

## MINUTES OF STFC EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025

Held by videoconference

### Attendees:

<b>Council</b>	Michele Dougherty (Chair) Andy Schofield (SIM & co-chair) Stan Bentvelsen Lucy Edge Patricia Hodgson Jana Kolar Jayne Lawrence Angeli Möller Andrew Pontzen Hitesh Thakrar David Charlton	<b>Attendees</b>	Jacqui Cole, Chair of Science Board (F&L) Keith Grainge, Chair of Science Board (PPAN)  Rosanna Greenop, Head of Strategy Eleanor Okamoto, Strategy Manager Chris Wrench, Director of Finance
Secretariat	Maya Riddle & Jade Schneiders	Item 3	
<b>Apologies</b>	JT Janssen Paul Monks, DESNZ CSA		

### 1. Welcome

- 1.1. Michele Dougherty (MKD) welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2. Apologies were received for JT Janssen and Paul Monks.

### 2. Exec Chair update

- 2.1. MKD provided a short update since the last meeting.
- 2.2. Council congratulated MKD on her appointment as the first female Astronomer Royal.

### 3. Update on the spending review allocations process

- 3.1. Rosanna Greenop joined the meeting and provided an update on the spending review allocations process. The new CEO, Ian Chapman had instigated a zero-based review of UKRI activities and set a number of commissions to inform the allocations process.
- 3.2. STFC had mapped its activities against the industrial strategy and the Science Ministers' high-level priorities. Key points STFC wanted to emphasise were:

- The importance of the underpinning capability provided by facilities, labs and campuses
  - STFC investments had significant opportunities to deliver against the industrial strategy
  - The importance of curiosity driven research
- 3.3. Council advised that STFC should continue to seek to align with government priorities and evidence impact.
- 3.4. Several members highlighted the importance of retaining some small projects as these provided a balanced programme and pipeline of highly skilled people for the UK.

#### **4. AOB**

- 4.1. KG flagged that there would need to be careful communications regarding STFC's proposal to review astronomy projects via a Statement of Interest process.
- 4.2. Members of council backed the importance of clear communications with STFC's communities.
- 4.3. It was agreed that there would be a substantive item on communications at the next full Council meeting in September.