.g. Hickman output 1; Goodchild output 1) and bids for research funding. (iii) <i>secure £2 million p.a. of research income</i>: CRESR secured an average of more than £1.7 million of research income p.a. in the broad area of planning research in the five years 2007/08 - 2012/13. This achievement in economically challenging times reflects success nurturing good working relations with a wide array of research funders. Data generated through the delivery of these projects provides the empirical evidence which underpins more than 80% of outputs in this submission, illustrating the virtuous circle between academic analysis and contract research which lies at the heart of this strategy. (iv) <i>ensure continued investment in the research infrastructure</i>: approximately £300,000 of Quality Related (QR) funds has been invested annually providing targeted staff with a 20 per cent release from teaching or contract research duties in order to produce high quality academic outputs. Remaining QR funds have been targeted at other strategic priorities, including the development of international links and a PhD bursary programme. QR funds have also supported the development and delivery of the online journal 'People, Place and Policy'

(<http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ppp-online/>).

- (v) *maintain a pool of at least 18 permanent research staff, with at least 12 entering the REF:* there are 23 research staff in CRESR, 15 of whom are included in this submission. Only three potential REF entrants have left the Centre since 2007. The impact of this loss was minimised by the pursuit of an active succession strategy, which has resulted in eight eligible staff members not submitted to the RAE2008, being included in this submission.
- (vi) *improve the PhD completion rate:* performance in relation to Post Graduate Researchers (PGRs) has continued to improve, evidenced by success in recruiting high calibre candidates and an improving completion rate. There have been 14 PhD completions in the planning field since 2008, compared with eight between 2001 and 2007, and a total in this REF period of 23 in the new enlarged UoA. This success in part reflects the introduction of a Faculty Bursary Programme (the UoA annually secured at least one such bursary since 2010/11) and the investment of QR funds within the UoA to support a new bursary programme (five bursaries provided since 2010/11).
- (vii) *promote academic research as a career option:* delivered through the recruitment and development of staff in the early stages of an academic career, who have been supported to contribute to research projects and to publish academically (see Section c). Since 2007 this policy has led to the recruitment of five staff to their first academic position, four of whom are included in this submission. In addition, eight research staff included in this submission have taken advantage of opportunities for career progression and been regraded since 2007 and three staff have been awarded Professorships since 2007.
- (viii) *promote academic research within teaching staff:* a release programme has targeted proven achievers and new academics among lecturing staff. This has helped nurture research activity and ensured the inclusion here of four lecturing staff not submitted to RAE2008 (Bennett, Casey, Jones, and White). In total, seven staff from DNBE are included in this submission.

Overarching objectives 2014-2019 are to sustain the future of research in the Unit through the procurement and effective delivery of research contracts, nurturing academic research, and the dissemination of findings to policy and academic communities at national and international levels.

Detailed aims are to:

- (i) *sustain and enhance CRESR's profile for undertaking policy relevant research of excellence and impact and for authoring high quality academic outputs:* to be delivered through continued success (turnover c.£2m p.a.) in procuring and delivering research contracts from both academic and policy research funders and the authorship of academic outputs for international journals of repute (25 outputs p.a.). To support this objective, strategic investment will be targeted at key growth areas, including a specialism surrounding low carbon housing, the Green Deal, and the related issue of fuel poverty. This will involve nurturing an emerging interdisciplinary cluster drawing together expertise in architecture (Marsh), building technologies (O'Flaherty), planning (Goodchild and Walshaw), and social policy (Gilbertson).
- (ii) *further develop an international reputation:* through a continued focus on the authorship of outputs in international academic journals of high impact (target = 90% of outputs by staff receiving writing release, amounting to 25 outputs p.a.) and increasing international collaboration. Targets include an increase in joint funding applications with colleagues in overseas HEIs (at least five successful grant applications by REF2020) and authorship of 10 outputs with partners in overseas institutions between 2014 and 2019.
- (iii) *promote academic research as a career option through recruitment and career progression opportunities and targeted support:* the strategy will continue to focus on the recruitment and development of new academics and support for career progression. Success will be measured by the inclusion of at least five existing staff members from across CRESR and DNBE in REF2020 who are not included in this submission.
- (iv) *maintain a higher degree programme, whilst further improving PhD completion rates:* through competition for external and Faculty bursary awards, the Unit will seek to provide at least one new studentship annually in the broad area of planning. Systems and processes that have resulted in a dramatic improvement in PhD completion rate over the last five years will be maintained and enhanced so that by REF2020 we anticipate more than 20 completions.

