

## **Life Sciences and Soft Matter Advisory Panel Meeting: 15 January 2016**

The Life Sciences and Soft Matter Advisory Panel (LS&SMAP) held their fourth meeting on the 15 Jan 16. The following items were discussed:

- Terms of reference for the LS&SMAP and where the advisory panel sits within the STFC advisory structure.
- The outputs from the LS&SMAP during 2015; it was agreed that a brief summary of the outputs would be provided on the LS&SMAP for the community to view, along with a short summary of the minutes from each meeting.
- An update from STFC on the current position with the comprehensive spending review, the BIS 2020 change programme, the Large Facilities Implementation Group and Large Facilities Advisory Board, and updates on the UK and International facilities.
- Future neutron provision and the use of neutrons for biology.
- Future potential usage of the Cryo-EM facilities currently under construction at Harwell and proposed for the Grenoble site, including scientific overlap with other types of facility.
- The desire of the panel to see more opportunities for students to have access to the facilities and an increased presence on the Harwell site.
- The requirement for the co-ordination of effort on big data and image analysis to maximise output from the different facilities on the Harwell site and further afield.
- The need to develop the LS&SMAP web pages to provide the user community with more information about the activities of the advisory panel. The Panel also considered the use of social media, such as Twitter, as alternative ways of reaching the community.
- A SWOT analysis on the perceived strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats to each facility was carried out; the agreed findings of the SWOT analysis would be fed back to Science Board at their meeting in Feb 16.

The next meeting will be held in January 2017; date to be agreed later this year.