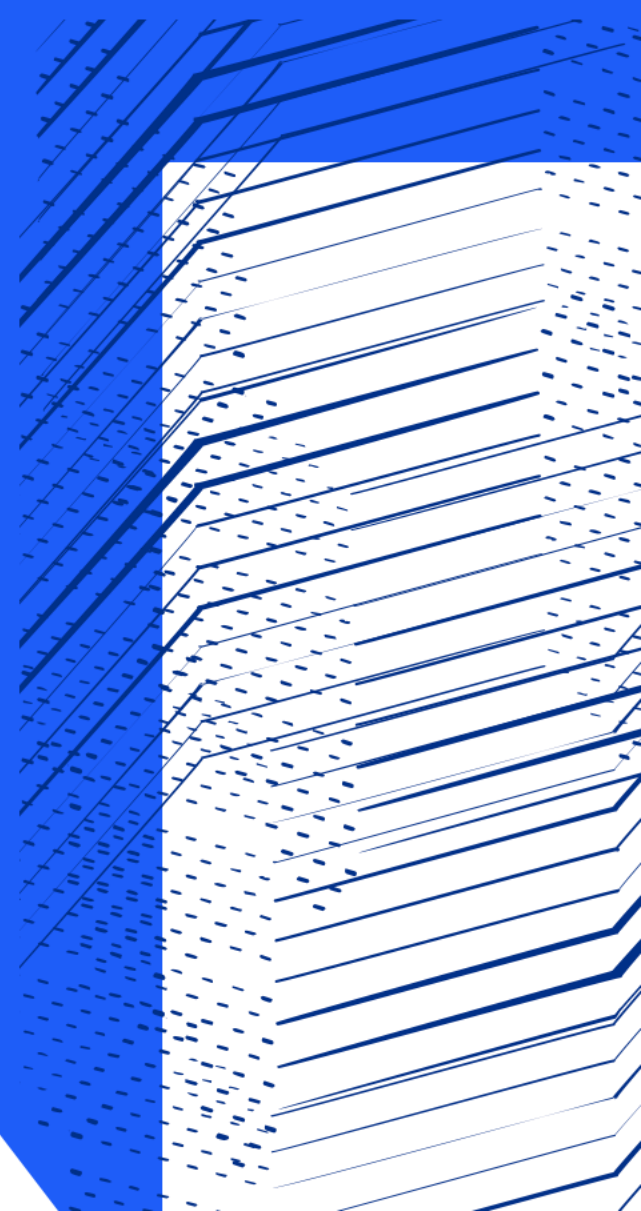




Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

# Science Board (PPAN) Update

Keith Grainge  
Chair, Science Board (PPAN)  
STFC Town Meeting  
10<sup>th</sup> April 2024



