

LIFE SCIENCES & SOFT MATERIALS ADVISORY PANEL

The Life Sciences and Soft Materials Advisory Panel (LS&SM AP) held their 5th meeting on 27 Jan 17. The following items were discussed:

- The amended terms of reference for the LS&SM AP and where the advisory panel sits within the STFC advisory structure.
- The facility directors (David Clarke, CLF; Andrew Harrison, Diamond; Robert McGreevy, ISIS) attended to provide an update on current developments at their facility related to physical sciences and engineering.
- Christina Hernandez-Gomez provided a background briefing on progress with the Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) project. This was supplemented by information on the current UK funding situation for ELI in the afternoon.
- STFC provided updates on the following areas of activity:
 - Global Challenges Research Fund
 - Neutron Strategy
 - Independent Review of Facilities
 - Facilities bibliometric analysis
 - Skills balance of programmes exercise
- The Panel agreed that there was no requirement for a community consultation exercise during 2017; the situation would be reviewed at the next meeting for 2018.
- The Panel noted that neither cell nor tissue biology had been mentioned in the facility discussions. These areas needed promoting, and several ideas for achieving a better balance with the biological sciences in terms of facility use were required. Membership of the LS&SM AP should include these communities; a situation to be rectified when the membership is refreshed in 2017.¹

The next meeting will be held in Jan 18; exact date to be arranged in autumn 17.

¹ A call for nominations to the Advisory Panels will be issued by STFC in spring 2017 for appointments in August 2017.