

PPAP Community Meeting

Updates on PPAN Prioritisation: PPAP angle

17-July-2026

PPAP: D. Costanzo, H. Flaecher, E. Gramellini, C. Hays, X. Lu, K. Mimasu, J. Price, H. Rafique, **R. Saakyan (Chair)**, J. Turner, S. Williams, M. Williams

Community Views on Potential PPAN–EPSRC Integration

- STFC/UKRI have raised the possibility of closer integration between PPAN and EPSRC
- No clarity on what this would involve in practice
- This poll was conducted to understand community views in the absence of a detailed proposal

Many thanks to Aprajita Verma (Chair of AAP) for combining the poll across 5 PPAN communities:

Particle Physics (PPAP)

Astronomy (AAP)

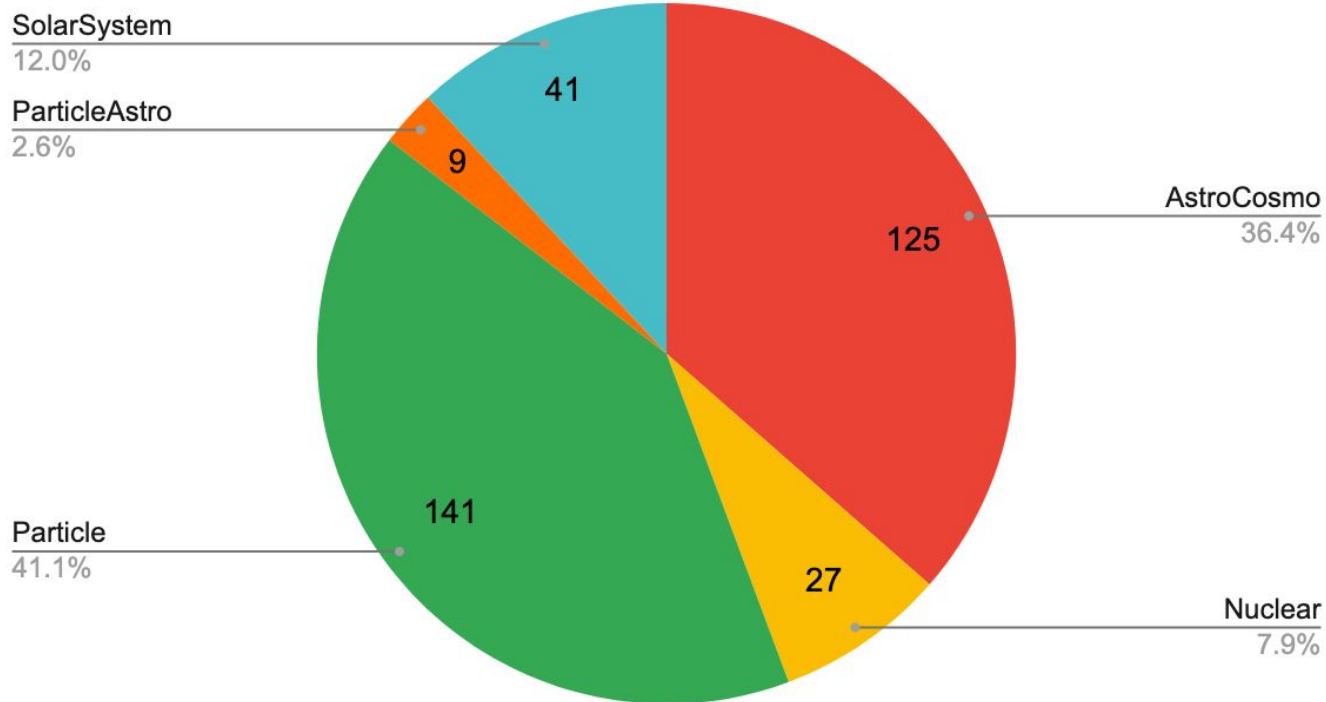
Particle Astrophysics (PAAP)

Nuclear Physics (NPAP)

Solar System (SSAP)