# Overview

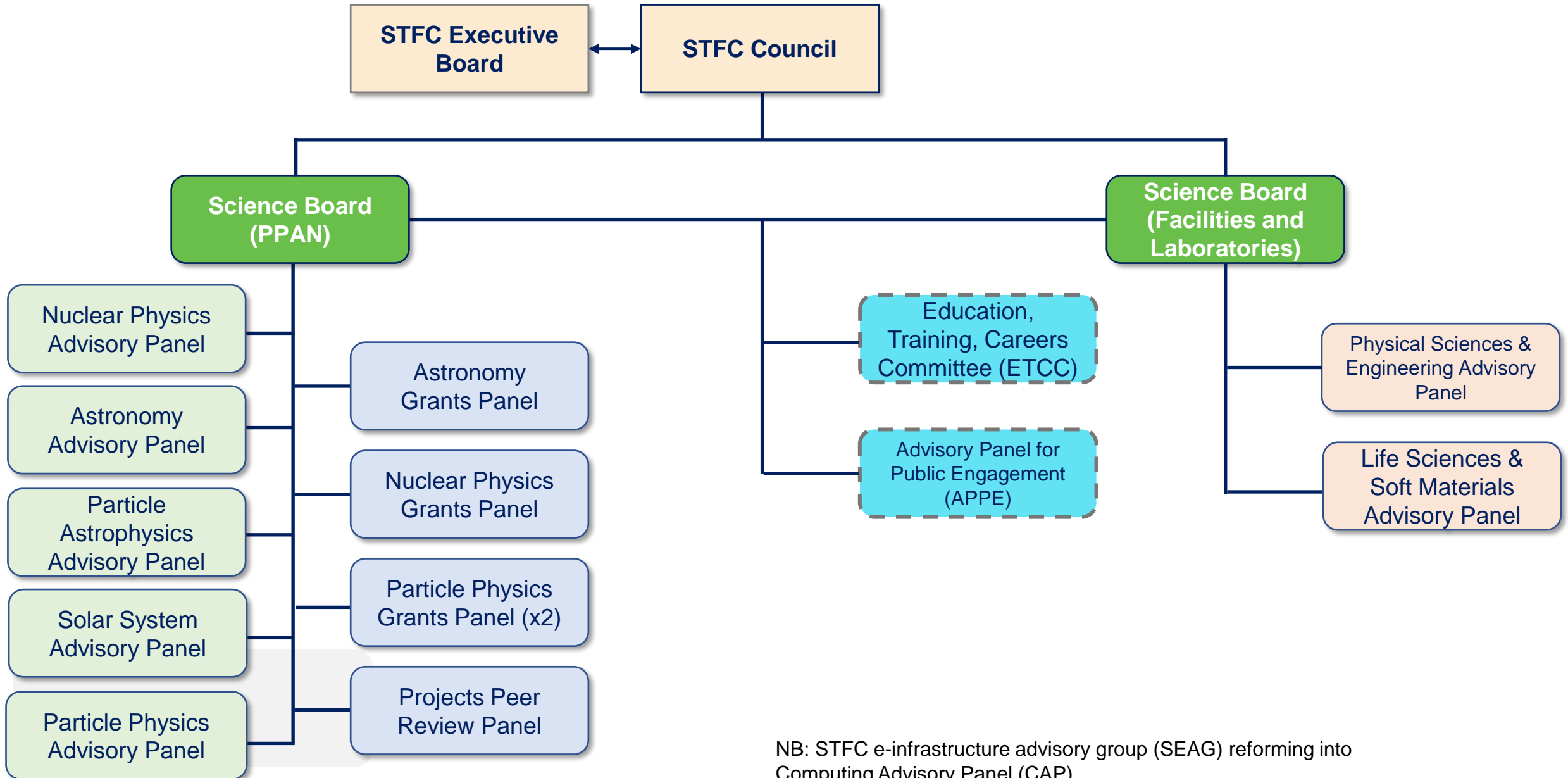
- I. Science Board reorganisation
- II. Business over the last year
- III. Current concerns
- IV. PPAN Roadmap



# Science Board reorganisation

- Science Board and TAAB → Science Board (PPAN) and (F&L)
- Science Board (PPAN) remit still includes standard PPAN activities
- Remit also includes consideration of:
  - long-term balance of the PPAN programme in the rolling STFC 10-year financial plan
  - roadmaps for the different strands of the PPAN programme, in the context of the STFC 10-year financial plan
  - proposed and existing STFC science and technology programmes and investments, considering individual projects in the broader context of the overall portfolio and longer-term science and technology prioritisation
- Community concerns are relayed to Council
- During the last year
  - Final two meetings of SB
  - First two meetings of SB(PPAN)
- ToR to be reviewed later this year