c. People

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The **staff strategy** is framed by the principles of the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*, which guides institutional policies and practice in relation to research staff. In January 2013, Vitae confirmed that SHU had gained the HR Excellence in Research Award from the European Commission. The University approach focuses on the recruitment, training, retention and career development of research staff within an environment that respects the diversity of all, whilst enabling staff to achieve their potential in contributing to University life. The SHU gender, race and disability equality scheme ensures compliance with all relevant legislation. Alternative working arrangements, including part-time and flexible contracts, are actively promoted. Seven of the 22 Category A staff submitted here are women and five are on part-time contracts. All submitted staff are on permanent contracts, a key factor underpinning a sustainable staffing strategy based on a long term policy of recruiting and nurturing new talent.

Recruitment policy within the UoA focuses on helping early career academics achieve excellence in research, and then subsequently developing and retaining these researchers as they progress through their career. Research staff are encouraged to fulfil their potential and take advantage of the clear pathway for **career progression**: Research Associate, Fellow, Senior Fellow, Principal Fellow, Professor. Batty, Crisp, Walshaw, and Wilson were all regraded from Associates to Fellows in the REF period and are entered here, whilst Powell was regraded to Principal Research Fellow. Three Principal Fellows (Beatty, Fletcher and Hickman) were awarded personal Chairs during the REF period, a route that was identified in the RAE2001 as a sustainable approach to filling senior positions. In total, eight of the nine professors submitted here were originally recruited to junior academic positions (Cole, Beatty, Fletcher, Goodchild, Hickman, Lawless, Robinson and Wells). Evidence of SHU's wider record of supporting the research career comes from the VITAE 'Straight Talking' project (2012). Levels of satisfaction among SHU researchers was found to be 79%, much higher than the average (56%) across the eight participating HEIs. This finding was seen to reflect factors such as SHU having a far greater proportion of researchers on open-ended contracts, job security, and variety of work.

The **staff development** strategy recognises the importance of promoting learning at all stages of the academic career, whilst encouraging staff to share responsibility for their personal and career development. Senior academics and research leaders are key to this approach, creating a culture within which personal development is the norm and advancement is actively promoted, through formal appraisal and mentoring, as well as informal advice and guidance. All staff are appraised at least twice a year by a senior member of staff, when personal objectives are set and development needs identified. In line with the Vitae Researcher Development Framework domains, a suite of internal training courses cover both personal and professional development, as well as research and knowledge transfer skills. In addition, staff can submit bids for support from the staff development budget (£25,000 p.a.), which typically emerge from the appraisal process in response to recognised needs. Supported activities include attendance at national and international conferences and training in specific research methods. Four early career academics have also been supported to take modules on an ESRC-approved MRes in Social Science Research Methods delivered within the Faculty. Walshaw moved into academia from practice and is being supported for a PhD by publication.

All Category A staff receive an annual allocation of self-managed study time in which to develop research proposals and extend their knowledge. In addition, study leave is made available to selected staff through the investment of QR income. Proven achievers are released from teaching and contract research duties (25 in 2012/13) to facilitate the development of high quality (3*/4*) academic outputs. In 2012/13 all staff included in this submission were released for 20 days or 45-90 teaching hours depending upon circumstances. In 2012/13 support was also provided for five staff who, whilst not submitted here, have produced outputs indicating they may enter any future REF. Mentoring of less experienced staff by senior colleagues has included advice on writing for academic journals, comments on drafts of papers, and guidance through the journal submission process. Four staff members originally joining as Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and who benefited from this support are entered here: Batty, Crisp, Walshaw, Wilson. The research culture continues to be strengthened by the contribution of Professor Steve Fothergill (**Category C**), National Director of the Industrial Communities Alliance. He has worked collaboratively with

colleagues in CRESR for more than 20 years on contract research and academic outputs. Since 2007 he has been involved in more than 30 projects funded by local and national government and Research Councils, delivered in partnership with Category A staff.

