

## **Summary of the NERC Management Board Meeting, 21 February 2017**

The fourth meeting of the NERC Management Board (NMB) took place on Tuesday 21 February 2017 at MRC, 1 Kemble Street, London.

Attendees were:

- Duncan Wingham, NERC Chief Executive (Chair)
- Paul Fox, NERC Chief Operating Officer
- Tim Wheeler, NERC Director, Science and Innovation
- Richard Gledhill, NERC Non-Executive Director
- Paul Hayden, NERC Non-Executive Director
- Phil Heads, NERC, Associate Director, Strategy and Evidence
- Alison Robinson, NERC Director, Corporate Affairs
- Claire Turner, NERC Director, Finance
- Sue Morrell, NMB Secretary

Topical issues discussed were:

### **Visits to Centres/major universities**

1. NMB was informed of the recent visits to BAS, BGS and University of Leicester by the Chief Executive.

### **Corporate Plan**

2. NMB was advised of the improvements to the NERC Corporate planning process and the proposed priorities for 2017/18. The Board suggested some amendments to the slides to provide clarity before they were presented to Council.

### **Industrial Strategy**

3. NMB was taken through the slides that would be presented at the March Council Retreat and how the session would be run. The Board suggested a couple of amendments to the slides.

### **Reputational Management: Strategic Partnership NERC and EDF Energy**

4. NMB considered the partnership through the reputational management process. The paper was agreed in principle subject to some further investigation.

### **Demand Management**

5. The Board was presented with the findings of the Demand Management Review and the proposed actions.
6. The review had provided a robust evaluation of the process, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Demand management is increasing grant success rates as intended with no evidence of adverse impacts at this time.
7. The Board noted the recommendation to increase the eligibility criterion from 3 years to 5 years to allow greater opportunity for NIs to apply.

### **ODA Reporting**

8. NMB noted the summary of NERC's preliminary return to BEIS for the 2016 ODA reporting year and the forecast for NERC's total ODA reported spend for the 2016/17 financial year.

### **Data Commissioning**

9. NMB was shown a slide on NERC Environmental Data Service Governance. This followed on from a paper presented to Council in November 2016 with a further paper to be included in the June 2017 Council papers.
10. It was agreed that the structure would be finalised and presented back to NMB at its April meeting for a decision.

### **Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) Update**

11. NMB received an update on Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) position, advising that a meeting between the Research Councils CEOs, UKSBS and the UKRI Project lead was scheduled for the following week.

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

- Chief Executive's update: issues covered were the 2017/18 Autumn Statement, Council budgets post 2017/18, SB action on impact modelling and UKRI.
- 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 March NMB meeting.
- There were no Communications issues raised during the meeting.

The next NMB meeting will be on Tuesday 21 March at National Oceanography Centre (NOC), Southampton.