# STFC science advisory structure

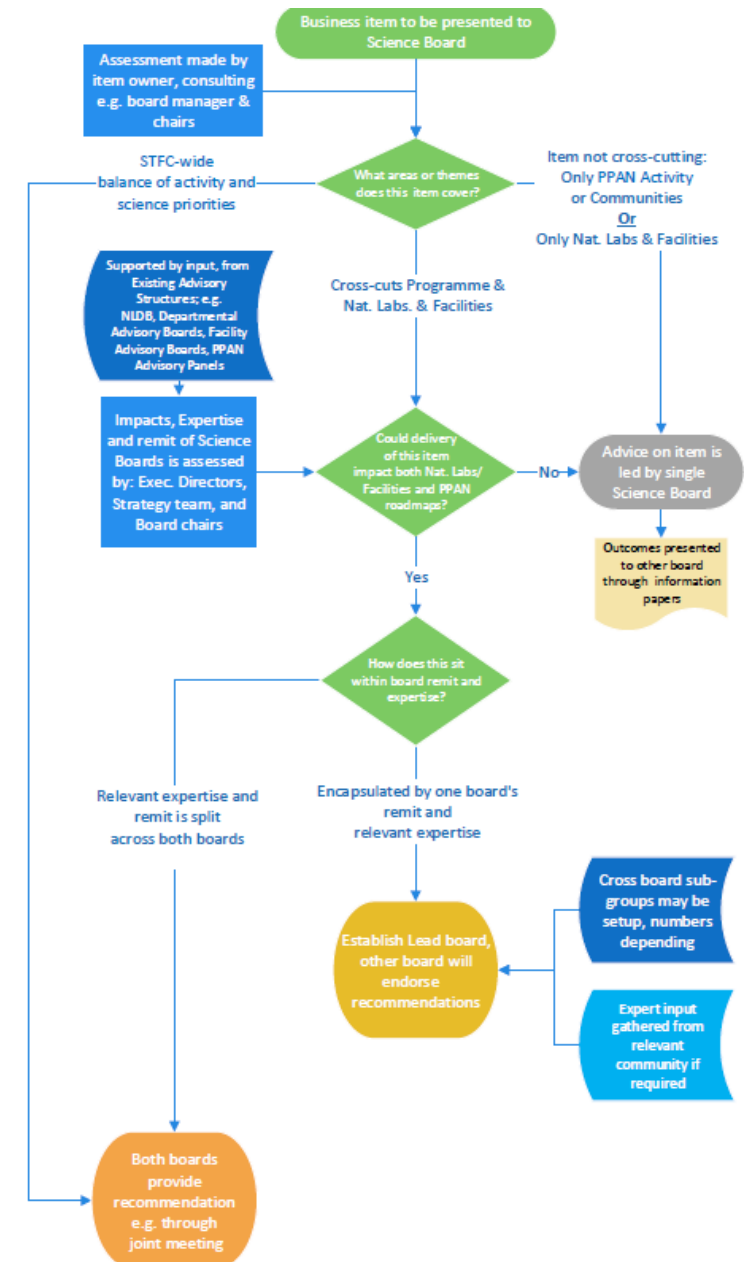


NB: STFC e-infrastructure advisory group (SEAG) reforming into Computing Advisory Panel (CAP)



# Addressing cross-cutting issues

- Many issues will be of interest to both SBs
- Correct expertise required for issues
  - Flow diagrams used to clarify
- Depending on the situation will either:
  - Chose lead Board or joint led issue
  - For single lead Board:
    - Cross board sub-groups set up if necessary
    - Other Board endorses recommendations, or
    - ... outcome report noted by other Board
  - Recommendation goes forward to Council



# Membership of Science Board (PPAN)

new

Keith Grainge (Chair)  
Martin Bauer (**Deputy Chair**)  
Daniela Bortoletto (from TAAB)  
**John Bridges**  
**Alison Bruce**  
David Charlton  
**Judith Croston**  
Ineke De Moortel  
Francesca Di Lodovico  
**Monica D'Onofrio**  
George Efstathiou  
**Tim Gershon**  
**Anne Green**  
David Ireland  
Amelie Saintonge  
**Iain Steele**  
Patrick Sutton

- 6 Particle Physicists
  - 6 Astronomers
  - 2 Nuclear Physicists
  - 2 Astro-Particle Physicists
- 
- Many thanks to Tara Shears, outgoing SB Chair

**STFC Office: Joanna Bromley**

# Membership of Science Board (F&L)

**Jacqui Cole (Chair)**  
**Adrian Bevan (Deputy Chair)**  
**Carla Andreani**  
**Will Buttinger**  
**Tessa Charles**  
**Stephanie Eden**  
**Karen Edler**  
**Dame Xiangqian (Jane) Jiang**  
**Rhodri Jones**  
**Martin King**  
**Bruno Leone**  
**Kenneth Long**  
**Lia Meringa**  
**Isabel De Moraes**  
**Zulfikar Najmudin**  
**Christian Pfrang**



