

# Update from Science Board

- **Our role** (STFC advisory structure + changes)
- **Who we are** (+ membership changes)
- **Current issues** (+ opportunities)
- **Activities**

Tara Shears, University of Liverpool, for Science Board.

## Science Board terms of reference:

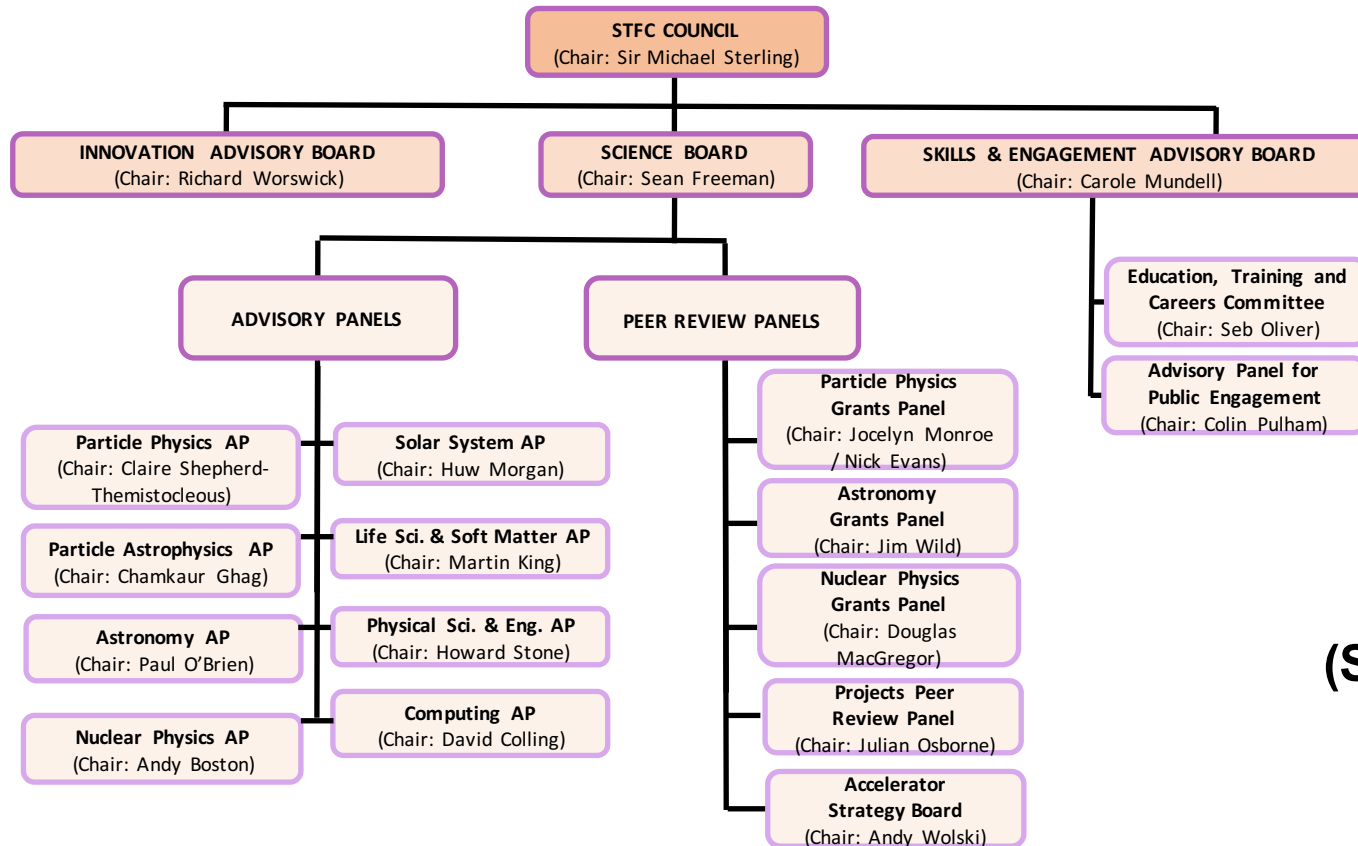
“...to provide the STFC with a strategic scientific overview and assessment of, and science advice on, all of the programmes STFC supports.”

### **Reliant on:**

- Advisory panels
- Peer review panels
- Other (ad hoc) review committees
- You, the community.

