



**Note of the 12th Meeting of the Life Sciences & Soft Materials Advisory Panel
held on 16 April 2024**

- Philip Amison, Associate Director Strategy, Procurement and Communication presented the changes in STFC Governance around Science Board that had resulted in the Advisory Panel now reporting to Science Board (Facilities & Laboratories). The Advisory Panels Terms of Reference should now be updated to reflect the management changes to Science Board and to agree how the Panels fitted into the STFC advisory structure. A working group had been set up to look at this and should report its findings by the end of the year. Further updates were given on strategy, funding and the Infrastructure Fund.
- Paul Vernon, Executive Director for the Business & Innovation Directorate shared an insight into the remit of the Innovation & Business Board where he is the STFC representative.
- Helen Beadman, Associate Director, International User Facilities gave an update on the Neutron Review which would look at what the impact of the shutdown of the ILL reactor would mean for the UK neutron community and what needed to be done to plan for the closure. The review would focus on ISIS, ILL and ESS and report by the end of the year.
- John Collier, Director, Central Laser Facility updated the panel on the concept analysis for the proposed UK XFEL project with the panel. The panel was interested to know whether mapping had been done on how the proposed eight beamlines would be used by the UK user community. It was explained that current access at FEL's was oversubscribed and there was unlikely to be no shortage of demand should the project be approved for construction in the future.
- Roger Eccleston was invited to share an update on behalf of Alan Partridge, STFC Executive Director – Large Scale Facilities on the status and plans for STFC's large-scale facilities.
- Rachel Reynolds, Head of International User Facilities shared an update on ESRF, European XFEL, ILL, ESS and EMBL and spoke about current issues and key risks.
- Roger Eccleston, Director ISIS Pulsed Neutron & Muon Source shared an overview of the facility that also covered ISIS II and Endeavour. The Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) partnership had been mentioned in the presentation and the panel was interested to know what this entailed and how the collaboration worked between ISIS, DLS and the PSI. It was explained that the collaboration had a network of around three post docs between the institutions with muon focussed projects as well as other scientific areas. This had been initiated from the International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) with financial contributions also received from PSI.
- The Panel asked what would happen to the instruments when ISIS was phased out and taken over by ISIS II. The panel was informed that while the majority of the instruments could be transferred there could be an issue with challenges on timing with another consideration being the cost of the instrument.
- The Panel Chair would report to the June 2024 meeting of Science Board (F&L).