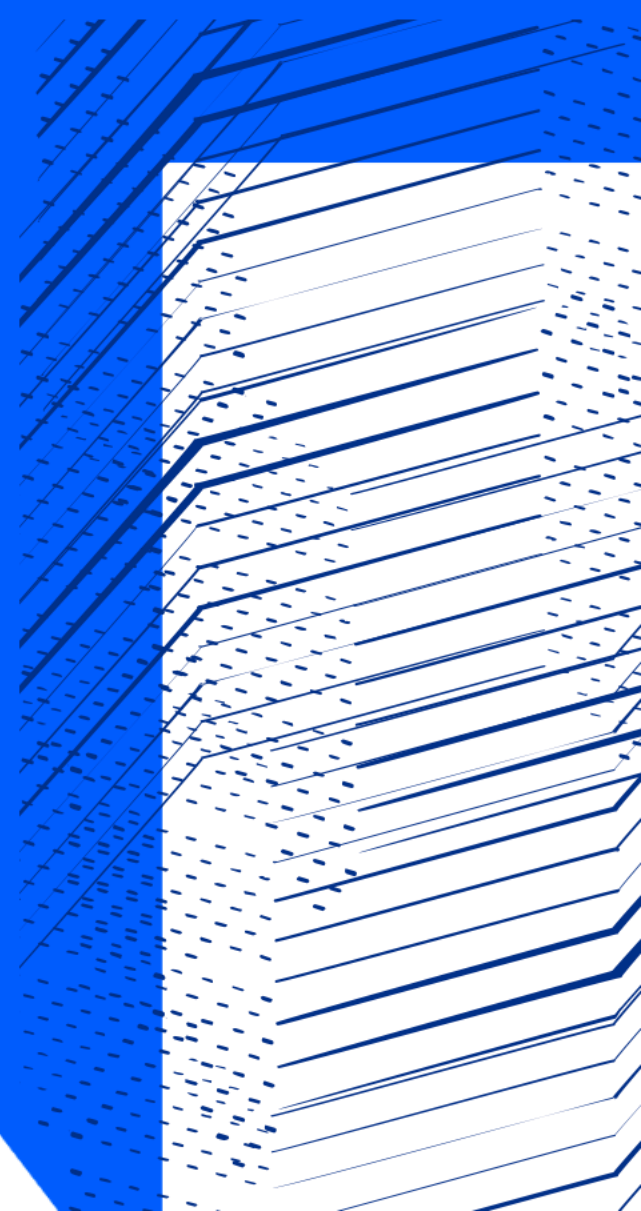




Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

# Science Board Update

Tara Shears  
Chair, Science Board



# Overview

- I. Updates
- II. Current issues
- III. Further information



# Updates (from the last year)

## Advisory panel interactions:

- PAAP, NPAP, Advisory Panel Chair Away Day

## Exercises:

- Balance of Programmes 2
- Infrastructure prioritisation 2020

## Projects/grant rounds:

- Sol, PPRP reports considered and recommendations made
- NP CG, AS institute grants, GW panel reports

**+ strategic reviews, preparations for horizon scanning ....**

# Current issues

## Funding:

- Level of core funding is low
  - Grants rounds are really really difficult now
- No CSR settlement yet to judge future (but ~flat cash next year)
- **We share concerns over very constrained funding throughout the PPAN programme**
  - See Balance of Programmes 2 and the programme evaluations
- **We have given our concerns over exploitation funding to EB and Council**
  - Also feeding into UKRI research sustainability study

# Current issues

## Infrastructure prioritisation:

- UKRI developed an R&I infrastructure roadmap in 2019
- Cross-UKRI infrastructure fund established to fund major infrastructure priorities (note: tied to the CSR outcome)
- First prioritisation exercise ran in summer 2020
- Many lessons learned from the process (timescales, communication etc)
- **There will be further exercises this year**
  - TAAB/SB to work together, first round early May
- **This will be our main near-term business**
- **Ultimately: need to move towards maintaining a pipeline of potential projects**

# Current issues

## PhD training:

- Raised by PPAN and facility user APs
  - Access to data and in situ skills training is an issue during Covid-19
  - Some UKRI communications with regard to extensions felt to have been unhelpful
- 
- **We have conveyed these concerns to EB and Council**

# Current issues

## Horizon scanning:

- We have started to discuss how we (SB) might best horizon scan to advise Council
  - Discussion inside SB and with AP chairs at annual away day over scope and process
- Horizon scanning will become important when funding uplifts
- **Activity on back burner for the moment (but not forgotten)**
  - We will pick this up again later in the year / when future funding is clearer

# Current issues

## Communication:

- Issues: please raise with your AP or directly with us
- APs now submit paper reports which can document concerns
  - which we pass to Council and EB
  - I also present community concerns to Council
- **The SB webpage is now updated**
- **Summaries of SB meetings have reappeared (and will continue to do so)**



