

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:

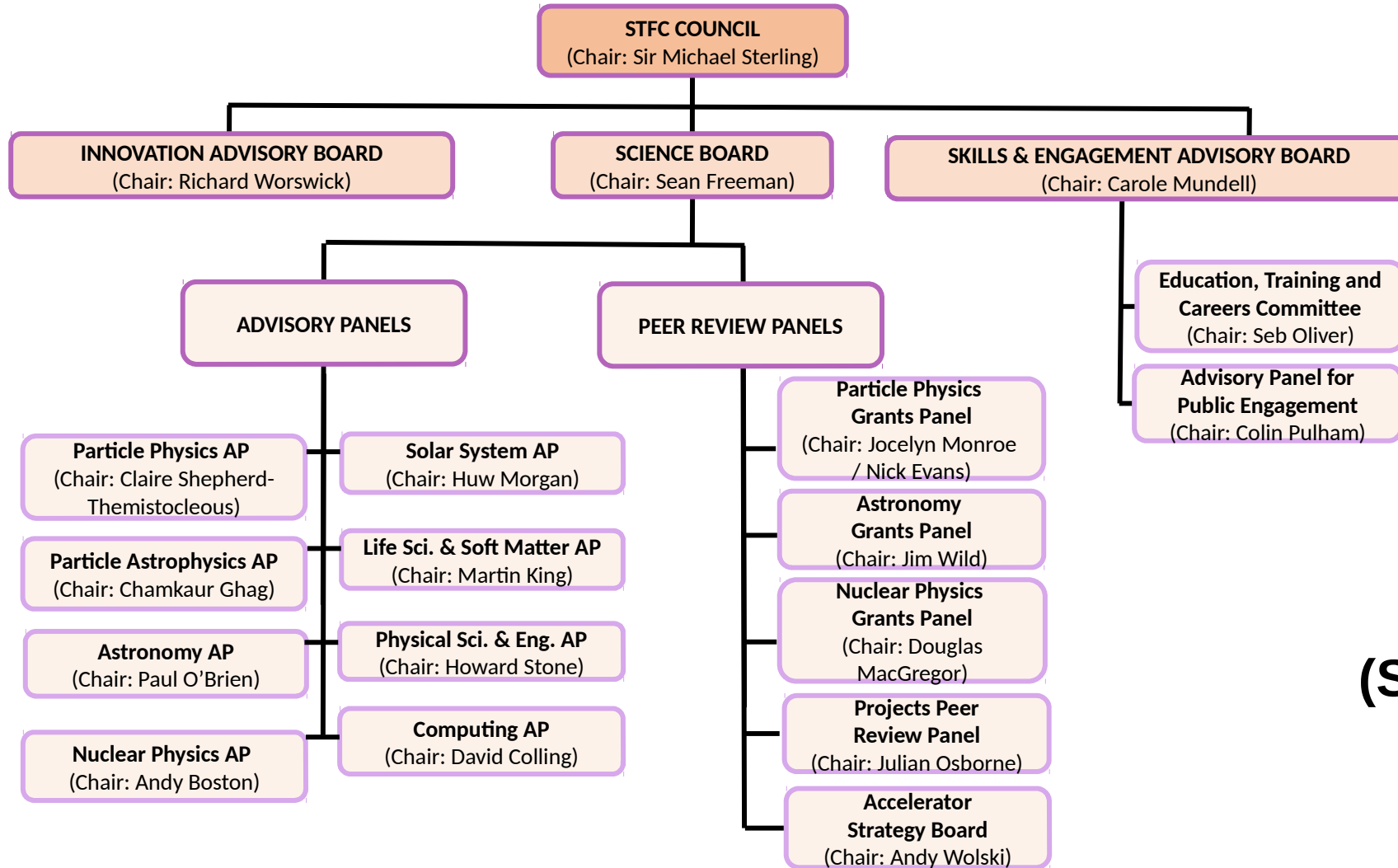
“...to provide the STFC with a strategic scientific overview and assessment of, and science advice on, all of the programmes STFC supports.”