343 responses across PPAN

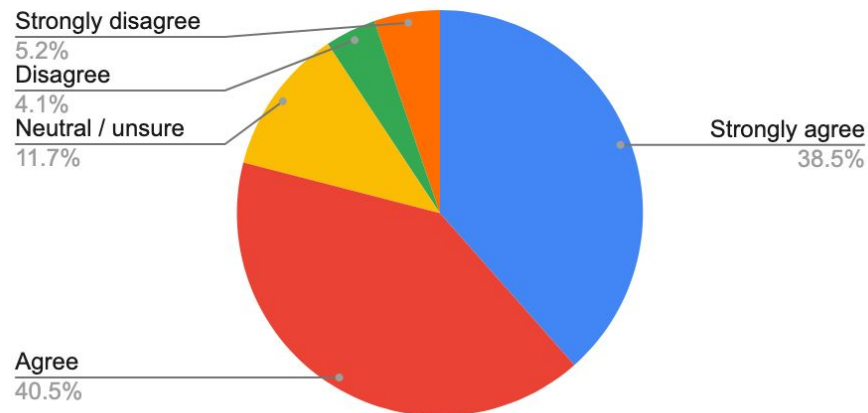
Responses by community



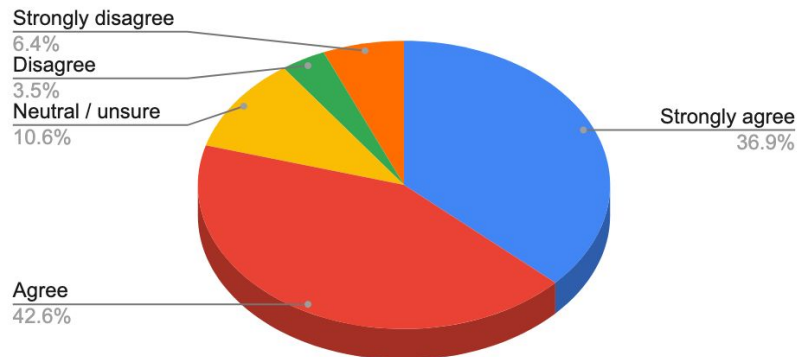
Q1 To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

The current funding structure, in which science budgets are vulnerable to pressures from facilities, subscriptions and infrastructure costs, is sufficiently problematic that alternative organisational models should be explored.

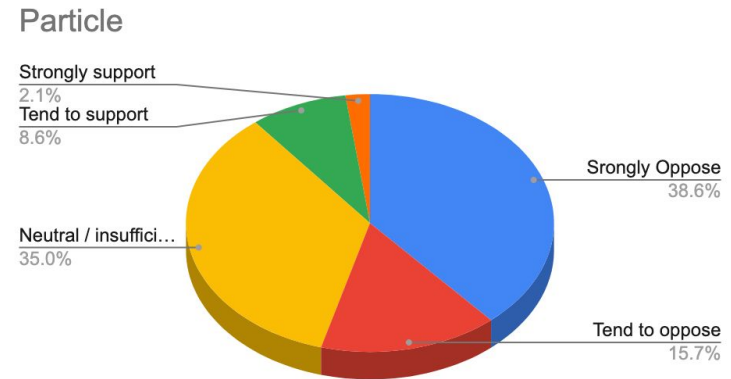
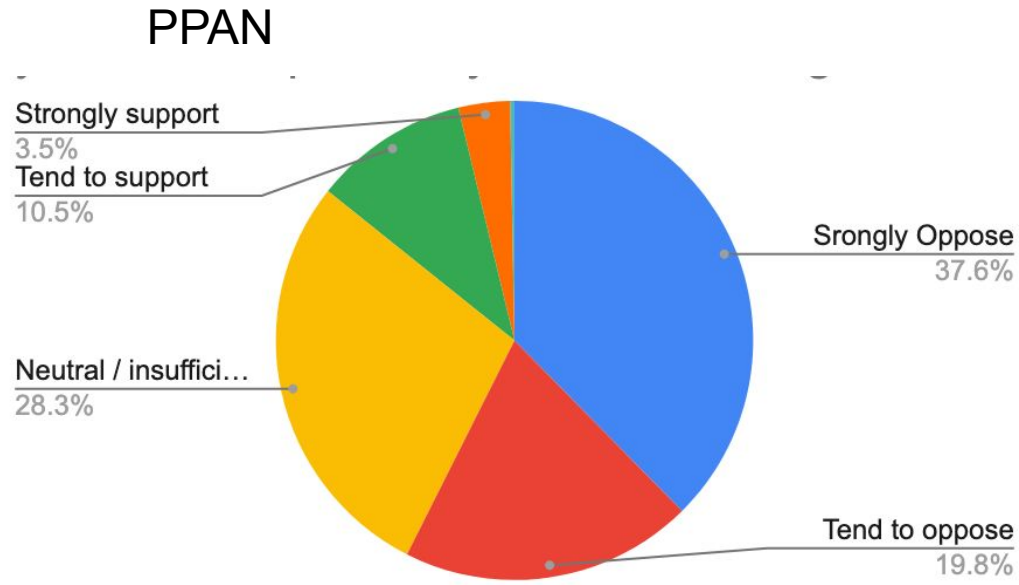
PPAN