# STFC advisory structures (last NP community meeting):

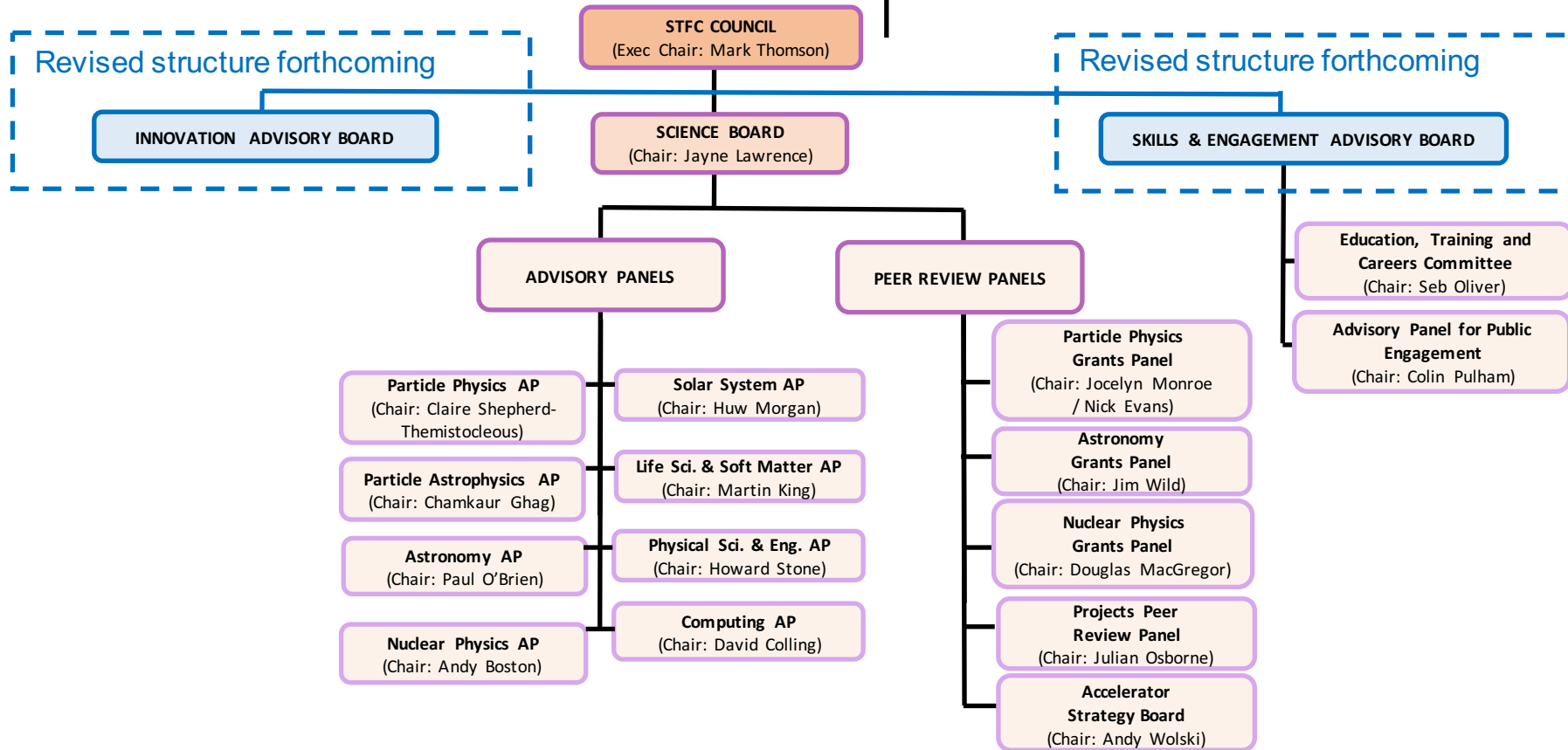
UKRI – new Council and new Executive Chair.



