NHS Blood and Transplant

Board Meeting in Public

Tuesday, 01 December 2026

Title of Paper	Research and Innovation Committee Terms of Reference	**Agenda No.**	5.2.1
Nature of Paper	☒ Official	☐ Official Sensitive	
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Lead Executive	Rommel Ravanan, Chief Medical Officer		
Non-Executive Director Sponsor	Stephen Powis, Committee Chair		
Presenter(s) at Meeting	Silena Dominy, Company Secretary		
Presented for	☒ Approval ☐ Information ☐ Assurance ☐ Update		
Is there a plan to communicate this to the organisation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yet to be determined		

Executive Summary

Following the Board's decision to form a Research and Innovation Committee, Terms of Reference for the Committee were drafted. These were initially reviewed by the Board at their meeting in September 2026 at which point a number of amendments were tabled. It was considered that a meeting of the intended members of the Committee should be held to agree any further amendments required. This meeting took place on 24 November and all amendments proposed are now presented as tracked changes, for the approval of the Board. Once the Committee is operational it is intended that the Terms of Reference will be further reviewed.

The Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Officer are now taking action to draft selection criteria for the international/national expert, lay member and DHSC non-voting roles on the Committee and thereafter a shortlist of potential candidates for these roles will be circulated to Committee members.

It is intended that shortlists will be available by mid-January, with candidates approached or open recruitment processes live by the end of January 2027. The first meeting of the Committee is hoped to take place late-February to mid-March. It is accepted that all non-voting members may not be in place by the time of the first meeting.

Previously Considered by

Initial draft considered by Board on 29 September 2026
Research and Innovation Committee Members considered further amendments on 24 November 2026

Recommendation

The Board is asked to:

- approve the Terms of Reference for the new Research and Innovation Committee, noting that they will be further reviewed by the Committee once it is operational.
- note the action being taken to identify international/national experts, a representative from DHSC and lay members to join the Committee as non-voting members.

Risk(s) identified (Link to Board Assurance Framework Risks)

P-11 Corporate Governance

Strategic Objective(s) this paper relates to:

☐ Modernising One NHSBT ☐ Optimising Donor Experience and Meeting Demand
☐ Campaigning & Identity ☐ Data, AI and Interoperability ☒ New Treatments

Appendices: