

PHYSICAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING ADVISORY PANEL

The Physical Sciences and Engineering Advisory Panel (PS&EAP) held their 5th meeting on 31 Jan 17. The following items were discussed:

- The amended terms of reference for the PS&EAP and where the advisory panel sits within the STFC advisory structure.
- The facility directors (John Collier, CLF; Laurent Chapon, Diamond; Robert McGreevy, ISIS) attended to provide an update on current developments at their facility related to physical sciences and engineering.
- John Collier 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 discussed viewing statistics for the PS&EAP web page and how the web page could be promoted better.
- 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 engineering could be given a higher profile as this area had a significant economic impact and benefits for the UK; it was agreed that specific scientific highlights in this area would be submitted to Science Board for information.

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