(Sean's slide)

# STFC advisory structures (currently):

UKRI



Council / Mark are establishing a revised structure

## Science Board Membership:

Jayne Lawrence - University of Manchester (Chair)  
Tara Shears - University of Liverpool (Deputy Chair)  
Stewart Boogert - Royal Holloway, University of London  
Bill Chaplin - University of Birmingham  
Bill David - STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, University of Oxford  
Gavin Davies - Imperial College London  
Karen Edler - University of Bath  
Chris Hawes - Oxford Brookes University  
David Ireland - University of Glasgow  
Ofar Lahav - UCL  
Paul McKenna - University of Strathclyde  
Andy Parker - University of Cambridge  
Robin Perutz - University of York  
Don Pollacco - University of Warwick  
+1 vacancy (to be filled shortly)

+ 14 **non-core** members, including  
Brian Fulton - University of York  
David Jenkins - University of York  
Patrick Regan - University of Surrey

(new / changed)

STFC Office: Trish Mullins

<https://stfc.ukri.org/about-us/how-we-are-governed/advisory-boards/science-board/>

## Current environment and issues:

### Challenges:

**Eight years of flat cash** eroding and squeezing core programme (everywhere)

**Brexit** (uncertainty: funding, collaboration, workforce movement, effect on landscape)

**UKRI** (still settling in)

Forthcoming **CSR** (STFC have submitted evidence of the pressure on core funding to UKRI)

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### Opportunities:

#### Additional funding streams:

Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF – industrial requirements)

Newton and Global challenges research fund (GCRF – ODA requirements)

Strategic priorities fund (multi/inter-disciplinary research in call areas)

Fund for international collaboration (FIC) .....

**Priority project scheme** launched to allow STFC to target any scheme quickly

**New UKRI CDT and fellowship schemes**

## Activities over the past year:

**Discussion/advice across all STFC activities;** astronomy, space science, nuclear and particle and particle astro- physics, computing, accelerator science, infrastructures, neutron facilities, light sources...

Some common threads in SB discussions have been:

- Excellence of the science that is being done across the whole programme.
- The increasing importance of computing (HPC, HTC, data analytics...) in most areas.
- Extreme difficulties of flat cash – lack of resource is really biting.
- Worries about maintaining an already very focussed programme and making sure that new opportunities are realised.
- Stark contrast between an unprecedented increase in the Science Budget and UKRI Core Programmes which remain under unprecedented financial pressure.
- Concern and uncertainty over BREXIT.

**(Sean, last year. Even more valid now)**

**...concentrate on (3) topics most relevant to nuclear physics.**



## 1) Priority projects:

**51 projects** submitted by the community across all STFC areas, including **4 submitted by NPAP:**

- Electron Ion Collider
- EPIC (exploiting the potential of ISOLDE at CERN)
- AGATA
- DRACULA

## 1) Priority projects:

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**Discussed by Science Board** at extraordinary meeting in October (**comments, not evaluation**)

- **Really excellent to see innovative, ambitious ideas from the community**
- Projects have also been considered by Council

Form part of STFC's portfolio to respond to funding opportunities outside the core programme

There will be a process to keep this list refreshed (not yet finalised)

<https://stfc.ukri.org/about-us/our-purpose-and-priorities/planning-and-strategy/stfc-reviews/research-programme/>

## 2) Programme evaluations:

Three year rolling programme to “define a balanced programme of excellent science within a realistic financial planning envelope” in each PPAN area, followed by a balance of programmes exercise:

- Computing, **Nuclear Physics** evaluations presented to Science Board in October
- Astronomy, Particle Physics, Particle Astrophysics and Accelerator Science ongoing
- Intention for all evaluations to finish by June 2019 and reports to be made public
- Balance of Programmes 2 will then start.

(→ **Don ....**)

### 3) Projects and Sols:

**NP project funding lines open up in 19/20-22/23** following the completion of ISOL-SRS, ALICE Upgrade and J-Lab Upgrade development projects  
(note: level of available funding is subject to the CSR decision....)

Three Sols were submitted in 2017 and directed to the NP programme evaluation:

- AGATA
- ACPA@ELI
- DRACULA

Science Board evaluated the Sols in October following the NP programme evaluation recommendations

**Feedback has been given to the PIs.**

## **And finally:**

**We know that UK Nuclear Physics (like all PPAN science) is world-class**

- eg. by field normalised citations (2017 STFC impact report) : 2<sup>nd</sup> (2014), 1<sup>st</sup> (2015), 2<sup>nd</sup> (2016)
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### **But ..... there are opportunities:**

- Be ambitious, be creative at exploiting funding calls (and thank you for ideas so far)
- Keep up your excellent science. It's the bedrock underlying arguments to UKRI, government etc to give you more.