Opportunities for personal development and career progression explain the high retention rate of staff. Only two Category A staff submitted in RAE2008 have left the UoA (Flint: Head of Department, University of Sheffield; Jay: Liverpool University), with four having retired (Furbey, Griffith, Haywood, and Nixon). An active succession strategy (see above) has resulted in stability in the number of staff included in this submission, compared with RAE2008. The sustainability of the current research community is attested by the fact that 75 per cent of entrants are under 50 compared with 63 per cent for RAE2008.

Research standards are maintained through a number of internal quality control mechanisms. Ethical standards are regulated through policies and procedures laid down by the University's Research Ethics Committee (UREC), which are regularly revised to comply with EU and national legislation and standards of good practice. Our approach to research integrity is recognised by the European Science Foundation (Fostering Research Integrity in Europe, ESF, December 2012). We also participate in the UK Universities Research Ethics Network to establish kite marking for research ethics committees. All research proposals are subject to review by the Faculty Ethics Committee, which operates under guidance from UREC. CRESR operates in accordance with agreed standards of good practice laid down in the GSRU (Government Social Research Unit). In addition, guidance and standards for data management which comply with ISO27001 have been adopted, with CRESR also being a signatory to the DWP's Generic Security Accreditation Document agreement for data security and management. These procedures have passed every annual audit. A risk assessment approach is encouraged to safeguard the well-being of participants and researchers. The SHU research data archive allows research data to be securely stored in line with University data retention policies.

ii. Research students

Performance in relation to PGRs has continued to improve. Success in the ESRC recognition exercise resulted in CRESR receiving seven quota awards between 2008 and 2010. These awards ceased following the ESRC decision to fund studentships through Doctoral Training Centres. Every effort has been made to fill this gap in funding through institutionally funded bursaries (see Strategy: b above). Five self-funded students have also been recruited since January 2008, a new development for CRESR. **Admissions criteria** align with the Quality Assurance Agency and Home Office guidelines. Recruitment to all bursaries involves a rigorous interviewing process. Depending upon training and experience, PGRs are required to complete some, or all, of an ESRC-recognised MRes in Social Science Research Methods. Induction takes place annually at University level, supplemented by an electronic resource on the SHU intranet. The Faculty Graduate School runs local induction events and all students are also given an induction into life as a PGR in either CRESR or in DNBE. PGRs are supervised by a team of at least two academics, one of whom must be REF active. Twelve members of staff included in this submission have been involved in PhD supervision since 2008, including five new supervisors. All new supervisors are required to attend a University-wide supervisor training course and their first experience of supervision is in partnership with an experienced colleague. A monthly PhD Forum, coordinated by Powell and Reeve, provides higher degree students with an opportunity to reflect on conceptual, methodological and practical concerns. A Research Student Showcase is held at the end of every academic year, at which students present and discuss their programme of study with staff and fellow students from CRESR and the wider Faculty. **Student progress** is formally monitored in the first three months for full-time, and six months for part-time, students, when the proposed programme of study is independently assessed by two rapporteurs and an ethics review is conducted. Progress is also monitored via the Confirmation of PhD registration stage at the 12 month mark for full-time students. This rigorous assessment of the PGR's ability to succeed at doctoral level involves the candidate authoring a 6,000 word progress report and participating in an oral assessment.