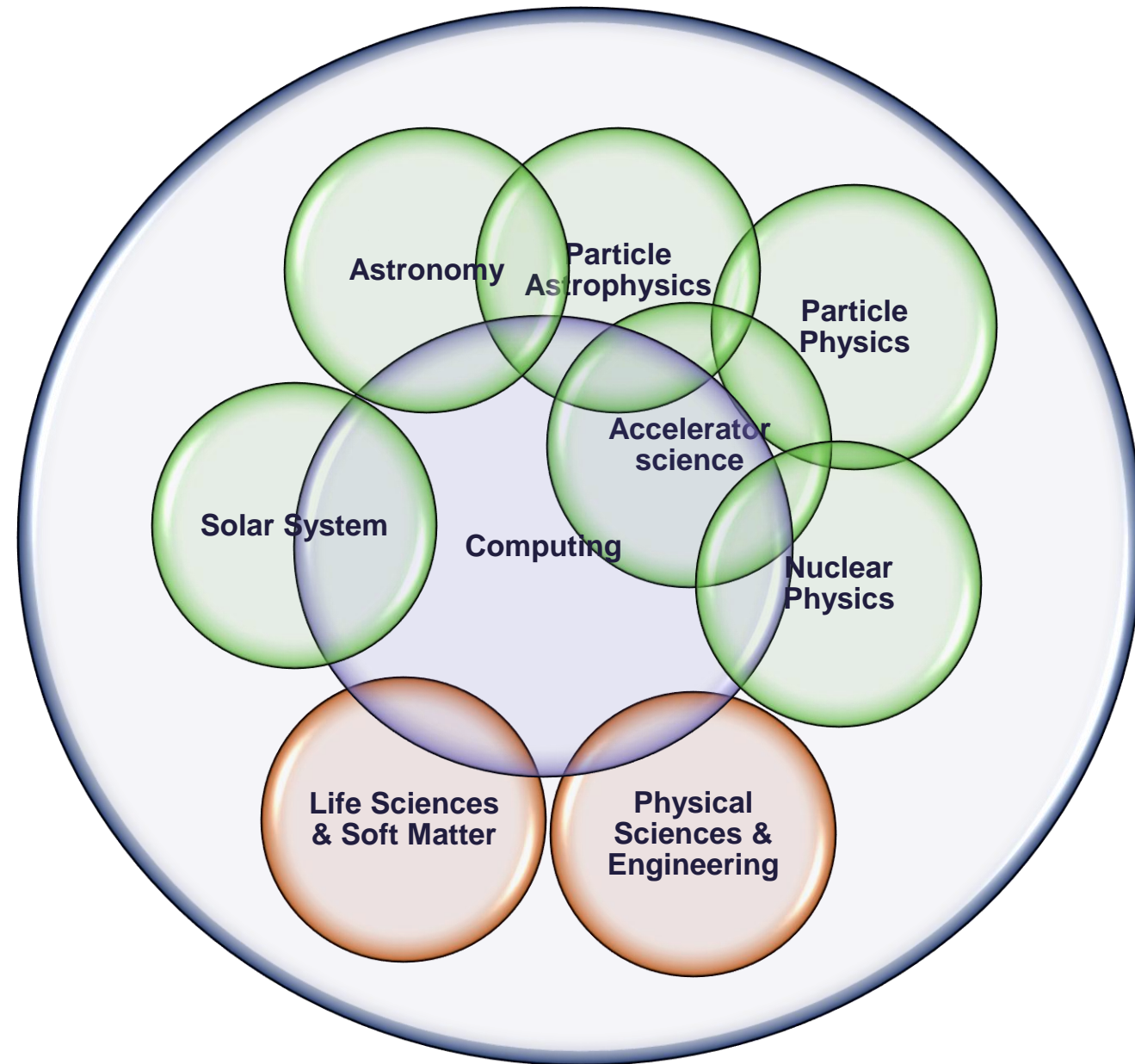
# Further Information

- Remit
  - STFC advisory panel structure
  - Membership
  - Further information
- 
- Interested in joining Science Board? Find out more/Apply:
  - [STFC Panel Membership Recruitment Webinar on 23 April 21 14.00-15.00 GMT](#)
  - <https://stfc.ukri.org/membershipcall> (deadline May 17<sup>th</sup>)

