**STFC Balance of Programme (Skills) review**

**Follow-up Community Consultation**

**Background**

Having invited initial community input to STFC’s Balance of Programme (Skills) review through its Advisory Panels, the review panel (Chaired by Professor Martin Hendry, University of Glasgow) are now inviting further community responses to targeted questions.

The initial Advisory Panel responses provided valuable information on the relative importance of different activities across the skills pipeline, critical areas where cuts would have detrimental impacts, and initial indications of a prioritisation of skills activities. The review panel now seek to explore this prioritisation further, particularly in the context of an optimistic funding scenario.

Panels are therefore invited to respond to the following questions by **Friday 14th July**. Responses should reflect the views of your community.

**Consultation Questions**

1) In relation to the five skills areas in scope of the review (apprentices, graduates, studentships, fellowships and public engagement) please comment on the level of resources\* currently allocated to the facilities\*\* operated by STFC. **Please indicate if up to now these have been too low, about right or too much for all the skills areas you are able to comment on.**

Max. 2000 characters (including spaces)

\*amount of funding and distribution across skills areas, with inclusion of as much quantitative information as you have available.

\*\* for the purpose of this exercise ‘facilities’ refers to ISIS, Central Laser Facility, RAL Space & Hartree Centre.

2) What skills should be maintained or strengthened to enable your community to respond flexibly to new funding opportunities such as (but not exclusively) those offered by the Global Challenges Research Fund and Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund? Wherever possible, please link the skills that you identify explicitly to the skills area(s) expected to deliver them – e.g. to project management (fellowships) if advanced training in project management is required, or to mechanical engineering (apprenticeships) for early career skills training in mechanical engineering.

Max. 2000 characters (including spaces)

3) Under the following funding scenarios indicate a clear prioritisation (1-5, 1 is highest priority; no equal priorities to be given) of skills areas (including **all** **five** skills areas in scope of the review – apprentices, graduates, studentships, fellowships and public engagement):

**Flat cash +5%**

List skills areas (essential) + Max. 2000 characters (including spaces) as justification (optional)

**Flat cash -5%**

List skills areas (essential) + Max. 2000 characters (including spaces) as justification (optional)

4) What opportunities exist for skills activities that would enhance your programme under an optimistic funding scenario in which significant funding becomes available to implement the “Building Our Industrial Strategy” Green Papera via e.g. the technologies allocated support by the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fundb ?

Max. 2000 characters (including spaces)

a <https://beisgovuk.citizenspace.com/strategy/industrial-strategy/supporting_documents/buildingourindustrialstrategygreenpaper.pdf>

b Smart and clean energy technologies (such as storage and demand response grid technologies); robotics and artificial intelligence (including connected and autonomous vehicles and drones); satellites and space technologies; leading edge healthcare and medicine; manufacturing processes and materials of the future; biotechnology and synthetic biology quantum technologies, and transformative digital technologies including supercomputing, advanced modelling, and 5G mobile networks.

**Confidentiality**

Please indicate if there are any parts of your response that you wish to remain confidential to STFC and the Review Panel.

**Further Information**

If you have any questions about the review, process or consultation, please contact Emily Swaine [emily.swaine@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:emily.swaine@stfc.ac.uk).