



Strategy

In December 2012, Council approved the Royal Society of Chemistry's new strategy, which aims to enable the organisation as a whole to build on past success and achieve even greater things in the future. It encompasses the organisation's aim to successfully lead and support the scientific community and to advance and raise awareness of the public benefit of the chemical sciences.

Our mission

"To advance excellence in the chemical sciences."

Our vision

Our new shared vision draws more strongly from our heritage - including the '*pro scientia et humanitate*' motto on the RSC crest - and potential for success. It reflects the goal for the whole organisation:

"To be the leading voice and trusted partner for science and humanity."

Objectives

The new strategic objectives directly relate back to the Royal Society of Chemistry's Royal Charter. Reflecting the charter's original 'objects', the strategic objectives for the next five years will be:

- To foster and encourage the growth and application of [chemical] science by the dissemination of chemical knowledge;
- To establish, uphold and advance the standards of qualification, competence and conduct of those who practise chemistry as a profession;
- To serve the public interest by acting in an advisory, consultative or representative capacity in matters relating to the science and practice of chemistry; and
- To advance the aims and objectives of members of the Society so far as they relate to the advancement of the science or practice of chemistry.

Strategic priorities

To help achieve these strategic objectives and to provide additional direction, we identified the following five central priorities until 2017.

- **Member Engagement** - to recognise the importance of members at the heart of the Royal Society of Chemistry
- **Skills** - to develop and cultivate skills and talent in the chemical sciences at all levels
- **Knowledge** - to provide global authority on behalf of the chemical sciences



- **Community** - to strengthen the voice of the Royal Society of Chemistry community
- **Organisational Strength** - to ensure the long-term delivery of our Charter objectives

Organisational structure

Council is the governing body of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the members of Council are the Trustees of the charity. Council is required to manage and be responsible for our affairs as set out in the Charter and By-laws. The Secretary of the Royal Society of Chemistry, known as the Chief Executive Officer, works under the general direction of the Honorary Officers and is responsible for the management of the Royal Society of Chemistry and our staff.

Council has set itself the task of ensuring that it operates at a strategic level, keeping abreast of national and global issues affecting our operating environment including political and economic trends, developments in science, professional practice and the business environment. It provides direction by setting, and keeping under review, a strategic plan and allocating resources. In addition it establishes governance structures and processes, delegates authority and monitors conformance.

Council ensures that we meet our statutory obligations and adopt good practices in our governance and management processes. Its role is strategic, not operational i.e. it does not look after day-to-day matters.