Reliant on:

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

STFC advisory structures (last NP community meeting):

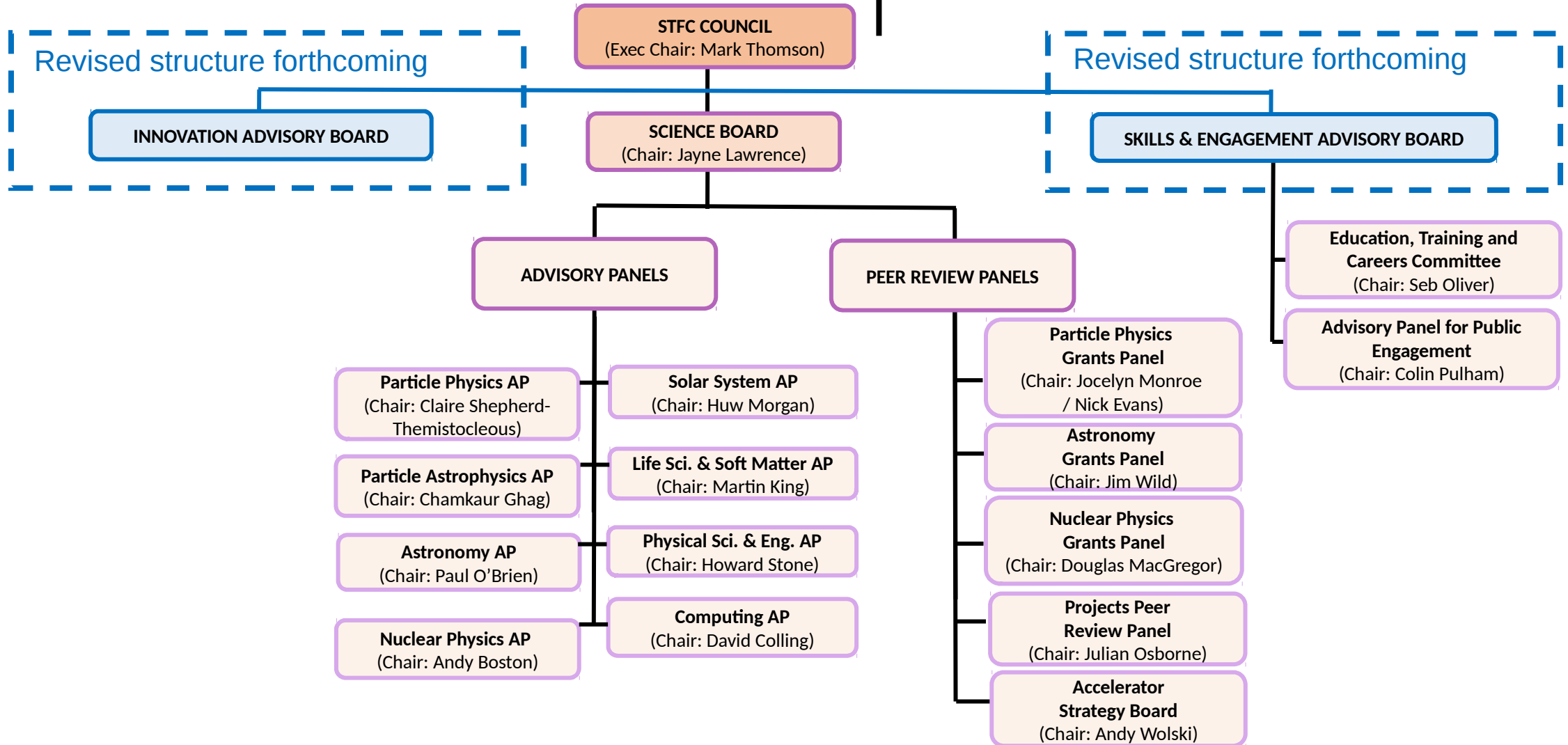
UKRI – new Council and new Executive Chair.



(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
Ofer 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

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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)

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) : 2nd (2014), 1st (2015), 2nd (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.