

Meeting summary: 6 and 7 December 2017

Attending:

Nancy Rothwell, Philip Bond, Suranga Chandratillake, Ann Dowling, Anne Glover, Paul Golby, Julia Goodfellow (not dinner), Robert Lechler, Ottoline Leyser, Mike Lynch, Max Lu, Dervilla Mitchell, Fiona Murray, Venki Ramakrishnan, Colin Smith, Nick Stern, Charles Roxburgh (Day 1), Joyce Tait

Apologies:

Keith Burnett, David Cannadine, Gareth Davies, John Kingman

Guests:

Professor Chris Whitty, Professor Tim Besley, Professor Anthony Finkelstein, Professor Charlotte Watts, Professor Alan Manning, Mike Warren, Dr Claire Craig, Dr Alun Evans

Day 1

The Chair welcomed new CST member, Professor Ottoline Leyser, and Professor Chris Whitty, the interim Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA).

The Cabinet Office announced Dr Patrick Vallance would begin his new role as Government Chief Scientific Adviser in March 2018.

Charles Roxburgh, Second Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, provided a short update about the Autumn Budget and Industrial Strategy White Paper, including investment in science, technology and innovation.

Professor Tim Besley, Professor of Economic and Political Science at the London School of Economics, provided advice on competition and productivity.

CST member, Professor Robert Lechler, gave a presentation about scientific advances regarding the relationship between mental and physical health and its implications.

Professor Anthony Finkelstein, Chief Scientific Adviser for National Security and Professor Charlotte Watts, Chief Scientific Adviser for DFID, joined the Council for a discussion about how the UK can ensure that science and technology is sufficiently prioritised in national security.

Day 2

The Chair welcomed the following guests to CST: Professor Alan Manning, Chair of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) and Mike Warren, Home Office Director of Analysis and Insight. Discussions focussed on the relationship between industrial strategy and immigration strategy and CST was updated on the work and priorities of the MAC.

The Chair welcomed Dr Claire Craig, Director of Science Policy at the Royal Society. Dr Craig and Professor Ramakrishnan provided a presentation about the Royal Society's recent work on post-16 curriculum breadth.

CST discussed its future work programme.