All planning students are accommodated within CRESR, where they have dedicated desk space and full access to infrastructural resources. Co-location of PGRs alongside senior academics ensures they are an integral part of the research culture. DNBE students are accommodated in the Faculty Graduate School, also located in the Sheffield Science Park. This provides a hub around

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which research students gather for formal and peer group support and assistance. Opportunities for guided work experience in the lecture theatre is provided to all students upon completion of a short teacher training course. PGRs are encouraged to think about their career trajectory and to reflect on skills for development through completion of a Development Needs Analysis form. **PGR training** is mapped to the domains of the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF). In addition, bespoke sessions are run for each of the four RDF domains (knowledge and intellect, personal effectiveness, research governance, and impact). PGRs also have access to a series of CPD courses on, for example, employability skills and writing for publication. The University has invested in the on-line skills training package Epigeum since 2008, which is available to all research students and staff via the SHU intranet. All new students are required to complete the Research Ethics 1 module. Recently completing students have subsequently taken up posts at HEIs, including the universities of Chester, Derby, Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam, and St. Andrew's.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

CRESR has developed the strategies, infrastructure and facilities required to guarantee success in income generation and project delivery. Success is evidenced by the £8.5 million of research income recorded in HESA data since 01/01/08; approximately £1.7 million per capita per annum. The bulk of this income is from government contracts (Department of Communities and Local Government, Department of Work and Pensions, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Home Office. However, ~£1 million has also been secured since RAE2008 from research councils and charities, including six successful research council (ESRC; AHRC) bids for research, knowledge exchange and third sector fellowships funding. This success reflects benefits flowing from the decision to target support at buying-out staff from core duties in order to generate research council and research charity bids.

Virtually all research income is secured in competition with HEIs and/or private sector consultancies. Bidding is a collective effort, with colleagues being drawn together into specially constituted teams to meet particular methodological and expertise demands. Examples of recent high profile successes include two headline evaluations of the impacts of welfare reform for DWP (Local Housing Allowance reforms, £1.1 million; direct payment of Housing Benefit, £415,000); one of the largest qualitative studies of life in poor neighbourhoods in the UK (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, £350,000); a six year evaluation of a UK programme to tackle youth unemployment (Big Lottery; £1.2 million); and an ESRC funded study of the role and impact of welfare conditionality (£226,000). Bids for research funding are frequently submitted in partnership with academic and private sector collaborators, whose skills and expertise complement those of CRESR staff. Success in securing research and evaluation framework agreements with funders, including DWP (2009; 2013) and Department for Business Innovation and Skills (2011), evidence CRESR's reputation and research quality. Through this portfolio of research, impact on policy and practice is secured (see REF 3a/b), whilst empirical data is made publically available through data sets and research reports. Critically, this empirical evidence also underpins our intellectual contribution to the discipline in that it helps to deliver a **'virtuous circle': a blending of policy-orientated research with academic analysis**. Delivery of research contracts creates empirical data which underpin the intellectual contribution made to methodological and conceptual debates. The vast majority of outputs included in this submission draw on data generated as part of research contracts: the research strategy is thus based on directly **linking research funding to high quality outputs**.

Two examples illustrate this relationship. The first revolves around the ~£25m 2001-2010 government funded evaluation of the New Deal for Communities (NDC) Programme, involving six Category A staff included in this submission. The NDC team took the decision to seek academic publication through discrete refereed papers rather than via an edited book or a themed edition of a journal. Twelve academic outputs included here draw on evidence emerging from this evaluation (Batty output 2, Beatty output 4, Cole output 1, Crisp output 2, Lawless outputs 1-4; Wilson outputs 1-4). This body of work has made a contribution to academic debate regarding area-level regeneration. Advances include highlighting complexities inherent to evaluating regeneration schemes; explaining why regeneration areas change so little; but establishing too, for the first time, that individuals tend to benefit from specific regeneration initiatives, even if such benefits cannot be identified at the area-level. The second example arises from work on the theory and realities of employment, unemployment and sickness in the UK. Research co-financed by the

