Developments over the past year

- Vastly different economic outlook
- RAE Outcomes
- First year in office for new Executive Board
- Progress in research, teaching and learning, and engagement
- Science City
- Finance
- Estate
Strategic Overview

Vision 2021:

“A World-class Civic University”

• Document approved by Council 30 March 2009
  http://www.ncl.ac.uk/internal/planning/annual_reports/strategic_overview/strategic_overview.pdf

• Iterative development process, with successive versions going to Council, Senate, and Heads of Units
• Develop Institutional Challenge Themes over 3-5 years
• Faculty Strategic Plans done
• Academic Unit Plans now under discussion
Research

• Solid RAE performance:
  - 17th on Research Power, 17th on Russell Group “Gold and Silver Medal” table, 21st on RG “Gold Medal” table, 27th on Times Higher Ed Research Quality ranking
  - Some high-scoring subject areas:
    - Stem cell and cancer research (1st in UK)
    - Civil engineering (2nd in UK)
    - Fine Art, Town and Country Planning (in top 5)

• Research funding on an upward trajectory (in particular Research Council grants)

• Significant recent funding successes – e.g. Digital Technology, £12m

• Angel Alliance, with Durham University, on commercialisation – recent £3.6m from EPSRC
Teaching and Learning

• “Parity of Esteem” principle
• Introduction of Readership based on excellence in T&L (and first promotion cases sent out to external assessors)
• First Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in T&L
• Better return on NSS than before
• New student representative system agreed
• Advances in student services and on-line support
• Continuing improvements in e-learning (e.g. ReCap)
• Strategic value of Ncl+
• Prepare for Institutional Audit October 09.
Engagement

- Institution-wide Status Quo Report being prepared
- Engagement Strategy to feed into overall Strategic Plan
- Strategic Positioning project
- “10-Step Plan to support the Regional Economy”
- ECIF Award
- Beacon for Public Engagement
- Universities for the Northeast
Science City

• Distinguish:
  - Newcastle, City of Science
  - Science Central

• 3 Partners have formed a Company Limited by Guarantee (“Newcastle Science Co.”). CEO: Dr Peter Arnold

• Agreed on a phased development of Science Central.
• Property development work by 1NG – including infrastructure
• First building: Science Gateway
Finances

• Overall position: Good this year, moderate next year, difficult after that, given expected constraints on public spending

• HEFCE Grant for 09/10 (announced February 09):
  - £105m, an increase of 3.5% compared to 2008-09.
  - This is circa 0.6% less than national average increase.
  - Research grant = £35.9m, an increase of 5.5%.
  - Teaching grant = £67.5m, an increase of 2.3%.

• Recent national budget: “Efficiency savings” required from HEFCE = £180m by 2010/11

• HEFCE decision: Claw back £65m from grants for 09/10
Estate

• Building projects on track
• Work to start soon on Business School Building (opposite St. James’s Park)
• Move into Student & Administrative Services Building by the end of 2009
• Coherent Campus Initiative
• Large-scale project over Summer 09 to improve teaching facilities and computer clusters
Other

- Institutional “Think Tank” workshops:
  - Gender in Academic Careers
  - Internationalisation
  - Philanthropy

- International:
  - Medical Sciences Campus in Malaysia going ahead
  - Naval Architecture degree at Ngee Ann Polytechnic Singapore – with possible further collaboration
  - MoU & follow-up with Hainan Province, China

- Good progress on sustainability agenda on campus
- Great North Museum to open 23 May
Thank you to all staff and students for the successes enjoyed by the University