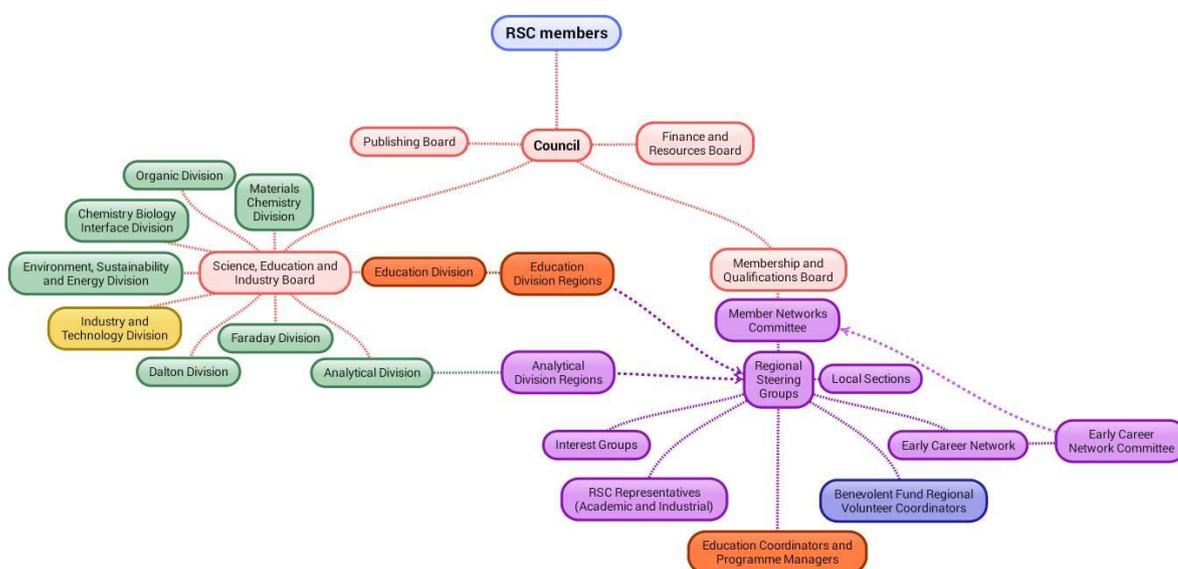


Figure 1 Organisational structure of member groups

Figure 1 shows our member led networks and how they fit within our governance structure all the way through to Council. All the networks in purple are supported by the Member Networks Team and will be discussed in more detail in the next section. Please be aware that this does not represent the entire governance structure.



The Regional Steering Groups contain a representative from each of these member networks and create a reporting channel that represents the needs of each of these networks through to the Member Networks Committee and then to the Membership and Qualifications Board. The Member Networks Committee is responsible for the governance of all member networks.

Member Networks Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose

To operate as the formal governance committee representing all RSC networks equally.

Responsibilities

The committee will:

- Receive reports from each of the regional steering groups regarding regional activity and member engagement.
- Discuss how support can be offered to networks regarding matters of particular regional interest.
- Advise how the regional steering groups can provide support and direction to the member networks to work towards realising targets specified on the RSC Strategy.
- Escalate appropriate issues/information to MQB.
- Disseminate information from MQB and other relevant information relevant to RSC strategy to the regional steering groups.
- Discuss formula for budget calculations and mechanisms for providing financial support to member groups.
- Advise, via MQB, how the RSC can shape and develop member services going forward in order to provide the most effective support to networks and members.

Working Practices

In addition to the general RSC working practices, the committee will:

- Conduct its business electronically via MyRSC.
- Hold at least one physical meeting per year as part of the RSC General Assembly, with other physical meetings as necessary.
- Report to MQB and communicate relevant business to the steering groups.
- Committee members would have a three year term of office and would be eligible to stand for two consecutive terms, as long as they remain to be the Chair of their respective Steering Group.

Membership

Membership of the committee will consist of:

Royal Society of Chemistry Networks Handbook (July 2015).
Contact networks@rsc.org with any queries.



- The Chairs of each of the ten Regional Steering Groups
- The Member Networks Committee Chair will be elected from the committee membership
- Secretary (non-voting)



Regional Steering Groups Terms of Reference

Purpose

To operate as a forum for all RSC networks active within the region and to support the activities of these networks.

Responsibilities

The steering group will:

- Discuss matters of regional importance and the impact for RSC networks.
- Receive updates on the activities of each network represented at the meeting.
- Discuss regional 'themes' and how the networks may respond to these issues.
- Identify joint activities for the networks across the region that help to achieve the goals set out in the RSC Strategy (participation in such activities is at the discretion of the individual networks).
- Share best practice across the networks.
- Advise, via the Member Networks Committee, how the RSC can shape and develop member services going forward in order to provide the most effective support to networks and members.

Membership

The composition of the Steering Groups will be as follows:

Representing
1 representative per Local Section in the region
Education Division Region
Analytical Division Region
Benevolent Fund Regional Volunteer Coordinator
Education Coordinator
Younger Member Representative
Industrial RSC Representative
Academic RSC Representative
Interest Group Representative
In attendance
Secretary (Staff non-voting)

***Membership of Interest Groups is not based on a geographical basis but by scientific interest. Consequently, members of an Interest Group Committee based in a particular region will be invited to sit on the Steering Group.*



Working Practices

In addition to the general RSC working practices set out in Annex 1, the steering group will:

- Conduct its business electronically via MyRSC
- Meet at least twice a year – once physically, ahead of the current Regional Meetings and once electronically via MyRSC, six months later.
- Steering Group members will have a three year term of office and will be eligible to stand for two consecutive terms.

The Steering Groups will be supported by a member of RSC staff who will act as the Secretary to the Group.