Particle

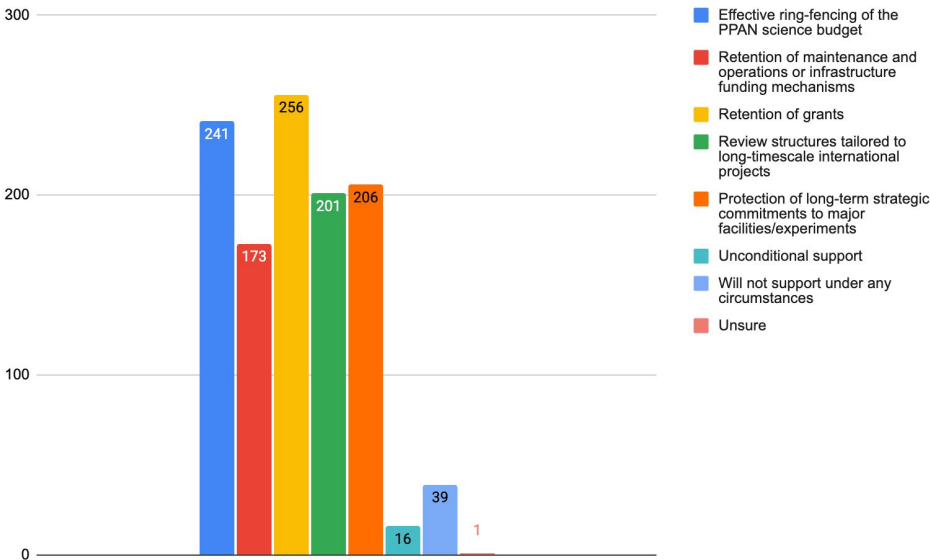


Q2 In the absence of a detailed proposal, how do you view the possibility of a closer integration between PPAN and EPSRC?

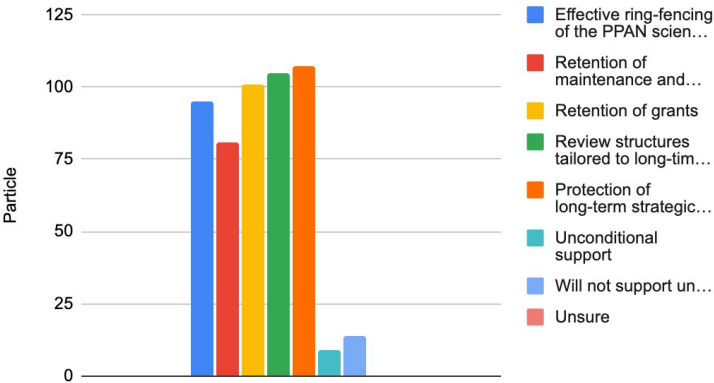


Q3 Which of the following would be essential conditions for you to support such a change?