ESRC helped develop innovative methodologies underpinning a major contribution to academic debate. An ESRC funded Women on Incapacity Benefit study (2006-2009, £189,000) was co-financed by local authorities (LAs)/Regional Development Agencies (£295,000). Two follow-on projects further utilised the generated data (DWP 2009 £25,000 and East Midlands Learning and Skills Council 2008/09 £25,000). In addition to an overarching project report, outputs included eight local area policy reports, and a survey data set of over 3,600 claimants (SN6288 deposited with the ESRC data archive 2009). Four book chapters (Beatty and Fothergill) and two academic articles (Beatty; outputs 1&2) developed a gendered theory of employment and unemployment, speculating as to whether a different approach to tackling sickness and unemployment was needed for women. The research also led to further work for the National Worklessness Learning Forum (£25,000, 2010), which formed the basis of an article exploring worklessness in the UK's weaker regions (Beatty; output 3). This body of work contributed to various academic debates regarding labour market change in the UK including methodological advances permitting fuller investigations of changing labour market conditions, more robust explanations of worklessness, and for the first time, explorations into the paradox of a simultaneous rise in women's employment, with an increase in recipients of disability benefit.

The **research infrastructure** ensures the delivery of research contracts/grants to the highest standards, on time, to budget and to the satisfaction of funders. CRESR has pioneered systems of work planning that ensure inputs into academic research and contract delivery are aligned with specified targets. Methodological rigour is supported through the University's annual appraisal process, and on-going training and development of all research staff combined with a meticulous approach to project management. The latter involves senior staff within CRESR monitoring progress on research projects, overseeing all aspects of data collection and analysis. Project team meetings (at least monthly) ensure members are able to raise concerns, whilst being fully briefed about roles and responsibilities. In addition, all principal investigators meet on a quarterly basis with CRESR's research manager to review expenditure and progress against milestones. Performance is also assessed through a Post Project Review form sent to all funders. Standards in academic writing are promoted by the Unit's REF Management Group through the application, approval and monitoring processes associated with the release programme. In particular, staff are required to submit an application for release providing details of proposed outputs, a timetable, and list of indicative target journals. Release is only granted to support the production of articles for international journals of repute or monographs for major publishers.

CRESR has a clear remit, a physical presence and a strong and distinctive internal and external profile. This environment has supported an **intensive research culture**, nurtured through a range of activities. As a self-sustaining research centre the continued existence of which depends upon the procurement and successful delivery of research contracts and grants, CRESR takes a strategic approach to income generation, including the creation of an appropriate infrastructure. This includes dedicated administrative assistance (2.6 FTE) and access to professional services through SHU's Research and Innovation Office (RIO). In addition CRESR staff have developed a wide range of technical and methodological skills. Quantitative and economic data collection and analysis is provided by a data analysis team of seven staff with expertise in large scale survey analysis, secondary data analysis, statistical techniques, including econometric techniques, and also Geographical Information Systems. Qualitative data collection and analysis is available through a team of nine field researchers with expertise in semi-structured interviews, focus groups, observational techniques, visual methods, and longitudinal and comparative case study designs. Staff in DNBE are seconded onto research projects as appropriate, to reflect their skills and experience. The details of the impact strategy and associated success in securing major research and evaluation contracts are discussed in REF3a.

Efficient and effective delivery of research contracts is underpinned by a management system used to work plan the activities of all staff. This is designed to ensure the availability of resource and capacity for tendering and project delivery, as well as for providing time for academic research, PhD supervision, and management duties. This system uses half-day allocations of time for all research staff which is monitored on a monthly basis. All staff submit a plan of future work schedules set against project commitments. This allows workloads to be balanced across the Centre and ensures allocations of time specified in research bids is undertaken by nominated staff.

CRESR is located in its own unit in the Sheffield Science Park. The Centre has dedicated

computer facilities for all staff and students, supported by the University's network and IT staff, including online access to library services and national data resources. The nearby SHU Learning Centre integrates quality academic library information resources in electronic and hardcopy format with excellent IT facilities which meet the varied needs of researchers. A fast and effective Document Supply Service obtains items not held in the University's collections. Staff are strongly encouraged to deposit their work in SHURA (SHU Research Archive), an open access repository containing scholarly outputs and publications.

