

## Summary of the NERC Management Board Meeting, 13 December 2016

The third meeting of the NERC Management Board (NMB) took place on Tuesday 13 December 2016 at BEIS Conference Centre, London.

Attendees were:

- Duncan Wingham, NERC Chief Executive (Chair)
- Paul Fox, NERC Chief Operating Officer
- Richard Gledhill, NERC Non-Executive Director
- Alison Robinson, NERC Director, Corporate Affairs
- Claire Turner, NERC Finance Director
- Tim Wheeler, NERC Director, Science and Innovation
- Lyndsey Jones, NMB Secretary

Topical issues discussed were:

### **Reforming the Research Centre funding system**

1. NMB agreed to share the draft model of the proposed new system at the National Capability Partners Forum along with the Research Centres once the numbers were finalised. It was noted that further consideration needed to be given to mechanisms to ensure building maintenance was preserved and transitional arrangements.

### **Implications of Global Challenges Research Fund ([GCRF](#)) on NERC**

2. NMB was informed that:
  - the call for the collective fund (cross council) was in the process of being written.
  - the Capacity Building call had received an even spread of bidders across the Councils but the outcome would not be known until the end of the financial year.
  - 12 programmes were going ahead under Newton costed at £32 million and were a mixture of entirely new ones and further phases to some ongoing programmes.

### **Evaluations of National Capability (NC): [Services and Facilities](#) and National Capability (NC): [Data Centres](#)**

3. NMB was advised of the purpose, process and results of evaluations of the performance of NERC Services and Facilities and NERC Data Centres. A further paper was requested for the next NMB meeting that documented the Head Office management response to both evaluations.

### **Antarctic H&S benchmarking**

4. NMB discussed the issues around the limited options for sharing data and agreed sharing of best practice should be encouraged, as well as exploring a coalition with trusted partners to enable further exchanges of data and information.

### **Training Advisory Board (TAB) recommendations on CDT priority areas**

5. NMB was informed of the recommendations put forward by TAB and other possible calls to be commissioned. These would be announced in due course.

## **Reputational Management**

6. The discussion included:

- The risks and mitigations associated with the extension of the Crystal cruises activity.
- The technical issue around liability agreements and the science benefits of the Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition (ACE) proposal.

## **Centre Assurance Board (CAB) and the National Capability Partners Forum (NCPF) Report**

7. NMB noted the minutes from the 1<sup>st</sup> National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS) Centre Assurance Board (CAB) meeting and the NCPF meeting. The issues were summarised. Further information on the CABs and NCPF is available on the [NERC website](#).

## **Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) and Hadley Centre update**

8. NMB received an update on the Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) programme of work. It was noted that discussions were continuing with BEIS with the focus to develop the business case and recommendations by March.

## **Corporate Plan exceptions report**

9. An overview of the report was given to NMB, who were content with the reporting by exception on a quarterly basis. The items on the report were reviewed and some additions were suggested.

## **10. Standing items discussed were:**

- Chief Executive's update: issues covered were the Autumn Statement, Oracle/UKSBS/RIFS update, Council outcomes and business class flights.
- Monthly finance update, including capital: NMB noted the figures presented.
- Risk register review: NMB reviewed the top risks and identified updates.
- Actions update and forward planner: Members noted progress against actions and identified issues for the January NMB meeting.
- Communications issues: areas raised during the meeting were Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO), Newton fund and the Crystal cruises.

The next NMB meeting will be on Tuesday 17 January at MRC, 1 Kemble Street, London.