PPAN



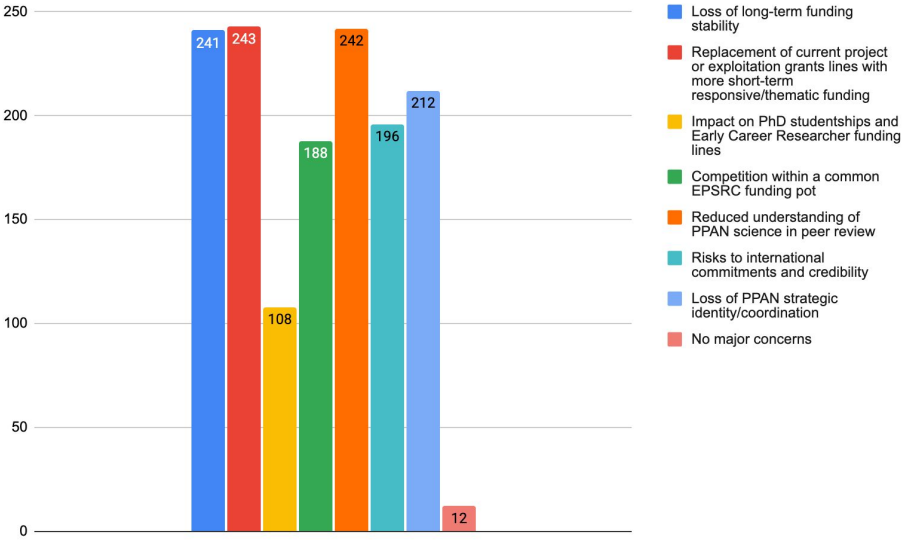
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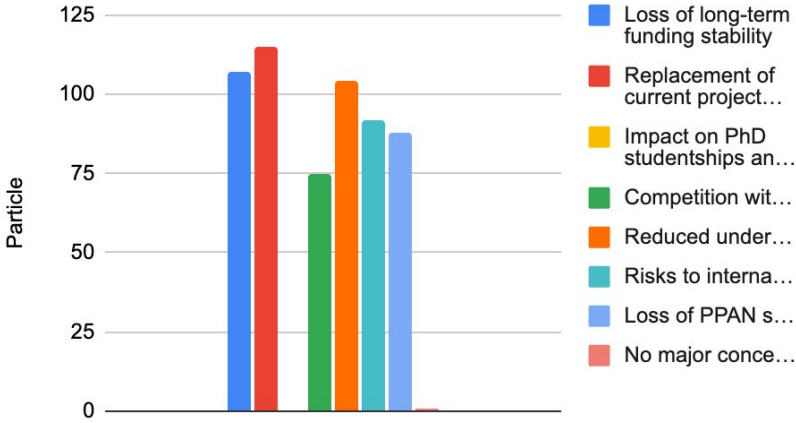
Comment: The set of options were slightly tweaked to suit each community but have been aggregated here under the broad headings shown.

Q4 What concerns you most about a possible integration?

PPAN



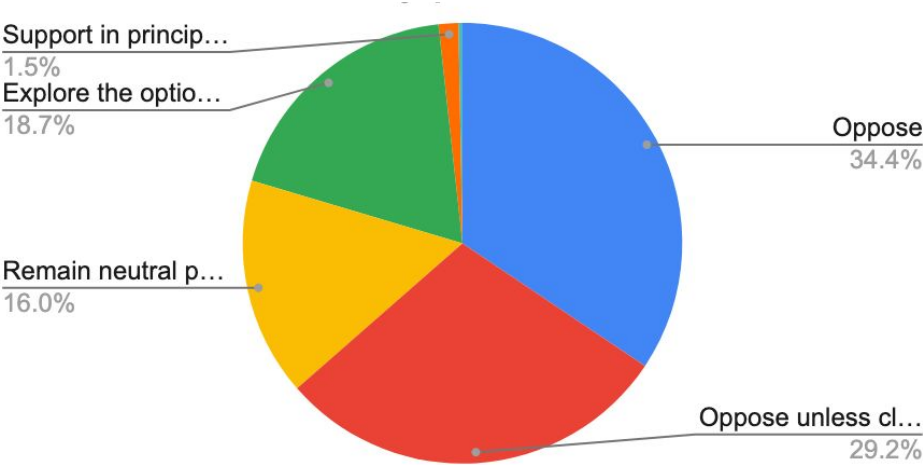
Particle



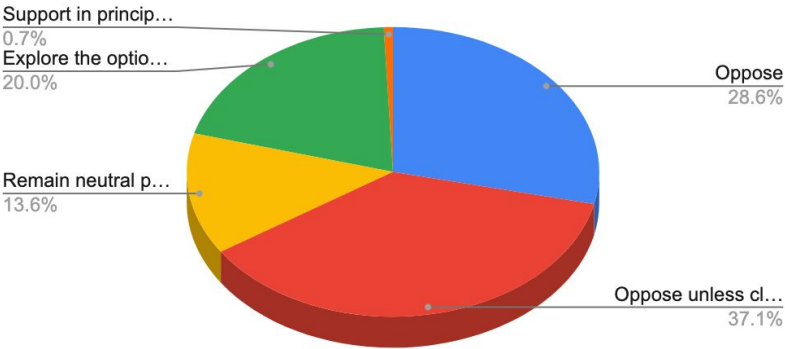
Comment: The set of options were slightly tweaked to suit each community but have been aggregated here under the broad headings shown.