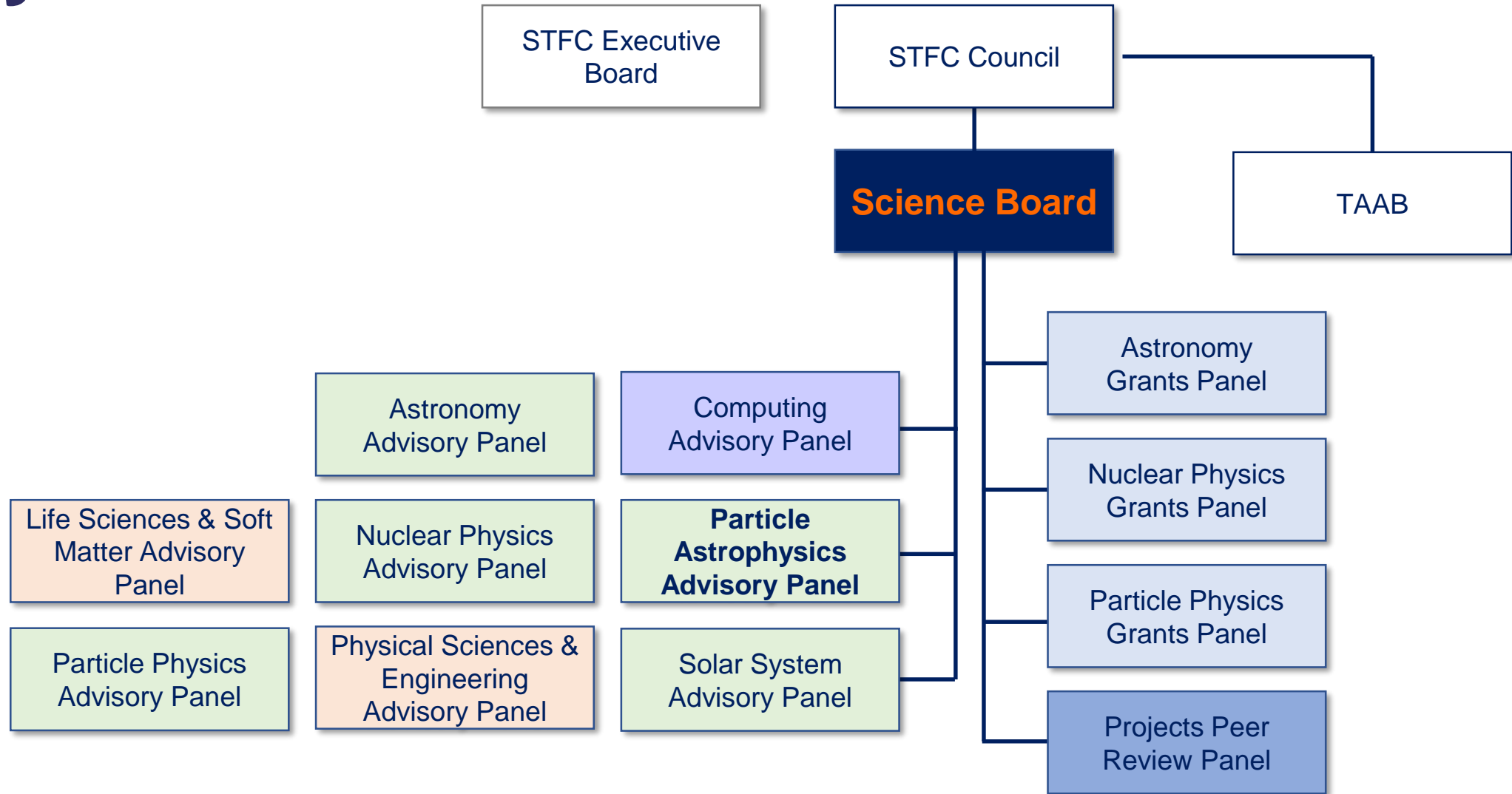
# Remit

- **To provide STFC with a strategic scientific overview and assessment of, and science advice on, all of the programmes STFC supports**

- Formulate and update long term science and technology strategies
- Review programmes and investments
- Consult with the communities through advisory panels
- Agree and recommend scientific investment plans against budget
- Provide advice to STFC Council on criteria for selecting projects and science areas
- Provide advice on UKSA programmes



# Advisory Structure



# Membership

(new / changed)

Tara Shears (Liverpool) (Chair)  
Karen Edler (Bath) (Deputy Chair)  
Carla Andreani (Rome)  
Martin Bauer (Durham)  
Andrew Beale (UCL)  
Andrew Coates (UCL/Mullard)  
Gavin Davies (Imperial)  
George Efstathiou (Cambridge)  
Keith Grainge (Manchester)  
Stephen Hayden (Bristol)  
David Ireland (Glasgow)  
Martin King (Royal Holloway)  
Isabel Moraes (NPL)  
Alex Murphy (Edinburgh)  
Zulfikar Najmudin (Imperial)  
Robin Perutz (York)

**STFC Office: Karen Clifford**

# Further Information

## Balance of programmes:

- <https://stfc.ukri.org/files/balance-of-programmes-2020/>
- <https://stfc.ukri.org/about-us/our-purpose-and-priorities/planning-and-strategy/programme-evaluation/balance-of-programmes/>

## Infrastructure prioritisation:

- <https://www.ukri.org/our-work/creating-world-class-research-and-innovation-infrastructure/ukri-infrastructure-advisory-committee/>

## Science Board (+ latest news):

- <https://stfc.ukri.org/about-us/how-we-are-governed/advisory-boards/science-board/>