CRESR has a long running public **seminar series** hosting 45 different speakers in the three years 2010/11-2012/13, 30 of whom were external to the University (including colleagues from Bath, Birmingham, Charles Sturt Australia, Durham, Glasgow, Kent, Newcastle, Robert Gordon, Sheffield, TU Delph, UCL and West of England). In 2011/12, attendance averaged more than 25 people, with 120 individuals attending at least one seminar, half from local or national government or other external agencies. Seminars have been jointly hosted with, for example, the Chartered Institute of Housing, JRF, and Sheffield City Council (SCC). Workshops and seminars have been organised in partnership with funding bodies to disseminate research findings. CRESR's open access, online academic journal – People, Place and Policy Online (www.ppp-online.org), edited by Robinson and Wells (2007-2011), subsequently Crisp and Robinson (2011-2013) - has run to seven volumes (December 2013). The journal is important in nurturing research culture, providing staff with a forum through which to disseminate ideas and findings to policy, professional and academic worlds across the broad spectrum of CRESR's expertise. The journal also attracts submissions from outside SHU: 20 of the 33 articles published in 2011/2012 were from external authors. PPP Online has more than 800 people on its alerts' database and the journal website has attracted more than 45,000 unique visitors. Fourteen papers have each secured more than 1,000 readers since January 2008.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

The Unit undertakes **interdisciplinary** research drawing together staff from a range of traditions including anthropology, economics, geography, history, social policy, sociology, planning, statistics, the built environment, and urban studies. Teams brought together to bid for, and deliver, research grants are therefore able draw on insights emerging from a range of disciplines and traditions, which in turn engenders more rigorous analyses, whilst promoting greater depth and originality. This interdisciplinarity also allows problems to be seen within the larger context, a critical consideration when guiding policy development. Internal skills and experience are supplemented where necessary through **collaborations** with academics providing complementary expertise in other HEIs. Staff have collaborated with external colleagues in convening seminars, organising conferences and co-authoring outputs. Since 2007, 11 staff included in the submission have authored academic outputs with colleagues at other HEIs including the Universities of Birmingham, Cambridge, Dundee, Heriot-Watt, Leeds, Oxford, Queens, Salford, Sheffield, St. Andrews, Strathclyde, Warwick and York. SHU also collaborates with Leeds Metropolitan University in running an annual PGR conference. Well established partnerships also exist with consultancies, such as the Institute of Fiscal Studies, Ipsos Mori, Cambridge Economic Associates and Institute for Employment Research. We also have a record of close collaboration with the users of research. Success in managing this relationship is evidenced by the number of repeat commissions received, for example, from DWP, DCLG, Home Office and the Welsh Government. We also have a strong record of co-production with the users of research, including ESRC knowledge exchange projects (see REF3a).

A key strategic objective identified in RAE2008 was to ensure a **growing international profile**. To this end, 12 staff were supported to present at international conferences during the REF period. Papers in this submission by Batty, Beatty, Cole, Goodchild, Hickman, Robinson and Wells provide examples of resulting outputs. In addition, resources have been targeted at promoting international collaborations and networks. Activities have included international study visits, workshops and symposia. For example, in 2010, Casey, Goodchild and Hickman visited the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in Beijing. Goodchild presented an anniversary lecture and a series of joint sessions explored comparative understandings and policy approaches to community engagement and participation. A delegation from CASS returned to SHU in 2011 and joint working papers were generated. We have also **supported and hosted visits by international colleagues**. Five examples provide a flavour of these activities. First, a symposium on coping with