Q5 In the absence of a detailed proposal, what should the community position be?

PPAN

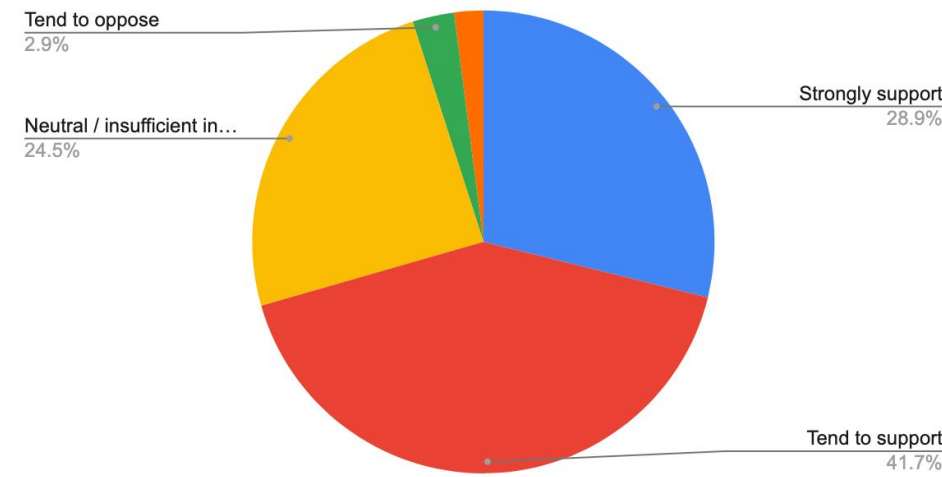


Particle

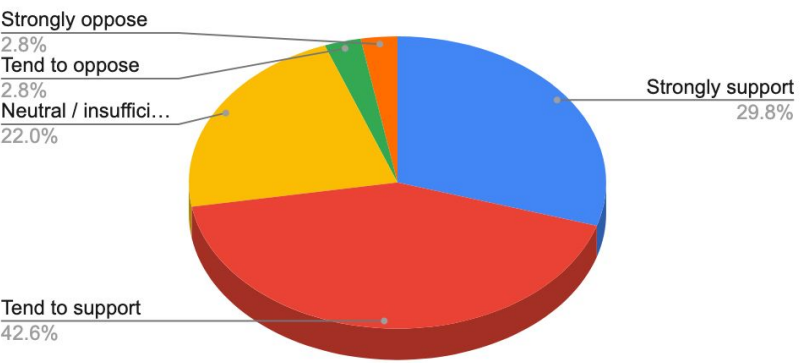


Q6 One alternative sometimes suggested is a more autonomous governance structure for PPAN (broadly analogous to the former PPARC model), which could provide a clearer separation between science budgets and facilities/subscription pressures. To what extent do you think such a model should be explored?

PPAN



Particle



Summary of Key Findings

- **The community recognises the need to address the structural funding pressures within PPAN, but does not support integration into EPSRC.**
- **Nearly two-thirds opposed PPAN-EPSRC integration, while around a quarter considered there was insufficient information to form a view.**
- **There were no significant differences across the PPAN communities, with respondents consistently emphasising the need to preserve long-term funding mechanisms, tailored review processes and strategic support for international projects.**

SB-PPAN prioritisation: backdrop

- **STFC settlement for SR is flat but projected rising cost due to energy, labour, international subscriptions ...**
- **STFC required to identify £162M of annual savings by end of the SR (29/30), triggering a re-prioritisation of the PPAN programme**
- **Scenario-based: ~10%, ~20%, ~30% reductions, or flat cash**
 - 48 projects across PPAN
 - CG only activities **not part of the process**
- **Input:**
 - Project **pro-formas** (-20, -40, -60% scenarios)
 - AP responses to **SB questions** (Q1-5) → informed by community input
 - Previous roadmap/landscape documents
- **Impact assessment** (with input from PPAP and other APs)
 - *Near-term constraints* guided by 10-yr programme health

