UK’s research grants administration operations were assessed in 2022 as a part of Project GATeWAY (Grants Administration Transformation as the WAY Forward). In January 2023, we began implementing three strategic opportunities from the assessment – Structure, Collaboratives and Technology. Currently the project is in the Build & Test Phase, the second of four phases to transform research and grants administration.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- UK Research Administration is establishing a shared services model for local grants administration. A new organizational structure, along with new job architectures, business processes, and staffing, will be implemented to provide opportunities for growth, continuing education, and pathways for career advancement for administrators.

- The Project is currently in the Build & Test Phase which has included developing structure for the future state, which will increase our efficiency and support our grants administration staff. Several working groups have continued to provide input about what processes and structures are needed in the Collaboratives. The Project Team is developing the needed resources to prepare for Phase 1 Go-Live on October 1.

KEY PRIORITY UPDATES

- Validated and currently finalizing future state business process maps for research processes
- Finalizing governance framework, roles, and responsibilities for the Collaboratives organization
- Finalized and published the Collaboratives service catalog
- Vetted and published organizational model
- Developed job descriptions for new roles, posted management-level positions, and began receiving applications
- Gave staff opportunity to express interest in Collaboratives positions
- Worked with technology working group to determine research technology needs based on new organizational structure
- Determining future-state technology enhancements and developing a research technology roadmap
- Share finalized future state business processes
- Develop standard operating procedures and Collaboratives operations manual
- Define performance metrics for local research administration support
- Post Collaboratives job positions to receive applications
- Develop training curriculum and content
- Present enhanced technology roadmap identifying long-term needs and opportunities for automation
- Transition Phase 1 Go-Live staff to the Collaboratives

WHAT'S UPCOMING

30-Day Lookahead

- Begin training faculty and staff on new business processes and procedures
- Finalize standard operating procedures and publish operations manual
- Begin transitioning from legacy to new business processes
- Begin preparing for Phase 2 Go-Live transition
- Seek feedback and develop continuous improvement plan
- Identify resourcing needs for new technologies