

MINUTES OF STFC COUNCIL MEETING – 17TH JULY 2025

Held by videoconference

Attendees:

Council	Michele Dougherty (Chair) Andy Schofield (SIM & co-Chair) Lucy Edge JT Janssen Jana Kolar Patricia Hodgson Carsten Welsch Stan Bentvelsen David Charlton Jayne Lawrence Andrew Pontzen Hitesh Thakrar Secretariat Maya Riddle	Attendees	Paul Monks, DESNZ CSA Keith Grainge, Chair of Science Board (PPAN) Jacqui Cole, Chair of Science Board (F&L) Chris Wrench, STFC Director of Finance Keith Zimmerman, STFC COO
Apologies	Angeli Möller		

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Michele Dougherty (MKD) welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that the meeting had been cleared of business as usual papers to focus on STFC prioritisation.
- 1.2. Apologies were received from Angeli Möller.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. MKD said that she and the Executive had responded to the steer from Council at the last meeting and were now planning a two-phase transformation process.
- 2.2. Chris Wrench said that the spending review (SR) allocations process was still in an early stage, with discussions underway between UKRI and DSIT about UKRI's top-level allocations.
- 2.3. He provided a recap of STFC's funding pressures.

3. STFC Prioritisation – Part 1

- 3.1. Keith Zimmerman (KZ) provided an overview of Part 1 of the transformation process, which was aimed at transforming STFC over the spending review period. The aim was for STFC to be more agile and an efficient organisation.
- 3.2. The work was structured around the following areas:
 - Organisational Design
 - Technical Services review
 - Science Delivery
 - Project & Programmes
 - International expectations
 - Revenue Generation
- 3.3. Council members asked a number of questions and points of clarification.

4. STFC Prioritisation – Part 2

- 4.1. MKD said that Part 2 would look at longer term options for STFC reform, which would require engagement with UKRI and DSIT.

5. Next steps

- 5.1. Council welcomed the update and supported the strategic approach but cautioned STFC not to jump into phase two until it was clearer what UKRI was planning.
- 5.2. There was a concern that the community did not understand the scale of the problem, but it was noted that STFC was limited on what it could say until it was clearer what the funding lines were.

6. AOB

- 6.1. It was agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting over the summer.