Keith Grainge's presentation at Edinburgh town hall. 9-Apr

48 STFC Bucket 1 line items

ATLAS experiment M&OA	IPPP	ELT instrumentation	Simons Observatory Ops
ATLAS upgrade	HL-LHC	e-MERLIN/JIVE/spectrum	Widefield Astro CASU
LHCb experiment M&OA	XLZD	GAIA CU9	Widefield Astro WFAU
LHCb upgrade	PPD NL	GOTO Ops	HARPS3 Ops
CMS experiment M&OA	Boulby	HIPERCAM / ULTRACAM	NRT
CMS upgrade	AGATA	JCMT support	ING Staff & Ops
HyperK common fund	ALICE	Liverpool Telescope	ATC
T2K common fund	EIC	LOFAR	Next Gen Grav Waves
DUNE	FAIR	LSST Vera Rubin	LIGO Ops
LBNF/DUNE target	ALMA Regional Centre	NGTS	DiRAC
LBNF/DUNE PIP II	BISON	ukSKA Regional Centre	IRIS
GridPP	CUBES	SKA Constuction	QTFP

PPAP/AP engagement in SB prioritisation – role & scope

[Full document](#)

- Role of AP Chairs/ reps
 - Provide **system-level impact assessment** across PPAN
 - Bring **programme-wide perspective** into SB discussions
- What we do
 - **Impact assessment** across programme
 - Identify **risks**, especially irreversible loss of capability, major international commitments, leadership
 - Highlight **gaps and uncertainties** in assessment
- What we do **NOT** do
 - Not co-authors of SB recommendations
 - Do not endorse rankings/funding recommendations

Rough Timeline

December 2025

- LHCb and EIC informed they would not be supported through the Infrastructure Fund

January 2026

- STFC informs PPAN that planning should assume a **70% of 2024/25 budget. 15% cut** already **enacted** in 2025

February 2026

- PPAP community meeting on prioritisation
- PPAP submits responses to the five SB-PPAN questions
- Advisory Panel Chairs jointly call on STFC/UKRI for community engagement and transparency

March 2026

- Projects submit impact proformas (20%, 40% and 60% cuts)
- SB-PPAN develops 30%, 20%, 10% and flat-cash funding scenarios

April–May 2026

- Intensive engagement between PPAP, other APs and SB-PPAN
- Programme- and project-level impact assessments
- 1 May: Meeting of AP chairs with Michele Dougherty and Ian Chapman

June 2026

- Science Board finalises prioritisation advice
- Programme-level impact assessment completed

July 2026

- STFC announces headline prioritisation outcome
- Project-level implementation underway

First look at the headline prioritisation outcome
(9 July town hall, STFC explainer)

PPAN science budget: -2.7% over 4 years (to 2029/30)

- Our understanding: 10% reduction to projects line with 7% going to honour the [commitment](#) to preserve PDRA numbers at 2025-26 numbers
- Notes
 - 2025/26 is historical low
 - Infrastructure Fund cuts (LHCb, EIC), equivalent to ~10% of PPAN budget
 - Future collider R&D (HL-LHC, AWAKE) cut in 2025.
 - QTFP ended; >50 quantum RAs lost
- In summary:
 - Headline: -2.7% (cash, to 2029/30)
 - Estimated impact: ~20% reduction in real-terms PPAN science since 2021

In other “news”

- Bridging for XLZD while reducing Boulby operations by 40% (!)
 - Negligible savings, huge impact.
- Reducing PPD and ATC by 20% (on top of project related reductions)
 - Capability erosion. Cannot be simply rebuilt when funding returns.
- Multidisciplinary facilities budget will reduce by 15% over four years
 - “Alternative funding arrangements” for MDFs. If not, could be closed.
- Accelerator science and technology disproportionately hit
 - CLARA mothballed
 - £8M/yr reduction
 - Large reductions in National Laboratories (58%??)

