

Summary of the NERC Management Board Meeting, 21 March 2017

The seventh meeting of the NERC Management Board (NMB) took place on Tuesday 21 March 2017 at NOC, Southampton.

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
- Claire Turner, NERC Director, Finance (by teleconference)
- Sue Morrell, NMB Secretary

Topical issues discussed were:

Update on Halley

1. NMB was informed that the move had successfully dealt with and Halley was now shut down for the winter.
2. The Board agreed the recommendation to recruit staff to winter at Halley as usual, with the proviso that actual deployment would be subject to a H&S decision nearer the time, and that if they were unable to winter they could be redeployed to related projects.

Capital Business Plan

3. NMB was shown the Capital Business Plan for 2017/18 which had been finalised the previous day. The Board formally agreed the plan.

Update on NERC ODA expenditure and reporting for 2016/17

4. NMB had requested further information at its previous meeting. Revised figures for 2016/17 were provided which answered the questions raised in February. The Board was advised that work was underway to address the forecast underspend for the next two years.

Update on Industrial Strategy

5. NMB was provided with an update on this fast moving activity.
6. It was noted that the community and business partners had been encouraged to comment and engage with the proposition.
7. The response to the Green Paper would be submitted by mid-April 2017 and the structure based on the outcomes of the engagement.

Reputational Management: BGS summary reports

8. The Board noted some initiatives from BGS and welcomed the preparedness and thinking to develop approaches to explain the work involved to broader audiences. NMB asked for some clarification and for this to be brought back to a future meeting.

Data Service Commissioning

9. NMB was presented with the finalised structure of the Environmental Data Service Governance. The Board suggested some changes to the slides and requested regular updates.

Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) Update

10. NMB received an update on Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) latest position.

Update on NERC HPC Provision 2017 - 2021

11. NMB approved the request for approval to enter into an agreement with the Met Office for both the continuation of the MONSooN service for joint NERC/Met Office computation and the initiation of a new general purpose HPC service to NERC by the Met Office, with no change to recurrent costs.

12. Standing items discussed were:

- Chief Executive's update: issues covered were updates on UKRI and ISCF.
- 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 May NMB meeting. There would not be a meeting in April due to a light agenda.
- There were no Communications issues raised during the meeting.

The next NMB meeting will be on Thursday 18 May 2017 at MRC, 1 Kemble Street, London.