

Minutes of the STFC Council meeting

17 July 2025

Virtual

**Attendees**

Council:

Michele Dougherty (Chair)

Andy Schofield (SIM)

Stan Bentvelsen

David Charlton

Lucy Edge

Patricia Hodgson

JT Janssen

Jana Kolar

Jayne Lawrence

Andrew Pontzen

Hitesh Thakrar

Carsten Welsch

Council observers:

Paul Monks, DESNZ CSA

Keith Grainge, Chair of Science Board (PPAN)

Jacqui Cole, Chair of Science Board (F&L)

Secretariat

Other attendees:

Keith Zimmerman, COO

Chris Wrench, Director of Finance

Apologies:

Angeli Möller

## 1 Welcome and Executive Chair Update

- 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 Allocations Update 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 several 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 Any other business

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