

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES COUNCIL (STFC)

### Programme Prioritisation

STFC conducted an extensive strategy consultation in late 2008 and early 2009, leading to the publication of our new Vision, and recognition that our current programme of science and technology may require some amendment.

STFC is undertaking, through our science advisory panels, PPAN, PALS and Science Board, a major science prioritisation exercise aimed at setting priorities for 2010 and beyond, involving tough questions about the future direction of the science and technology programme, including the balance between disciplines. The prioritisation process builds on the existing prioritisation and ranking from the 2008 programmatic review and the recommendations of PPAN and PALS, as endorsed by Science Board at its meeting on 20/21 May 2009.

The advisory panels provided initial findings to the September meetings of PPAN and PALS, which are now carrying out a detailed programme prioritisation exercise, based on the advisory panel inputs and on detailed information provided by the PI's of the various projects and the Directors of facilities.

STFC is now further developing our Corporate Strategy to realise our Vision and we are conducting this work in parallel to the prioritisation of our programme to ensure that all are aligned. In developing our Corporate Strategy, we have identified 3 core goals:

- World Class Research
- World Class Innovation, and
- World Class Skills

These are fundamental to the delivery of our Mission and the aspirations set out in Government policy. The way in which STFC delivers these core goals will be influenced by the 6 strategic themes of: Providing research leadership; Solutions for global challenges; Building strategic partnerships; Productive knowledge exchange; Inspiring and involving, and; Creating international influence.

These will set the direction for the organisation over the next 10 years. In addition we have identified the key areas that need to change within the organisation to enable the successful delivery of the Vision.

The science prioritisation exercise will be concluded in December 2009, and we will then confirm our forward programme in sufficient time for universities to make any necessary adjustments.

The attached table sets out the timeline and key dates for the prioritisation and development of the corporate strategy.

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### Key Milestones and Deliverables

| <b>Meeting</b>                           | <b>Date</b>                | <b>Milestone/Deliverable</b>  |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Advisory Panels                          | 15 Sept 2009               | APs report to PALS on their community consultations and priorities  |
| PALS                                     | 15 – 16 Sept 2009          | APs report to PALS on their community consultation and priorities. Initial prioritisation of the PALS part of the science programme                       |
| Council                                  | 21 - 22 Sept 2009          | Provide a strategic steer to Science Board on science programme and balance of areas  |
| Senior Staff Conference                  | 23 - 24 Sept 2009          | Develop strategic goals and themes  |
| PPAN                                     | 28 – 29 Sept 2009          | APs report to PPAN on their community consultation and priorities. Initial prioritisation of the PPAN part of the science programme                       |
| Staff strategy workshops                 | 28 Sept – 5 Oct 2009       | Check emerging ideas on strategic goals and themes  |
| Publish draft AP reports                 | 5-9 Oct 2009               | To inform the community of the AP reports made to PPAN and PALS   |
| Executive Board                          | 15 Oct 2009                | Report on initial outcome of funding analysis and financial review  |
| Science Board                            | 19 – 20 Oct 2009           | Development of balance of funding and strategic guidance to PPAN and PALS   |
| Executive Board                          | 22 Oct 2009                | Reports on programmatic prioritisation and strategy update  |
| Publish news from Science Board          | Week beginning 26 Oct 2009 | To inform the community of the news from Science Board's meeting  |
| Council                                  | 27 Oct 2009                | Consider reports from Science Board and strategy update   |
| Executive Board                          | 12 Nov 2009                | Receives updates on progress  |
| PALS                                     | 23 – 24 Nov 2009           | Feedback news from Science Board to APs. Finalisation of PALS programme recommendations   |
| Council                                  | 24 Nov 2009                | Receives updates on progress  |
| PPAN                                     | 30 Nov – 1 Dec 2009        | Feedback news from Science Board to APs. Finalisation of PPAN programme recommendations   |
| Executive Board                          | 4 Dec 2009                 | Consider reports on progress of financial review and draft report on strategy   |
| Science Board                            | 7 - 8 Dec 2009             | Receives input from PPAN and PALS on prioritisation, and finalises recommendations to Council   |
| Executive Board                          | 11 December                | Considers Science Board recommendations, 2010/11 budget and draft corporate strategy  |
| Council                                  | 15 Dec 2009                | Consideration and finalisation of draft science programme, recommendations to Government, draft 2010/11 budget; consideration of draft corporate strategy |
| Discussions with other Research Councils | Following Council meeting  | Communicate Council recommendations and implications  |
| Publish news from                        | Following Council          | Inform the community of the news from Science Board's   |

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| Science Board  | meeting                   | meeting  |
| Publish news from Council  | Following Council meeting | Inform the community of the outcome of Council                                       |
| APs meeting  | 18 Dec 2009               | Communicate the outcome of Science Board and Council                                 |
| Discussion with all major stakeholders, including Government & other Research Councils | Jan 2010                  | Communicate the proposed programme and implications, including implementation issues |
| Staff workshops  | Late Jan – early Feb 2010 | Internal perspective on strategy implementation                                      |
| Stakeholder workshops  | Late Jan – early Feb 2010 | External perspective on strategy implementation                                      |
| Council  | 23 February 2010          | Confirmation of corporate strategy document  |
| Budget   | March 2010                | Publish final budget outcome for 2010/11   |