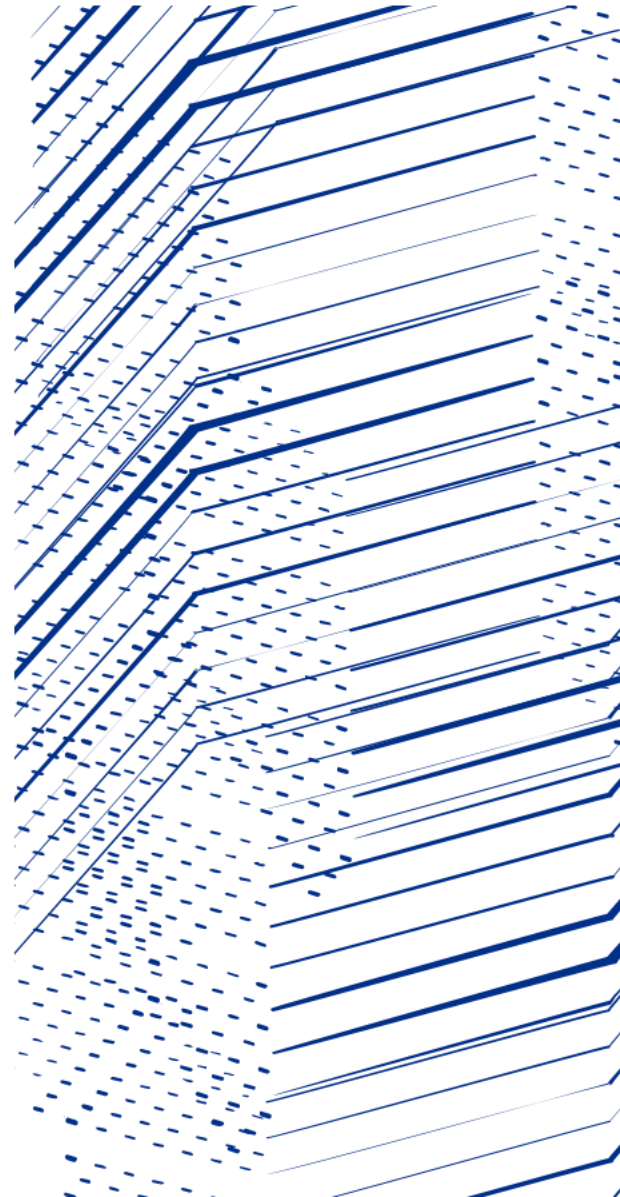
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# Call for Applications to STFC Advisory Bodies and Peer Review Panels

Apply from 15 April for panel membership at

<https://www.ukri.org/about-us/stfc/how-we-are-governed/advisory-boards/call-for-applications/>

Deadline 20 May 2024





# Science Board business in the last year

## Programme and Advisory panel interactions:

- PAAP, NPAP, Physical Sciences & Engineering Advisory Panel
- QTFP, PA programme management, DUNE mid-term review, GridPP

## Funding recommendations:

- Sol: CTA, FAIR R3B – Silicon Tracker, GOTO, Darkside
- PPRP: LHCb2, Xenon Futures Phase 3, FAUST,  $\gamma$ -RIBF, DUNE(APA), DUNE(RS&DC)
- NP Grants Panel

## Infrastructure Fund recommendations:

- Wave 3 Infrastructure Fund Full Proposal: EIC
- Wave 4 Infrastructure Fund Preliminary Activities: XLZD, AION

**+ Simpler and better funding, Evidence & Impact Team, UK Strategy for Engagement with CERN**

# Advisory panel concerns and ongoing issues

- Exploitation funding
  - Concern that uplift to CGs will be eroded by inflation and increasing overheads
  - Concerns around FEC level for academics, currently at ~4% level
    - Some NP groups told “their continuing existence may become questionable”
- Lack of convergence of UK astrophysical neutrino programme
  - Need to focus on a common future project to maximise impact
- Concern over changes to PA programme management
  - Concerns over GW exploitation moving to AGP and fair evaluation
- Quantum Technologies for Fundamental Physics needs sustainable pathway
- Recovering the experimental programme after COVID
- Open Access (American Physical Society journals)
- Impact of energy cost increases on experimental programme
- Cost of living crisis impact on ECR and students
  - Especially wrt costs associated with facility usage

# PPAN Roadmap - objective

- Overall goal is to produce prioritized Strategic Roadmap
  - In the context of the PPAN programme budget
  - Not a Balance of Programmes & not a Programmatic Review
- Long-term prioritized roadmap needed & has been lacking
- Will frame future decision making, enable strategic approach to funding
  - Balance of exploitation, M&O, development projects and R&D etc.
  - Balance of projects small/medium/large
  - Support pipelines e.g., skills, technology, funding etc.

**“A balanced programme of excellent science across the PPAN research areas over a 10-year timeframe, within a realistic financial planning envelope”**

# PPAN Roadmap – Community input

- It will be essential to engage the community in this process
- Have already met with Advisory Panel Chairs
  - Panels will be reaching out to communities shortly
  - Two SB(PPAN) Reps joining Advisory Panel meetings
- Individual Roadmap documents from each Panel already exist
  - Any significant changes that alter the current recommendations?
  - Any major scientific developments that impact future support?
  - Any significant updates to international roadmaps?
  - Any new opportunities / risks emerged for the health of discipline?
  - Any of the recommendations require a significant update?
- Input required by the September SB (PPAN) meeting

# Summary

- The two new Science Boards are now operating
- Addressing concerns: funding, UK Neutrino programme, GW exploitation, QTFP, recovering experimental programme, Open Access, energy costs, ERC/student cost of living, ...
- PPAN Roadmap under development
  - Please engage through Advisory Panels
- **Please consider the Science Board(s) membership call!**