



**Note of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Physical Sciences & Engineering  
Advisory Panel held on Thursday 2 March 2023**

- The panel Chair gave an update on activities since the last meeting. The panel's report to Science Board in February 2022 had highlighted how COVID had affected early career researchers (ECRs) and their working relationships, and this had resulted in Science Board asking the facility directors how this had been addressed.
- The Chair drew the panel's attention to two information papers, one with an update on the HiLUX project and one on industrial/academic collaboration at the facilities and invited them to comment on these papers.
- Alan Partridge, STFC Executive Director for Large-Scale Facilities shared updates on projects and investment related to the facilities and discussed current challenges.
- Phillip Amison, Strategy Director for STFC Strategy, Planning & Communications updated the panel on STFC Visions, the UKRI Infrastructure Fund and the changes being made to the STFC science advisory structures. The Visions Panel had met twice since the external launch with the next panel meeting taking place in 2023. It was suggested that the panel could help raise the profile of Visions in their communities and could also offer support in other ways.
- The Advisory Panel agreed to report to the May Science Board rather than wait for the first meeting of Science Board (Facilities & Laboratories). The incoming Chairs of the Advisory Panels could have an introductory meeting in the autumn with the new Science Board together with a session with the facility directors.
- The cost of living crisis was a particular challenge for early careers researchers and students, and the panel was asked whether they were aware of specific problems to see if there was anything that could be done.
- Rachel Reynolds provided updates on the international facilities (ESRF, Eu-XFEL, ILL, ESS, and EMBL). Impact evaluation studies had been commissioned by STFC for ESRF and European XFEL which were nearing completion.
- Dr Adrian Mancuso, Physical Science Director discussed plans for Diamond Light Source to go from a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation source to a 4<sup>th</sup> generation source with the upgrade providing an increase in capacity together with three new flagship beamlines.
- The Panel Chair would report to the May 2023 meeting of Science Board.