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decline brought together academics from SHU, the University of West of England and the Institut d'Urbanisme de Grenoble (France) presenting to an audience of invited academics and public agencies (2008) which informed outputs by Hickman (output 2) and Cole (output 3). Second, Goodchild was invited to deliver a public lecture on regeneration policy in the UK at the Institut d'Urbanisme de Grenoble (2009) and subsequently hosted visits from Renaud Epstein (Université de Nantes) and Irène Mboumoua (Université de Paris Est) exploring urban policy in France. Third, Powell convened an international symposium on the application of the work of Norbert Elias to urban studies (2013), involving academics from the UK, Netherlands, Ireland and Australia, which resulted in a proposal for a journal special edition (in progress). Fourth, a visit by Professor Ronald van Kempen from the University of Utrecht and a group of urban policy professionals was hosted by Robinson. Lectures by Cole and Robinson and by local regeneration professionals was supplemented by visits to local regeneration initiatives. Robinson was subsequently invited to Utrecht as a PhD examiner. Finally, the Unit hosted a three month study visit by colleagues from the University of Karabük in Turkey examining urban growth in post-industrial cities.

CRESR's growing international profile is also evidenced by *invitations* to speak at international conferences (Fletcher, Goodchild, Lawless, Marsh, Powell, Reeve, White) and **collaborations with international colleagues**. Indicative examples include: Goodchild and Hickman worked in partnership to deliver a comparative analysis of regeneration in England and France, resulting in joint authored articles with colleagues at the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (Goodchild output 1; Hickman output 1); Wells, Hickman and Robinson were members of a successful European consortium bid to the Italian Government led by the Urban and Regional Planning Department at University of Florence (2012); Powell is an invited member of the European Academic network on Romani Studies; Lawless was visiting Professor at Swinburne University Melbourne, where he presented the results of the NDC evaluation and implications for policy at five events to more than 200 delegates including senior policy makers in federal and state governments (Feb-March 2012), as well as to 40 academics and policy makers in Hong Kong (15/2/12). Staff have also served as **expert advisors to international agencies**. For example, Lawless acted as a specialist external adviser for a EU funded DG REGIO project: 'Good practice in urban development: projects and approaches supported by the European Regional Development Fund' (2011-12); Lawless (2011-12) and Wells (2012-13) acted as expert international advisers on the Limerick Regeneration Masterplan for the University of Limerick on behalf of funders including Atlantic Philanthropies, Irish Government and Limerick City Council; Goodchild acted as academic rapporteur for appointments to the *École Nationale Supérieure de Paris* (the national graduate school for France); and Marsh was keynote speaker at the Shanghai Expo 2010 UK/China Sustainability Conference. In 2012 Fletcher was an invited speaker at a conference hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Justice into up-skilling ex-offenders and he has also acted as a peer reviewer for funding applications submitted under the UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). Walshaw was invited by the International Energy Agency Demand Side Management Task Group to present on low carbon housing in the UK at the University of Trondheim, Norway (May 2013).

Staff have organised numerous events aimed at promoting dialogue and critical engagement within the academic community (workshops, seminars, conferences), often as a result of active engagement in **learned societies**. For example, Hickman served for four years as Chair of the Housing Studies Association and for six years Robinson was an elected member of the Executive Committee. Together they organised the HSA's annual conference in 2008, attended by more than 100 UK and overseas delegates. White was joint convenor of three panel sessions at the RGS-Institute of British Geographers conference in 2013 with colleagues from Australia, Brazil and Italy; Powell is a member of the International Network of Figurational Researchers and co-convenor of session at the Figurational Sociology conference at the University of Copenhagen (2012). Crisp, Robinson and Wells have all served as co-editors of PPP Online; White is editor of the Journal of Critical Animal Studies and editorial Board member of journals including the International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy; Powell is an editorial board member of Sociological Research Online; Bennett is an editorial board member of the International Journal of Law in the Built Environment. All Category A staff serve as reviewers for international academic journals. White was the winner of an Outstanding Paper Award, and Bennett of an Outstanding Reviewer Award, from the Emerald Literati Network, 2012. Lawless's output 3 was one of five papers shortlisted for the AESOP Prize Paper Nomination 2013.