Other observations

PPAN science programme

- Prioritisation process with community engagement.
- Project- and **programme-level** impact assessments i.
- ***Expect Science Board rationale and prioritisation process made public***

Facilities, laboratories and national capability

- No equivalent prioritisation process appears to have been undertaken.
- ***Unclear how community input and impact assessments informed decisions.***
- Major reductions to facilities, laboratories and technical capability raise questions for the ***sustainability of the programme.***

Governance

- Does STFC Executive Board have sufficient **PPAN expertise**?
- PPAN position within UKRI: previous discussion on possible move to EPSRC
- SB-PPAN has strongly opposed
- PPAP and other advisory panels ran a survey.
 - Earlier shown joint (across PPAN) results
- Outcome: Community views broadly aligned with SB-PPAN → against the move
- ***STFC Explainer: PPAN will remain within STFC***
- Broader issue: need a mechanism to address Science vs Facilities vs international subscriptions tensions

Outstanding Challenges

Protecting capability

- Maintaining scientific capability is as important as protecting individual projects.
- Expertise, technical staff and facilities cannot be rebuilt quickly once lost.

National infrastructure

- Significant reductions to facilities and national laboratories raise important questions for the long-term health of the programme.
- A strong science programme requires both excellent projects **and** the capability to deliver them.

Looking beyond this Spending Review

- Serious risk to compromise tomorrow's opportunities.

Future opportunities such as Bucket 2 or Industrial Strategy funding can only be exploited if the underlying capability still exists.

Lack of protection against FX fluctuations for international subscriptions is a ticking time bomb for PPAN programme

Next Steps

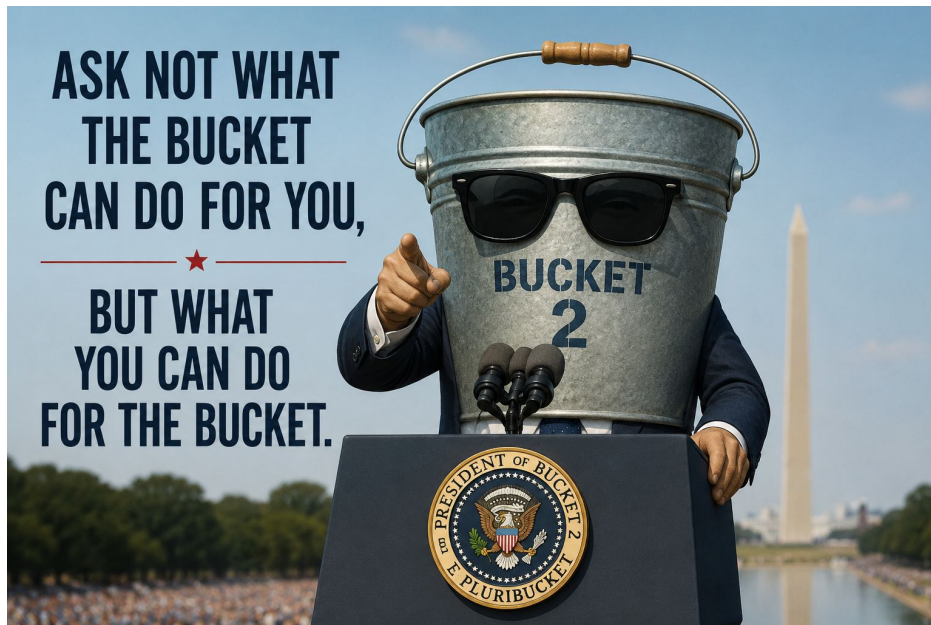
Immediate

- Project-level outcomes to be communicated over the coming week(s).
- ***Clarify implications for national and international programmes.***
- Understand the detailed financial settlement and implementation.
- Prepare for future opportunities (Bucket 2, Industrial Strategy priorities, future UKRI initiatives).

PPAP

- Gather community views on the outcome and implementation
- Identify issues that require continued engagement with STFC
- Agree key actions PPAP should take forward on behalf of the community
- ***Seek publication of the programme-level impact assessment and the rationale behind the final decisions.***
- Learn lessons from this process. Look beyond the current settlement towards the long-term sustainability of UK particle physics.

Next Steps. Bucket 2 engagement



- Bucket 2 focuses on **strategic priorities**
 - AI, quantum, semiconductors, advanced computing
- PP strengths
 - World-leading science and **enabling technologies**
 - Examples
 - AI/data-intensive science
 - Quantum technologies
 - Advanced instrumentation, detector R&D (DRD)
 - Computing, electronics
 - Accelerator technologies
- What concrete mechanisms will enable PPAN to access **Bucket 2 funding**?
- How can the community
 - Contribute to shaping these programmes
 - Position PPAN activities within them